

# **MOP<sup>2</sup> Agenda**

## **(Mecosta-Osceola Personnel Cooperative and CTC Programs)**

### **October 15, 2020, at 9 a.m.**

A meeting of the Mecosta-Osceola Personnel Cooperative and Meceola Tech Programs Advisory Council (MOP Co-Op) was held on Thursday, October 15, 2020, at 9 a.m. in the Parsons Room of the Administration Building, 15760 190<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Big Rapids, Michigan.

**Members Present:** Sherry Anderson (Chippewa Hills), Sheri Thompson (Mecosta Osceola ISD), Gerald Nichols (Evert), Christine Mund (Reed City)-via Zoom, Pete Kent (Big Rapids), James Swartzendruber (Crossroads), and Steve Locke (MOISD Superintendent/MOP Co-Op Director).

**Members Absent:** Lisa Brauher (Morley Stanwood)-via Zoom

**Others Present:** Mike Miller-via zoom, Christy Miller, Fred Sharpsteen, Patience Nemeth

1. **Call Meeting to Order** 9:05 a.m. by MOISD Superintendent/MOP Co-Op Director, Steve Locke.
2. **Adopt August 20, 2020, Organizational Meeting Minutes**  
There was a motion by Member Nichols, supported by Member Kent, to adopt the August 20, 2020, MOP Minutes. **Motion passed unanimously.**
3. **Set Meeting Dates, Times, and Places**  
Member Nichols made a motion for the MOP meeting time to stay at 8 a.m. Motion was supported by Member Kent. The MOP meeting time will remain at 8:00 a.m. until further notice, with the intent to be flexible during the winter months. **Motion passed unanimously**
4. **MOP Bi-Monthly Supervisors' Report**

Superintendent Locke asked Christy Miller, Director of Special Education, to give an update:

- Mrs. Miller spoke to the Council on the Special Education Supervisor positions for Evert Public Schools and Big Rapids Public Schools. She reviewed the Bi-Monthly Supervisor report with the Council. She reported that Evert Special Education Supervisor, Ayla Lockhart. We are not in a rush to change anything; we want to make sure actions are intentional and beneficial to students and staff. Ayla has hit the ground running providing supports for Evert Public Schools in the following area: COVID supports, new teacher supports/IEP's, and system-wide support.
- Big Rapids Special Education Supervisor, Cheryl Wright, has been working with the principal of Brookside and previous special education supervisor, Kara Schafer, to take over responsibilities. Ms. Miller reviewed some of the roles that have been transferred over so far this year: COVID supports, district representative at IEP/MET meetings, school support meetings with principals.
- MOP Position Requests:
  - Superintendent Lock reported that Reed City Area Public Schools would like us to find someone to partner with them for a Special Education Supervisor.

We do not have anyone to partner them with right now. Superintendent Locke has reached out to Baldwin and a few other districts. Mrs. Miller has also reached out to some of her contacts as well. No one is looking to partner at this time.

- Reed City Area Public Schools is also looking for business services. We have made the announcement with no success.
- Member Thompson- GEO in Baldwin, what educational services are offered at GEO?
  - How is the Special Education piece addressed here?
  - What special education services do they offer for incarcerated students- Mrs. Millers has been exploring this.

Superintendent Locke asked **Mike Miller, Director of CTE**, to give an update on Meceola Tech.

- Meceola Tech enrollment is light.
  - Mecosta-Osceola EMS director, Tim Ladd- conversation. The county has been in a pinch. They are interested in partnering with MOISD for a paramedic program. Tim Ladd would provide the instructors, and we would provide the facility.
  - Construction program: still looking for an instructor; there is a potential instructor at this time.
  - 107 vs. Adult Education: Senator Outman bill passed (wording) CDL training,
  - we are in the process of getting this written into our grant.
  - Truck Driving: Member Kent can take credit for pushing on the trucking piece.
- How about Bus Drivers? These positions are a real challenge to hire.
  - All districts currently will hire and then get them certified. There was discussion among the Council regarding offering the training in one place and charging a fee.

Superintendent Locke reported on career connect and the barriers. He gave Mr. Miller kudos for working with Senator Outman.

The Council discussed the following:

- We are trying to function as business as normal, but it is COVID all the time. Two districts that have closed classrooms due to staff shortages, the feeling is districts will take turns with this throughout the year. The Medical Director has 82 school districts under her; essentially, it is up to the districts to determine closures.
- Substitutes: It is a challenge - all districts are feeling it.
  - Retired teachers? Have we contacted them to see what they are doing? If they want to work?
  - A lot of districts have hired permanent substitutes that float as needed.
  - Pay is not good, need to increase pay – districts have to be careful, so we do not pay more than we are paying our paraprofessionals.
- Bus drivers: we are not mandated to provide transportation? Tri-County has not provided transportation in the last two days.

Superintendent Locke asked **Fred Sharpsteen, Director of Technology**, to give an update

- First Challenge:

- Connectivity challenges - one of the largest we have run into, this is not unique to just our area; it is statewide
- Tech staff has gone out to specific areas to test connectivity and see what is available to try to get them services. The majority of the houses tech. is requested to go out to are trailer homes and not in great shape. Areas: MS, CH, BR. There are some financial concerns for family
- The Federal and State government are trying to roll out monies to the providers to fix this issue. It appears providers are using this money to replace equipment in money-making areas. This has been brought to legislators' attention.
- Second challenge:
  - The availability of technology in the market. Many devices are on backorder. Schools are struggling to purchase this equipment when needed. When you can find equipment, there is now a price increase. Chromebooks have doubled in price.
  - More districts have moved to 1:1 (one student: one device)
  - Districts are requesting more tech. support, MOP help goes where the need is.
  - MOISD is interviewing on Friday - if there are multiple candidates, we would like to hire a couple.
  - The MOISD has partnerships with a lot of local libraries - Partnering with the MOISD/ISD helps libraries to get better quality services at no cost.

## 5. Other:

The Council discussed the following:

- Locations: More centralized locations facilitated much like a Latchkey that could provide some public transportation. The feeling is that communities are willing to step in and up to help with this idea.
- Intermittent shutdowns: are going to happen for a while.
- What is MOP's big thing to achieve this year as the MOP Council?
  - Superintendent Locke indicated that we have shifted gears, COVID has pushed collaboration more, and the need for shared services.
  - Expansion of services that are provided by the MOP
  - The idea is to share these services to increase efficiencies. When we do expand, we need to expand shared services. Example: one transportation director for multiple districts, payroll services, or a Technology Director- then tier out to tech. (example expert in hardware etc.)
    - When out in rural areas, the mindset is "I can get it done" also, a loss of control is a concern/issue. A lot of times, they want that person sitting in their district building.
  - Help to take things off of the superintendent's plate by sharing services.
  - What are the needs of each district? Superintendent Locke indicated that everyone is reactionary right now. There have been discussions between the superintendents. Steve is working on this (possible survey or poll?)
- The Council likes the idea of being more proactive about sharing out to the administrative team regarding shared services.
- Discussion regarding LEA Board Elections.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patience Nemeth  
Recording Secretary

