School District of the City of York

Office of Federal Programs

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MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD MEMBERS
CC: CABINET
FROM: Cathy L. Ash
DATE: March 2011
RE: Federal Program Update

SUBMITTED:

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program – Completed last week. Pilot to be Jackson Elementary, Grades PreK-4. Goals of the FFVP are to create healthier school environments by providing healthier food choices, expand the variety of fruits and vegetables children experience, increase children's fruit and vegetable consumption, and positively impact children's present and future health. Applicants must be National School Lunch Program participants. Elementary schools with the highest free/reduced meal eligibility rates whose application most effectively demonstrates the ability to operate and administer the FFVP will be selected. Applications must include: (1) an implementation plan to administer the FFVP equally to all students during the school day outside of breakfast or lunch meal periods a minimum of 3 days per week; (2) the documented support of the food service director, principal and district superintendent; and (3) a plan that integrates the FFVP with other efforts to reduce overweight/obesity and promote sound health and nutrition.

Title I SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS: The grants for School Improvement are being done differently. Amounts are based on levels of improvement in the schools. All of our schools in school improvement (Davis, Ferguson, Goode, Jackson, McKinley, E.F. Smith, Hannah Penn, Lindbergh, and William Penn) will receive $409,440 total. Expenditures must promote student achievement and align with the Getting Results School Improvement Plan (School-Wide Title I Plan embedded therein). Each school got a piece of the total allocation, but the grant combines the budgets and plans. Most of the monies will be used for supplies, software, professional development and technology.

VERIFICATION: Annual verification report for the National School Lunch Program was filed on 2/28. The district is 88% free and reduced lunch. We are working with the state on improving the direct certification process for the upcoming school year.

Consolidated Plan Amendments: Each year, PDE adjusts the allocations for Title I and Title II based on enrollment and poverty. These amendment periods may be once or twice a year. The current adjustments showed no change in our Title I allocation and a reduction of $298.00 in our Title II allocation. Title II is for class size reduction and professional development. We made the required changes and submitted the amendment to the Consolidated Plan on 3/2/2011.

ONGOING:

FEDERAL REPORTING: Working on quarterly reports for ARRA funds (March is end of quarter).

STATE MONITORING/AUDITS:

1) The Auditor General for the Commonwealth of PA is currently completing a financial audit of the 21st Century program.
2) The Federal Programs Division is doing a monitoring of the ARRA (Stimulus) monies received for Title I, IDEA, and SFSF. The initial meeting was held on 3/2 at central office. The monitor reports back to the regional coordinator for federal programs, Jesse Fry. Jesse will follow-up with any concerns.

FEDERAL SIG – the SIG grant was expected to be open on e-grants in its new form by the end of January. When we attended the National Title I Conference at the beginning of February, USDOE stated that resolutions and approvals should be completed within a couple of weeks. We are now in March and the grant has not yet opened in e-grants. Virginia Baker, program manager for SIG for the PDE Federal Programs Division, stated that the districts will be given 6 weeks from the time the grant opens in which to complete the application and submit it. We have much of the information ready as the state presented. If the negotiations with USDOE require changes, we will amend our information accordingly. Based on the information presented by the state, we have four buildings that qualify for funding with a range of $1,500,000-$2,000,000/year possible to apply for, but actual awards were around 30-35% of that last year. I will keep you updated on the SIG progress as information comes out.

OTHER:

STEM GRANT – The STEM team at EF Smith Middle School is working on an application for a STEM grant to provide additional funds for the program.

Personal Finance Grant – Melissa Golden at William Penn Senior High School is making application to H&R BLOCK for a Personal Finance Grant. The program uses virtual situations to get students to understand personal finance:
"The numbers don't lie. A large percentage of today's teens graduate without an understanding of how to properly manage their own finances. So we created H&R Block Dollars & Sense™, a comprehensive initiative to help high school students learn the essentials of financial fitness, like how to manage a debit card, balance a budget, save money and avoid debt. Through H&R Block Dollars & Sense, more than $2 million in personal finance curriculum and scholarships have been provided to high schools and students in the United States and Canada. With the help of our partners, Knowledge Matters and DECA, we will create a new generation of financially fit teens who are ready for whatever the real world throws at them.