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: MAY 2011
RE: Federal Program Update

BEYOND THE BELL! - Extended Day Services for our Students and their Families

…Turning Community Collaboration into Achievement!

On March 28, 2011, the district brought together a group of community stakeholders to discuss ways we can collaborate to provide needed services to our students and their families. The first meeting included: Martin Memorial Library, United Way, YMCA of York and York County, York City Health Bureau, City of York, Special Education, ELL, Pre-K, Title I Parents, Penn State Ext.-4H, Principals and Administrators. Two more meetings have been held since that initial meeting. Other community organizations have become involved or have expressed a desire to be involved (Junior Achievement; Shalom; New Hustle; and more).

In an unbelievable collaboration of agencies, personnel, resources and time, the group has developed a beginning framework for the coming school year that will provide extended day services to our students and their families. The community of York has become a village to work together to meet the needs of our students and their families. The BEYOND THE BELL (BTB) committee has moved from talk to action within the time period of little more than a month. I have attached the minutes from the last meeting. In an effort to include any and all who wish to be at the table, the group is moving to a set meeting date (1st Monday of each month, with the exception of July 4) and will alternate between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. meeting times. The next meeting is set for 5 p.m. at the United Way Community Room at 800 W. King Street on Monday, June 6th. Unfortunately, that is a board committee meeting night, but anyone who would like to address the group may ask to do so at the beginning of the meeting and still make it to the district in time for the committee meeting. Any board member who would like to receive minutes just needs to let me know.

A presentation will be made at tonight's meeting to review the framework and seek board support for the basic framework of the BEYOND THE BELL program and assistance in expanding the offerings within the framework. (See attachment).

In addition, there will be a proposal to the board from the YMCA of York and York County to provide before and after school childcare within the six elementary and two middle schools (for students through age 13 – normally grades K-6). We ask that the board approve the proposal and authorize the district to enter into a contract that includes the terms therein.

AWARDED:

Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Grant: Pilot to be Jackson Elementary, Grades PreK-4. Only 168 schools were awarded a grant and Jackson was one of them! 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. We received notification of this award on Friday, May 6, 2011. The amount is estimated at $29,190 ($70/student for 417 students).

SUBMITTED/IN PROGRESS:

PDE Division of Food and Nutrition School Building/Site Application One Time Appropriation Food Service Equipment:
PDE has extra ARRA monies for Food Service Equipment. We can apply for equipment costing more than $5000/unit for buildings that were not included in last year's grant that the district received. Each building may request a maximum of 1 piece of equipment per building. We will be working with food services to determine which buildings and what equipment to apply for. *The application is due 6/17/2011.*

Honda Foundation: The STEM Academy worked on a grant for just under $60,000 to support the STEM academy at Edgar Fahs Smith Middle School. The grant will be used for hands-on project based kits for the students, field trips, technology and professional development. The application was submitted prior to the May 1, 2011 deadline. The determination should be made by June and funding expected by August if awarded. Smith MS teacher Laurel Szoszorek was instrumental in providing the project information and will serve as project director if funded.

State Act 143 Family Literacy Grant (054) – This is the state grant to which the Even Start program is applying to continue the important work of family literacy with our two Core Messages 1) Families will spend meaningful time together 2) Families will increase literacy skills as parents become their child's most important teacher. These messages guide the instruction to include the context of the family. Adult Education is integrated with the other components under the umbrella of the Core Messages. Along with traditional ESL and ABE and GED instruction, substantial instructional time is devoted to basic literacy skills, nutrition and health issues, and well as a child's social and emotional development. Last year, the federal Even Start grant was awarded at $196,000.00. The state application is hoping to equal or expand that amount to continue the program. The federal grant was unfunded by the federal government.

WAITING ON DETERMINATION:

Brightpoint Literacy's $500 Classroom Literacy Mini Grant – Stacy Moyer – Goode Elementary Submitted for $500.00 for guided reading books for first grade ELL reading skills. Object is to increase reading scores by increasing interest in the material.

Highmark School Challenge Applications: Six (6) applications were submitted for the Highmark School Challenge grant; one for each of our elementary schools. The grant would provide funding to make a video library of exercise activities specifically geared for students in grades K-4. Classroom teachers could then check out the videos for use in providing physical education within the classroom setting. The YMCA and White Rose Community Television will partner with the district to do the videos and collect the data for the grants. The following schools applied: Davis, Devers, Ferguson, Goode, Jackson and McKinley. Assistant Superintendent Hufnagel worked with the YMCA of York and York County on these grants.

ONGOING:

SUMMER SCHOOL

We have been working with the Assistant Superintendents and Principals on a proposal to offer summer school for our failing 8th graders and 11th and 12th graders. All summer school will be held at the high school. There will be no elementary summer school this year. EAP funding is gone and there is little left of Title I. With the cash flow issues, the necessity to limit summer school became apparent. Holding the summer school in one building will be less costly and permit maintenance of the other facilities more readily. Summer school will range from June 27- July 29 with July 4 off for a holiday.

STATE MONITORING/AUDITS:

1) The Auditor General for the Commonwealth of PA continues on the financial audit of the 21st Century program.
2) The Federal Programs Division of PDE monitoring of the ARRA (Stimulus) monies received for Title I, IDEA, and SFSF is complete. The auditors assisted the district with some strategies to receive reimbursement of federal funds on an accelerated basis. This is assisting with the cash flow issue, although by no means eliminating the problems.
3) The Division head of Federal Programs at PDE and our Regional Coordinator will be meeting with the business office to discuss finance issues and explore strategies to accelerate reimbursements as well as review spending requirements for federal funds on 5/13.

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 MAY 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 5 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. TO DATE: No change – SIG Grant has not yet received federal approval for the state application – still in negotiations.

ALLOCATIONS: Federal allocations are generally received prior to or at the state conference for federal program coordinators. The conference was held the first week of April. To date, there are no allocations given. The allocations are figured from the monies each state receives from the federal government. The continuing resolutions in Washington have not addressed the issue directly. There was Republican movement to reduce Title I by $6 billion. However, as of last week, the state was informed that it appeared that the federal allocations for Title I were expected to be level with 10-11, with a 2% reduction. However, we were warned about trying to do the calculations as the state's formula incorporates some factors that change the amounts from the federal

allocations. Our regional coordinator, Jesse Fry, has kept us informed of the movements and thinks we will have preliminary allocations within a week or so. We are already meeting with the non-publics as required for the equitable share provisions, even though we cannot talk about the dollars available to date. I will keep you up to date with the process. *AS OF MONDAY, MAY 9: The state has received it's allocation and the district should have its allocation within 2 weeks. The reduction was more than the 2% - it was approximately a 5.4% decrease. That figure is at the state level. Until we get our allocation from the state, we do not know how the figures will be at the district level.*