Great Expectations: Failure is Not an Option"
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Deborah Wortham
cc: Board of School Directors
FROM: Cathy L. Ash, Office of Federal Programs
DATE: DECEMBER 2011
RE: REVISED Federal Program Update

IN PROGRESS:

Keystones for Opportunity: Pre-Application was released on 12/6. Pre-Application is due to PDE by 1/13/12. Pre-Application webinar was 12/9/11. Planning committee for required Local Literacy Needs Assessment is meeting 12/12/11. Factors that will be examined in the application will include: need; capacity; comprehensive literacy plan for birth through 12th grade; quality of proposed or existing program; target population; and quality of data. The district will be looking to partner with the American Reading Company (100 Book Challenge and Action 100). Dr. Wortham, Mrs. Shaffer and I had a conference call with ARC and came up with a plan for implementation of a reading program Pre-K to 12. More will be completed once the guidelines are released and the requirements known. The Lincoln Intermediate Unit will be offering technical assistance throughout the process. Two of the planning committee are meeting with the LIU representatives on 12/15/11. We are touring Susquehanna HS in Harrisburg on 12/14/11 to see how the program works in a high school. After submitting the pre-application, PDE will invite qualifying applicants to submit full proposals. The full proposal will be due March 2, 2012 and grant awards announced March 16, 2012.

21st Century Community Grants: The grant was released on 10/6/11. The Martin Memorial Library will NOT be applying for a 21st Century Community Grant to service all students in the city of York. Extended day services are currently in place in four buildings through the YMCA of York and York County childcare programs plus (plus extra programming provided by Penn State 4H; the York City Health Bureau and the Martin Memorial Library). At the pre-grant meeting mid-October, Martin received a luke warm reception from the PDE representative about applying to work with the School District of the City of York. In addition, the YMCA raised concerns that a program run like the previous cohorts would be detrimental to their investment in the schools. A partnership that would utilize YMCA staff as site managers was given consideration, but a decision was made that the monies were insufficient. The YMCA and Martin Memorial Library believe that we have a better chance of gaining the necessary support to follow the plan they think will work best by seeking local funding through the York County Community Foundation. They will be meeting with Jane Conover of the YCCF soon to review their proposal. A meeting with the Beyond the Bell group was held on Monday, November 14 from 3:30 – 5 here at the Administration Building in the Board Room.

Green Ribbon Schools Program: The Green Ribbon Schools program was recently launched by the U. S. Department of Education to recognize schools that save energy and reduce operating costs, create environmentally friendly learning spaces, promote student health, and provide environmental education to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum. According to the guidance released, Green Ribbon Schools will have achieved or made considerable progress toward the three pillars established in the program: energy efficient buildings; healthy students and school environment; and - environmental literacy of all graduates. The combined achievement in these three areas will be the basis for the Green Ribbon Schools award. The details have still not been released.

PRE-K COUNTS: New 5 year grant for the continuation of the Pre-K Counts 4-year old program is to open soon and will be due in February 2012. We do not have details yet, release of guidance has been delayed at the state level. We have been told that there are no guarantees, but that successful programs will get extra points when scoring the applications. UPDATE: FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CONFERENCE – OCDEL HAS DECIDED NOT TO DO A COMPETITIVE FUNDING ROUND FOR THE NEW 5 YEAR GRANT FOR 2012-2013. INSTEAD, THEY ARE WAITING ON THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET TO PUT THE PROCESS IN PLACE. CURRENT RECIPIENTS WILL BE LEVEL FUNDED FOR ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR. PRE-K COUNTS FOR YORK WILL BE LEVEL FUNDED FOR ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR, WITH THE NEW 5 YEAR APPLICATION DUE NEXT YEAR.

SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTINGENCY FUNDING: Dr. Brown is reviewing the costs associated with our special education students to see if the district has any qualifying students for the Special Education Contingency Funding program by the state. The deadline to apply for the funding is January 20, 2012.

Laura Bush Library Grants: Each of our librarians is seeking funding from the Laura Bush Library Foundation. In the past we have been very successful in obtaining funding from the foundation. The application is to boost the libraries in areas where the current titles are old, obsolete or insufficient for the needs of the students. I will keep you up to date.

SUBMITTED:

CVS CAREMARK: Application was submitted on October 28, 2011. Award up to $5,000. Grants are in support of disabled students in the schools. The application had to support one of the following: Inclusive Extra-curricular programs; Early Intervention; Accessibility; Awareness; Health & Rehab Services; Inclusive Student Academic Activities; and Inclusive Physical Activity/Play (we received one of these in 2007 for adaptive physical education for disabled). Dr. Anna Pickford worked with Dr. Linda Brown to submit an application based on Inclusive Student Academic Activities in support of a SWEBS/RTII model. We have not heard about awards yet.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL: PDOT grant – Application submitted 11/15/11. Awards of up to $10,000. We partnered with the City of York and the York City Police Department to fulfill the requirement to partner with a municipality. Student and parent surveys were completed before the end of October and entered into the SRTS Website Database in November. Monies are sought to fund the establishment and implementation of a safe corridor from east to west in the City for students to use to and from school. The initiative will also use high school students to patrol the streets after training and outfitting, under the leadership of the school security team. Letters of support were received from the Mayor's office, the York Neighborhood Associations, and the PAC. This grant would support the "GO SAFE" program outlined by the Safety and Security Team that would set up a safe route east to west that would have "safe havens" and extra patrols to ensure the safety of students to and from school. This is a major initiative that will encompass much school/city/business partnering.

ONGOING:

Supplemental Education Services (SES)(Free NCLB Tutoring): The law requires the district to contract with state approved tutoring agencies for SES tutoring for buildings in School Improvement II and Corrective Action. This year we have approximately 30 choices for parents. Each of those organizations must provide paperwork and may request access for space in our buildings. Two have withdrawn from the list as they cannot find personnel in this area. On Tuesday, September 27, a provider fair for parents was held in the William Penn HS cafeteria. Only eight providers came out, and about 60 parents. Contracts for all providers for which parents and students signed up were approved last month (October). Eligible students must be free or reduced lunch in the following buildings: Davis, Edgar Fahs Smith, Ferguson, Goode, Hannah Penn, Jackson, Lindbergh, McKinley, and William Penn. At this time, three providers are using district buildings to provide services: 1) Knowledge Points – Ferguson; Huntington Learning– Goode;

and Rocket Learning – McKinley. Parents of eligible students were sent a mailing with application for services. Each school building also has applications and information on all tutoring providers. The information is also available online on the district website. To date we have 274 students signed up. The fall window has closed. The next sign up will take place in mid-January.

Pre-K Counts: Julie Fabie, Pre-K Counts Coordinator, and I are attending the Early Childhood Conference in State College November 30-December 2, 2011. A new Pre-K Counts application will be coming out and the district will need to draft a new application outlining the program and any expansion sought. A date for the availability of the application has not yet been announced. The bidders' conference reviewed the required elements as well as any changes being incorporated by the state. Pre-K Counts is a partnership between the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Department of Public Welfare. We are going to get more details on the framework and engage in discussion with potential partners.

National School Lunch Program: Verification was completed in every building by Tuesday, November 15, 2011. This is mandated by federal law. The building representatives verified three (3) percent of the applications submitted. Students who are on the direct certification list, homeless, migrant or foster are not subject to verification. We have been notified that the district will be monitored for NSLP this year, but not yet given a date/time for the monitoring. I will keep you informed. Schools are struggling with the changes but we are on track to get verification complete in a timely fashion.

York County Communities that Care: The York County CTC held a board retreat on Monday, October 31st at the Elmwood Mansion. The group is working together to reduce risks for our youth. It combines municipal, educational, community and judicial representatives looking for positive programs and supports for our families and students. I am the district representative to the York County CTC.

CONFERENCES:

After discussion at EST and with the Superintendent, Federal Programs recommends that the district send a team to the ***PDE/PAFPC Improving Schools Conference*** in Pittsburgh using Title monies to cover the expense of any teams not presenting. PAFPC will cover the cost of two presenters for any workshop that is accepted. Covered costs include not only the conference but also hotel expense and five meals. The conference starts on Sunday and ends on Wednesday. At this time, the district is looking at two workshop proposals: 1) Parent Education – Gains made in parent participation in the district from the school and district Parent Advisory Councils to the Annual Parent Conference. Proposed presenters for this would be: Title I Parent Liaison Elodia Barajas; Pre-K Counts Coordinator Julie C. Fabie; and ELL Administrative Assistant Deborah L. Hioutis; and 2) From Corrective Action to Making Progress – How McKinley Elementary turned it around. Proposed presenters for this conference would be Principal Keith Still and ELL teacher Jennifer Swift. Workshop proposals must be submitted by November 4, 2011. If not chosen, the district will look at a team to attend the conference using Title I monies. We worked with Skip McCann of Upper Darby, conference Consultant, on the two proposals. We have been advised that both have a great shot for being chosen for presentation. We should know in a couple of weeks.
National Title I Conference in Seattle, Washington. The information gained in the last few years gave the district a jump in knowing the parameters for monitoring and compliance before the state was informed. Any new funding streams are usually discussed as well. The conference also shows what the US DOE is going to be reviewing at the state level. Federal Programs recommended that the Superintendent and Business Manager attend. Dr. Wortham suggested I attend with another. Final determination was made by Dr. Wortham to send Dr. Brown and myself.