



Career & Technical Education

Director of CTE Mike Miller Reports:

Public Safety Program Shines at Michigan Career Education Conference

The MOCC Public Safety team achieved a “hat trick” of sorts at this year’s Michigan Career Education Conference: receiving an award, presenting the Colors, and leading a professional development session. The conference was hosted by the Michigan Department of Education’s Office of Career and Technical Education and provides professional development and networking opportunities for educators across the state.



MOCC Color Guard before the opening ceremony

This year, our Public Safety Color Guard team was selected to present the Colors at the conference opening ceremony. Their hours of practice and disciplined preparation were evident as they flawlessly executed bringing in the Colors and leading the conference’s 500+ attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. In addition to this event, our Color Guard team practices to present the Colors at our local districts’ honors award and graduation ceremonies. The team is trained by volunteer, Officer Bill Saunders, a local Ferris State University Public Safety Officer and Mecosta County Color Guard team member.



MOCC receiving Excellence in Practice Award

Next, the Public Safety team was honored with an Excellence in Practice Outstanding Program Award. The award criteria included program outcomes, supports for special education students, and connections with business and industry partners, just to name a few.

Later in the afternoon, Public Safety teachers and students facilitated a professional learning session where fellow Public Safety educators from across the state discussed various topics in criminal justice, law enforcement, corrections, firefighting, and emergency medical response.



PS staff members and students facilitating professional learning discussion

In addition to the rich dialogue among educators, MOCC Public Safety students discussed some of their student leadership routines and demonstrated an in-ranks inspection. This sharing of best practices was beneficial to all, especially the students who left the session even more proud of their accomplishments after receiving affirmation and accolades from their teachers' peers.



Anthony demonstrating how to conduct an in-ranks inspection

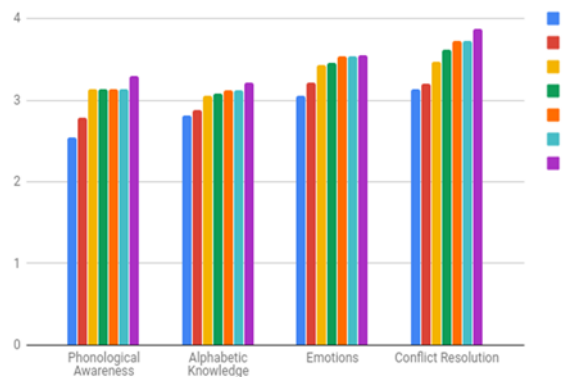
Special Projects

Director of Special Projects Karen Roy Reports:

This year is flying by, and here we are in February, literally wearing our hearts on our sleeves! Happy Valentines' Day to you all! Students, staff, and parents have found January's snow days to be challenging and a bit disruptive for schedules and routines. Here's hoping that February is much kinder in the weather department!

Great Start Readiness staff continue their great work on impacting kindergarten readiness characteristics in their students. Below is the chart of their current progress in four areas receiving target focus: alphabetic awareness, phonological awareness, emotions, and conflict resolution. Check out this link to see their progress anytime:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BiPj6SNV702cx-gHpXE55rmmGv9yOXDoBbCtJQH-JbE>



Each bar represents the organization average by week in the trimester.

Staff participated in a phonological awareness training with Suzanne Finney from SLD Read last month and will have additional training sessions with her to help increase staff knowledge and practice in the classroom. Suzanne will be providing some coaching in the classrooms as well for our newer staff.

Strengthening Families training will be taking place on February 1, 2019. There are a couple more opportunities for folks to get involved in this training which helps families identify the protective factors which help to strengthen their family and build resilience. By training our staff, we hope to help them infuse these practices into all their interactions with families and students to help model and support these practices. Many community agencies are training right alongside our staff. Training together helps to build collaborative relationships and ensures we are on the same page, speaking the same language and working toward a more trauma-informed/responsive and resilience building community.

We are working with local landlords to build relationships with homeless/housing service providers to increase the number of safe, affordable housing units for the families we see walk into our programs and schools. Whenever you have a college town, it skews the housing market making safe, affordable housing units more difficult to locate. In November we met with a core group of Landlords and took them to lunch at Ruby Tuesdays, they had a chance to hear from service

providers about the work they are doing and the support they can offer landlords. At that time, we asked them all to come back together in February for dessert at the MOISD to start working on solutions together. So, now I need to get baking! To keep our kids stable in schools, we need to find safe and affordable housing options. Local districts identified 306 homeless students, of those, the hardest to house (partly due to federal definitions of homeless) are those who are doubled-up, which represents 89.5% of our homeless population in our schools.

Nighttime Residence	Number of Students	% Overall
(10)Domestic Violence Shelter	2	0.625%
(10)Homeless Shelter	13	4.25%
(14)Hotel/Motel	6	2%
(13)Doubled-up (Living with Family/Friends)	274	89.5%
(11)Transitional Housing	4	1.25%
(15)Unsheltered	7	2.25%
Overall Total	306	

We are partnering with Ferris State University to offer a Poverty Simulation Experience on Thursday, February 28, 2019, from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM in the University Center. This is a great opportunity to participate in as it typically takes a three-hour commitment. We are truncating the time to encourage more participation by busy folks such as yourselves. If you want to participate, please register at <https://tinyur.com/FSUSim2019>.

As you know, there is always an influx of students and programs at Eastwood. We embrace change here, especially when it positively impacts the lives of students.

- In January we welcomed Big Rapids Public Schools' Young Fives program including 15 students and two staff members.
- Carol Phelps and I have been revisiting conversations with Community Mental Health for Central Michigan to offer ABA therapy through the creation of an Autism Center at Eastwood. Talks are moving forward, and it is looking positive to have them begin serving this population of Eastwood beginning in late August/early September. They will take over our current playgroup space which will give them their own bathroom and entry/exit door. They anticipate a caseload of up to 20 students in the first year. This is an area that is undeserved and has a high need for a center. Currently, ABA therapy is being provided in home settings, and much more can be accomplished in a center-based format. Students in our ECSEP classrooms that are receiving these services will be able to spend half of their day in our classroom setting and the other half of their day in the Autism Center receiving services. K-12 students from the Big Rapids area will be able to ride a shuttle bus to Eastwood at the end of their school day to receive their services. We have several families in the area that currently must drive to Rosebush, Midland or Grand Rapids for these services. We will keep you posted as this partnership moves forward.
- We will be joining with Mid Michigan Community Action Agency to make

their current playgroup space a shared playgroup space and still have space available for hearing and vision screening, flu clinics, breastfeeding support group, and other such services that are appropriate for this space.

Other Quick News to Report:

- We are enrolling students in GSRP for next year (Class of 2033 😊)
- A Breastfeeding Support Group is happening at Eastwood in collaboration with several collaborative partners.
- Huge win in our efforts to alleviate the child care crisis: BR City Commission approved a zoning change allowing for child care centers.
- Mecosta Reads is moving forward with greater collaboration with FSU on several proposals.
- MOISD is hosting a human trafficking awareness event in collaboration with the Mecosta-Osceola Human Trafficking Task Force. Jenn Amo will be providing her Stop Lights presentation-- the targeted audience is middle school students (with parents) and high school students. The event is open to anyone in the community, March 19th from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM in the Miller Wing with a light dinner provided at 5:30 PM. You can [register here](#).
- Car Seat Safety Clinics have been scheduled for the year, and a sustainable process developed for ensuring car seats for those with an immediate need (accident) are available.

- Book Walks this quarter—
The Napping House--took place at January 24th and at Barryton on January 31st. Here are some photos from Morley's Book Walk event. (160+ folks in attendance.)



Thanks for your continued support!

Director of Technology Fred Sharpsteen Reports:

We were able to finish three major projects in the month of December and January. This will position us well for the future. First, we completed the installation of the MOISD core switch. The second major project was the completion of the core switch that services the LEAs. Finally, we changed over to the new WatchGuard Firewall for the LEAs and the MOISD.

In early December, we began working to move the MOISD core switch in the data center. This is the device to which all computers in the system are connected. It allows the computers to connect to each other and allows network traffic across the systems. We installed the seven devices in our data center that will help protect the network and our students.

Why do we need a new firewall? One of the main reasons is they are not

creating security patches any longer. The firewall is the device that protects the network from outside threats. Another major reason for the change is the need for greater network speeds.

Thank you, once again, to the local technology directors for their cooperation, communication, and leadership. Without each one of them pulling their efforts together, none of this would be possible.

What will be needed next in the network?

To plan for what comes next for the MOISD and our local districts, we evaluated the systems. We used the network monitoring systems set up two years ago to help plan. With this information, the Mecosta-Osceola tech team was able to set some of our next goals.

With the FCC goals for each school to have 1 Gbps per 1000 students, one of our first tasks is to look at upgrading the wide area network that is currently leased from Charter. Using some new state and federal grants, we have an opportunity to move to a locally owned fiber network. These grants are a great opportunity for the Mecosta-Osceola area. We could apply for funding to build a fiber network, which could cover as much as 100% of the cost. This became an opportunity in the 11th-hour of the lame duck session in Lansing. There was a bill passed that could help cover costs beyond E-Rate funding. This legislation has five million dollars allocated for the last

mile of fiber to the schools from the anchor institutions such as the MOISD. This doesn't sound like much until you look at how that would be leveraged against the 80% of E-Rate funding. This creates a pool of money equaling as much as 100 million dollars for the Michigan K-12 schools and libraries, to build these networks.

The MOISD is in a good position, as we have been looking at options on how we would build a network. Last year, we participated in the governor's Michigan Consortium of Advanced Networks (MCAN) broadband planning and had worked with the Michigan State Education Network (MiSEN) and the Michigan Educational Technology leaders' group.

Student Data Projects:

MiDataHubs:

The MOISD LEAs are at 100% completion on their MiData Hubs agreements. Five of the six LEAs have passed data to the system successfully, with the sixth LEA in the process of completing it. The next step of this process will be for the schools to verify that the data is aligned correctly and with fidelity.

Eidex:

We have worked to help the local schools get their NWEA data to Eidex with communications to the vendor. We have also been working with LEAs to get the Eidex system connected to the MiData Hubs system.

PCG:

The ISD has been asked to help with a pilot project in the state to connect PCG data to the MiDataHubs. We will be meeting with the MiDataHubs team and a PCG representative to go over the details of this project.

E-Rate Update:

It is the time of year where we have started the 2019-2010 E-Rate cycle. E-Rate is a program administered by the Federal Communication Commission. From this program, we get 80% discounts on Internet services and hardware such as network switches and firewalls. We will be posting RFP's for the hardware needed for this coming year.

General Education

Director of General Education Tonya Harrison Reports:

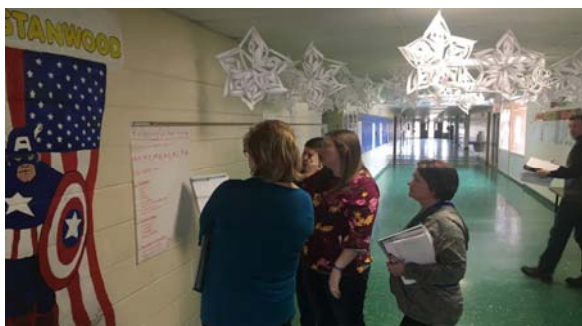
The General Ed Team:

The Gen Ed team works to find ways to provide ongoing support and learning opportunities that align with the MOISD goals. On January 29th, Tonya Harrison will be co-facilitating a day long learning, at Newaygo RESA, focused on the book, Teaching to Strengths: Supporting Students Living with Trauma, Violence, and Chronic Stress. It is an ASCD publication written by Debbie Zacarian, Lourdes Alvarez-Ortiz, and Judie Haynes. The theme of the book is to provide

strategies for school personnel in supporting students, living in trauma. The day is sponsored by Michigan ASCD. It is a new way to offer learning, as the authors of the book will be participating in the learning through online connections, with six host sites around the state. We currently have three local districts, along with ISD staff participating in the learning.

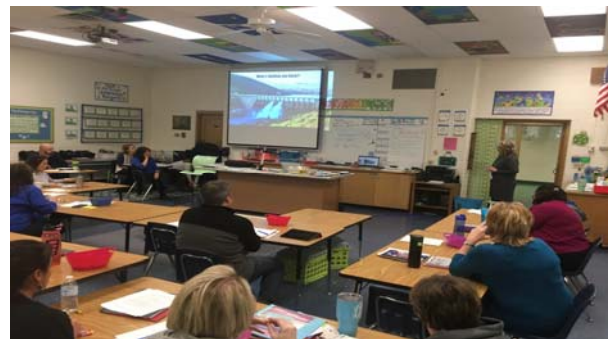
On January 31, the MOISD will be hosting a learning opportunity focused on the school and district Comprehensive Needs Assessment or CNA. Two state sponsored consultants, both of whom have held the position of principal and superintendent, will be leading the day, where the focus is on collecting data, having crucial conversations about the data, and how to use the data to create goals for the school improvement and district improvement plans. Local principals requested the learning, and we currently have 36 local teachers/principals attending the learning.

Early Literacy:



Morley-Stanwood Teachers

For the past several months, our Early Literacy Coaches have been working with teachers at Morley-Stanwood Elementary on the early release Fridays. Our coaches have facilitated learning on the Essential Practices in Early Literacy, which is a focus area of the MOISD. The goal is to share practices and help the teachers embed the practices into their literacy learning. Teachers were involved in direct instruction, group collaboration on the Essential Practices, and creating lessons to use in their classrooms.



Instruction with Morley-Stanwood teachers

Another big initiative our Literacy Coaches are involved with is Instructional Rounds at Evert Elementary School. The goal of Instructional Rounds is for a group of educators to visit classrooms, looking for specific practices/classroom environment, take qualitative notes, and to share out their findings with the school team. At this point in the process, the team takes the notes and creates goals for their building for improvement or changes in practices. In Evert's case, they are looking at implementing the Essential Practices in Early Literacy. The team involved in the Rounds are literacy coaches, elementary teachers, and ISD

representatives. Our team is made up of educators from Ottawa, Muskegon, and Gratiot-Isabella ISD's, along with MOISD and local teachers.

Our date has been rescheduled twice, due to snow days, but it will be rescheduled. The Evert Team is excited about the opportunities, support, and knowledge that will be gained from the Instructional Rounds. The new Evert Literacy Team is determined to improved literacy instruction in their building.

Math and Science:

Our Math/Science consultants have been busy with several projects. Before Christmas, the team brought the Star Lab to Mecosta Elementary for a science lesson on the road. The students learn about space and how to find stars and other space objects in the sky. The Star Lab is a popular traveling science lab, and it is used by several of our local districts.

Our consultants are also involved in Computer Science fairs in the region. We supported a fair at Mason County Eastern, through Code. Org, and coding and computer science initiative, funded by state grant funds. Code.Org is also sponsoring a Computer Science Fair at Big Rapids Middle School on February 1st. In addition to the computer science fairs, our team is preparing to assist local schools in their spring science and engineering fairs.



Students at Mecosta Elementary-Star Lab

Behavioral Specialist:

Our behavioral specialist, Michael Bausano, continues to be busy working with locals and providing training to local teachers, principals, and our MOISD teams. A new training endeavor is called TCI, or Therapeutic Crisis Intervention. It is a "step up" from CPI training, as it provides Tier 2 and 3 interventions for more high needs situations with students. The three learning targets of the learning are:

1. To prevent and de-escalate the potential crisis
2. Safely and therapeutically manage crisis situations
3. Be able to process with students to help improve their coping skills. It is a four-day training held at the MOISD and is free for our teams and the local schools.

CPI continues to be offered throughout the school year, as many educators need their certificates renewed throughout the year. The next training will be offered in February. These trainings continue to be free to MOISD and local teams. TCI and CPI are co-endeavors between the Special Education and General Education departments, with

the trainings being facilitated by Michael Bausano and Mary Corder.

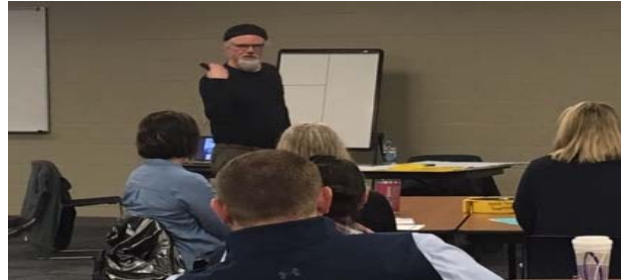
Special Education

Director of Special Education Kim Tufnell Reports:

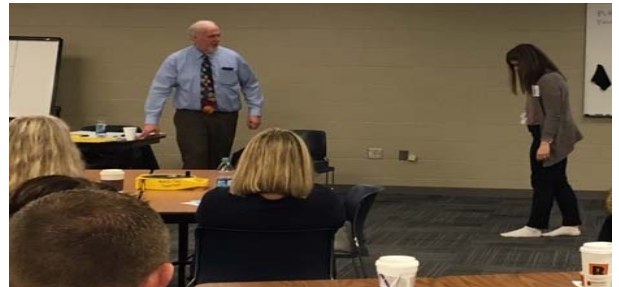
The Parent Advisory Committee met on January 17th. Topics of discussion included providing gas cards for the Michigan Alliance for Families Workshops, the upcoming CEC conference in Grand Rapids in March, and the number of new members the committee needs. The PAC's next meeting is scheduled for April 18th at 4:30 PM in the Parson's room.

We have had some staff changes in the last couple weeks. Cara Sweppenheiser is the new elementary CI teacher at the Education Center; Erin Blashill, who was the EI teacher at CCA, is now the SCI teacher at the Education Center, and Rachel Lovejoy is the new EI teacher at CCA. Although Rachel was to be our new EI/Trauma teacher in our new program, the number of students and timelines for materials/supplies made us rethink the opportunity for this year. Rachel will still be working with Dr. Sloane as the CCA classroom becomes more trauma responsive. We also hired a new nurse, Brandee Fountain, who will take Mary Ann Fredericks place in February when she retires. Brandee comes to us from Mary Free Bed and will be a wonderful addition to the

staff. Brandee will also work with Dr. Sloane as his liaison with the family practitioners as he works to get our neediest students the medical care they desperately need to be successful.



Dr. Jim Henry and Dr. Mark Sloane, from the Children's Trauma Assessment Center, presented to 35 ISD and local staff who braved the cold and snow day. What we are learning about many of our students is invaluable as we work toward implementing trauma responsive classrooms throughout the ISD.



Dr. Sloane takes Occupational Therapist Brianna Ballew through an exercise to demonstrate the effects of trauma on the body.

The snow days have wreaked havoc on our Michigan Alliance for Families Crucial Conversations. This is the second time we've had to cancel Crucial Conversation #2, Person Centered Planning. It is still our hope to move at least one of our classrooms for the Cognitively Impaired out to a local district for next year.