



Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation Board Meeting Highlights • September 9, 2011

In actions at their September 9 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation

- Approved all preliminary 2011-2012 routes for transporting students to and from school. VICC expects to transport about 5,500 students using 250 buses and 104 taxis with an average one-way route duration of 54 minutes. This represents a decrease in both bus routes and taxis over the 2010-2011 school year due to the combined effect of decreased overall enrollment.
- Approved submission of the 2012 MUSIC Renewal Questionnaire. VICC has purchased its property, liability and workers' compensation insurance through the self-insured MUSIC pool since 1999. Board approval of the completed Renewal Questionnaire is a new requirement of the pool.
- Approved the annual audit of VICC's 2010-2011 financial statements. While there were no concerns or issues noted in this report, the accounting firm of Kerber, Eck & Braeckel, LLP did issue a "qualified" audit opinion due to VICC's continued use of the cash basis of accounting during 2010-2011. While the cash basis of accounting is not the method preferred by the accounting profession, many school districts use it because of its simplicity and predictability of school revenues and expenses. VICC converted to this system in 2004-2005 as a way to help maximize district reimbursement amounts.
- Approved the filing of VICC's IRS Form 990 for the year ending June 30, 2011.
- Reviewed the summary of investments. As of July, 2011, \$11,579,744.85 was invested as follows: 0.02 percent in U.S. government agencies; 0.00 percent in U.S. treasuries and securities; 10.71 percent in CDs; 55.46 percent in collateralized repurchase agreements and 33.81 percent in FDIC Insured Money Market funds.
- Reviewed reports on VICC's financial position:
 - For the 2010-2011 fiscal year, revenues totaled \$66,788,817.71 while 2010-2011 final expenditures were \$64,389,517.71. When combined with a beginning of the year fund balance of \$4.7 million, the net effect of these variances resulted in a \$7.1 million fund balance at year-end, which is about \$800,000 better than recently predicted. On the expenditure side, primary savings were in the cost of education payments being about \$838,000 under budget due to lower than projected student counts and transportation contractors being about \$492,000 less than budgeted due to the significant number of snow days.
 - For 2011-2012, \$4,684,260.57 in revenues were received by July, the first month of the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Expenditures for that period were \$250,608.60.
- Received a report on the 2011 MAP Test Index Analysis. As a general overall observation, transfer students appear to consistently out score black students remaining in the city at almost every grade level and content area tested. Although there are some inherent statistical limitations to this study, the size of the sample population is large enough, the time frame has been long enough and the overall trend has been consistent enough to at least suggest that significant academic benefits (as measured by state standardized tests) result from being in the transfer program. VICC hopes to conduct a more comprehensive student achievement study in the future to address some of the statistical limitations of the current study.
- Received a report which details the special education incidence rates as of January, 2011. The favorable trend that had developed during 2007 and 2008 (which was interrupted by an increase in 2009) returned as incidence rates decreased in most individual districts as well as for the overall program. Specifically, the rate

Not an Official Record.

Continued on reverse side

Minutes of the meeting are available for review at the VICC Office after approval by the Board.

decreased by 1.5 percent -- from 23.4 percent in January, 2010, to 21.9 percent in January, 2011. This is significantly below the peak rate of 26.5 percent in January, 2006.

- Received a report detailing member districts' satisfaction with transportation service levels from the 2010-2011 school year. On all areas of service evaluated, most schools were satisfied to very satisfied (the two highest levels on the scale) with the services received.

- Received a report on the status of applications to date. While the interest level of city families in transferring to county school districts remains high based upon the number of applications received to date, the number of openings available was limited. Based on district enrollment targets, only 614 new spaces were available for 2011-2012, similar to last year but still considerably less than the new openings available in earlier years. While several districts accepted more students than were requested, one district (Bayless) significantly increased their enrollment goals and were not able to fill 90 of their 139 additional spaces. However, significantly more transfer students were placed in their district this year than at any time in recent history. A majority of the new spaces -- 74 percent -- were at the K-2 early primary grade levels. As a result, VICC's recruitment efforts were concentrated there while those at the secondary (middle and high school) level, were curtailed. The number of applications received -- 3,834 -- were comparable to the prior two years. VICC had no trouble meeting most district's original enrollment goals for 2011-2012 as there were 541 actual placements and lengthy waiting lists for most grade levels/areas. Actual enrollment of city transfer students for 2011-2012 is 5,505, as of August 31. In comparison, county to city (magnet) applications were high again this year and similar to last year due to increased enrollment efforts including more targeted mailings. For 2011-2012 year-to date applications total 171, compared to 173 and 142 in 2010-2011 and 2009-2010, respectively. New acceptances to date for 2011-2012, are similar, totaling 63 compared to 59 and 100 during the previous two years, bringing county enrollment to 111, the lowest number since the interdistrict transfer program began. The SLPS appears to have limited space available for county students in the programs in which they are interested. The gifted magnet sequence draws the most interest from county families.

- Future Meetings for 2011-2012 are as follows:

- 10:30 a.m. Friday, November 18, 2011 at the VICC offices

- 10 a.m.** Friday, February 10, 2012 at the Spellman Center, Lindenwood University, St. Charles

- 10:30 a.m. Friday, April 20, 2012 at the VICC offices

- 10:30 a.m. **Thursday**, June 14, 2012 at the VICC offices

The meetings marked Spellman Center will be held at Lindenwood University in the Leadership Conference Center, 209 South Kingshighway, St. Charles, **immediately before** the Superintendents' Roundtable meetings. Those marked VICC will be held in the Conference Room at the VICC Office, 7425 Forsyth Blvd., Suite 110. Agendas will be available at the VICC Office one week prior to the meeting. Interested parties are welcome to attend, and those who wish to address the board are requested to sign in prior to the start of the meeting.