



## Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation Board Meeting Highlights • September 17, 2010

In actions at their September 17 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation

- Approved all preliminary 2010-2011 routes for transporting students to and from school. VICC expects to transport about 6,000 students using 275 buses and 112 taxis with an average one-way route duration of 53 minutes. This represents a decrease in bus routes but an increase in taxis over the 2009-2010 school year due to the combined effect of decreased overall enrollment and an increased number of out of area students who could not be placed in area.
- Approved submission of the 2011 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 2009-2010 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 2009-2010. 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, 2010.
- Reviewed the summary of investments. As of August, 2010, \$14,368,138.00 was invested as follows: 0.03 percent in U.S. government agencies; 0.00 percent in U.S. treasuries and securities; 38.50 percent in CDs; 36.03 percent in collateralized repurchase agreements and 25.44 percent in FDIC Insured Money Market funds.
- Reviewed reports on VICC's financial position:
  - For the 2009-2010 fiscal year, revenues totaled \$75,928,052.72 while 2009-2010 final expenditures were \$73,811,236.93 -- just over \$1 million less than budgeted. When combined with a beginning of the year fund balance of \$2.6 million, the net effect of these variances resulted in a \$4.7 million fund balance at year-end, which is about \$500,000 better than recently predicted. On the expenditure side, primary savings were in the cost of education payments being about \$910,000 under budget due to lower than projected student counts.
  - For 2010-2011, \$10,947,080.78 in revenues were received by August, the second month of the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Expenditures for that period were \$1,358,409.05.
- Received a report which details the special education incidence rates as of January, 2010. 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. The incidence rate in 2010 is similar to the rate in 2008. Specifically, the rate decreased by slightly more than one percent -- from 24.5 percent in January, 2009, to 23.4 percent in January, 2010. 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 2009-2010 school year. On all areas of service evaluated, schools were satisfied to very satisfied (the two highest levels on the scale) with the services received.
- Received a professional learning community report and discussed minority hiring strategies.

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

- 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 527 new spaces were available for 2010-2011, similar to last year but still considerably less than the new openings available in earlier years. However, several districts accepted more students than were requested particularly in kindergarten and in grades 7, 8 and 9 resulting in 613 actual placements. A majority of the new spaces -- 69 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 -- 3,643 -- were comparable to the prior two years. VICC had no trouble meeting each district's new enrollment goals for 2010-2011 as there were 613 actual placements and lengthy waiting lists for most grade levels/areas. Actual enrollment of city transfer students for 2010-2011 is 5,951, as of September 8. In comparison, county to city (magnet) applications were up slightly for the first time in years to due increased enrollment efforts including more targeted mailings. For 2010-2011 year-to date applications total 173, compared to 142 and 116 in 2009-2010 and 2008-2009, respectively. New acceptances to date for 2010-2011, however are down, totaling 59 compared to 100 and 62 during the previous two years, bringing county enrollment to 144, 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 2010-2011 are as follows:
  - 10:30 a.m. Friday, November 19, 2010 at the VICC offices
  - 1:30 p.m.** Friday, February 11, 2011 at CSD
  - 10:30 a.m. Friday, April 22, 2011 at the VICC offices\*
  - 10:30 a.m. Friday, June 17, 2011 at the VICC offices

\* This meeting date is expected to be re-scheduled.

The meetings marked CSD will be held at the Cooperating School District offices, 1460 Craig Road, **immediately following** 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.