



Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation Board Meeting Highlights • September 14, 2012

In actions at their September 14 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation

- Approved all preliminary 2012-2013 routes for transporting students to and from school. VICC expects to transport about 5,100 students using 243 buses and 100 taxis with an average one-way route duration of 54 minutes. This represents a decrease in both bus routes and taxis over the 2011-2012 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 2013 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 requirement of the pool.
- Approved the annual audit of VICC's 2011-2012 financial statements. While there were no concerns or issues noted in this report, the accounting firm of Kerber, Eck & Braeckel, LLP did note VICC's continued use of the cash basis of accounting during 2011-2012. 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, 2012.
- Held a discussion on a possible five-year extension (through 2018-2019) for accepting new students beyond the existing 2013-2014 sunset. A draft resolution for consideration at a special meeting at 11:30 a.m. Friday, October 19, 2012, at Lindenwood University was reviewed. District participation by continuing to accept new students during this extension would remain optional at each individual district's discretion. Currently enrolled students would be able to continue in the program through graduation even if their district decides not to accept new students during the extension period.
- Reviewed the summary of investments. As of July, 2012, \$15,471,892.88 was invested as follows: 0.00 percent in U.S. government agencies; 0.01 percent in U.S. treasuries and securities; 0.00 percent in CDs; 74.65 percent in collateralized repurchase agreements and 25.34 percent in FDIC Insured Money Market funds.
- Reviewed reports on VICC's financial position:
 - For the 2011-2012 fiscal year, revenues totaled \$61,175,621.57 while 2011-2012 final expenditures were \$57,153,699.23. When combined with a beginning of the year fund balance of \$7.1 million, the net effect of these variances resulted in an \$11.2 million fund balance at year-end, which is about \$1.1 million better than recently predicted. This is important for VICC's long-range projections which count upon the availability of fund balances in later years to help maintain per pupil funding at certain minimum levels. On the expenditure side, primary savings were in the cost of education payments being about \$856,000 under budget due to lower than projected student counts and transportation contractor expenses being about \$749,000 less than budgeted.
 - For 2012-2013, \$4,533,534.05 in revenues were received by July, the first month of the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Expenditures for that period were \$278,044.98.
- Received a report and held discussion regarding an Action Plan to address the special education incidence rates as of January, 2012. The favorable trend that had developed during 2007 and 2008 (which was interrupted

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

by an increase in 2009) returned as incidence rates decreased slightly in six of 13 individual districts and remained the same for the overall program average, at 21.7 percent in January, 2012, which was the same as 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 2011-2012 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. VICC buses traveled a total of 6,714,388 miles last year, a 10 percent decrease from the prior year. The transportation program covers 570 square miles.

- 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 472 new spaces were available for 2012-2013, down from the 679 spaces reported earlier this year, although the final number was similar to last year. Rockwood, Bayless and Valley Park reduced their numbers of spaces available by 136, 59 and 12 respectively. The number of applications received -- 4,075 -- was comparable to the prior two years. VICC had no trouble meeting most district's original enrollment goals for 2012-2013 as there were 517 actual placements and lengthy waiting lists for most grade levels/areas. Actual enrollment of city transfer students for 2012-2013 is 5,184, as of September 5. In comparison, county to city (magnet) applications were high again this year and similar to last year due to increased recruitment efforts. For 2012-2013 year-to date applications total 120, compared to 171 and 173 in 2011-2012 and 2010-2011, respectively. New acceptances to date for 2012-2013, are similar, totaling 54 compared to 63 and 59 during the previous two years, bringing county enrollment to 90, 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. At this point, most magnet applications are for the gifted programs. SLPS has instituted a new application, placement and notification timeline for the 2013-2014 school year, including three lottery pool periods.

- Future Meetings for 2012-2013 are as follows:

- 11:30 a.m. Friday, October 19, 2012 at Lindenwood University (special meeting)

- 10 a.m. Friday, November 30, 2012 at the VICC offices

- 10 a.m. Friday, February 15, 2013 at Lindenwood University

- 10 a.m. Friday, April 12, 2013 at Lindenwood University

- 10 a.m. **Thursday**, June 13, 2013 at the Urban League, 3701 Grandel Square

The meetings marked Lindenwood University will be held in the Spellman Center, Leadership Center Conference Room at Lindenwood University, St. Charles, **prior to** the CSD Superintendents' Roundtable meeting. 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.