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July 25, 2017

Department of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 7841 Madison
WI 53707-7841

Attention: Michelle Jones

RE: Data Errata

Dear Ms. Jones,

The purpose of this communication is to provide an explanation of Montello School District's maintenance of effort (MOE) for the current 2016/17 school year based on information found on the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) website.

The first two tests of the MOE process uses total budgets comparing current year to the preceding year while tests three and four compare per capita costs or costs per child from one year to the next. Current year enrollment (2017 child count) is reported as 112 students. This is an accurate figure as of the date DPI closed the window this spring. Tests three and four uses student data reported as 53 for a child count for the "year last met as being 2015." The District believes that the reported child count of 53 is in error.

Using 53, as the child count number for 2015, which the DPI system uses as the year "per capita from last year met" for test 3 and 4, will always fail because that child count data was wrong. DPI's website history for the Montello School District's child count data provides historical evidence that substantiates the number 53 as child count data for 2015 was in error.

2009 = 110
2010 = 92
2011 = 86
2012 = 103
2013 = 106
2014 = 82
2015 = 53
2016 = 82
2017 = 112

The District believes the reported child count number for years 2014 and 2016 were also in error. The District changed its data collection system at the end of the 2012/13 school year and integrated special education into that system from SEEDS. The then superintendent and the director of special education both left at the end of the 2012/13 school year. Neither the

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incoming 2013/14 superintendent nor the director of special education had knowledge that the new data collection system had not been set up correctly and was reporting inaccurate special education child count data. The District did not recognize there was a serious problem with the special education data until the end of the 2015/16 school year when the District became aware that there were errors in many facets in the Infinite Campus electronic system. As a result, during the summer of 2016 the District went back to SEEDS, the data system it had relied on previous to the 2013/14 school year.

The change to the SEEDS electronic data system enabled Montello to obtain accuracy for the special education data collection and reporting while Montello is in the process of repairing errors and restructuring internal District operations for the management and entries in Infinite Campus.

The reporting for 2015 that yielded a child count number of 53 is of particular concern. Using 53 as a figure to calculate per capita costs will always cause the District to fail test three and four. We respectfully request the DPI not use these erroneous numbers to generate an electronically calculated formula that could result in the District losing a portion of its flow through allocation.

After you have had an opportunity to review and consider this information please contact me. If I can be of further assistance to the Department with regards to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret M. Banker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Margaret Banker, Ph.D.
District Administrator

MB: bjp