Juvenile Care Center (JCC) Update and Tour
Bob Paris, Danielle Rutterbush and Carla Koch joined the committee to describe the program at the JCC and lead a tour of the facility. Julie Reed, a supervisor of the facility, lead us through the building and discussed the various components of the program and how the whole process works to meet the needs of the adolescents housed there. Data on providing wraparound services in this way indicate that this is an effective way to handle these youth.

The meeting opened with Mark Butcher, Director of the JCC, welcoming our committee and giving us a brief overview of the numbers of students participating in the facility. He noted that the JCC opened in 1997 and has been a great partnership between the Midland County Probate Court and many county and community services along with Midland Public Schools providing the educational component. He shared copies of the 2011 Annual Report which indicates the success of the program.

We learned that there are two components to the program at the JCC: Day Treatment and Detention. Detention students reside at the JCC. They are court ordered, stay days to weeks in the facility, use e2020, and enjoy the benefit of having their teacher communicate and collaborate with their teachers at Midland Public Schools. Students in Detention are not limited to residents of Midland County.

Day treatment students are court ordered, stay in the program a semester at a time, attend from 8am to 8pm with transportation to the site from their homes, use e2020 and gain from the JCC staff aligning their teaching with the MPS curriculum. These students are from Midland County only. A major emphasis in this program is to recover credits so students are back on track to graduate.

After visiting several classrooms and observing students participating in discussion and working on e2020, we toured the remainder of the building. We observed the gym, the lunchroom, the individual rooms, the cafeteria and kitchen, laundry, intake room and the central control area. There was also a room for observing suicidal adolescents and rooms for conferencing and evaluating students.

Teachers at this facility are employed by Midland Public Schools and plan and deliver the same curriculum to these students as other students in our school. They are highly qualified and certified in special education. Clearly they have a passion for their chosen field.

Finally we were able to view the photographs and captions on the student artwork in the halls. These were inspirational and motivated us to come back for the show in the spring.

Next CaSS meeting: January 21, 1:30-3:00