

MIFFLIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

201 Eighth Street - Highland Park
Lewistown, Pennsylvania 17044

TELEPHONE (717) 248-0148

FAX (717) 248-5345

Vance S. Varner, Superintendent
Paul J. Maidens Chief Operations Officer Kevin J. O'Donnell, Jr., Chief Academic Officer
Melinda K. Kenepp, Chief Financial Officer

Local Advisory Council
Federal Programs-Mifflin County School District
Thursday, February 3, 2022
11:30 am
Zoom

Minutes

In attendance: Aleta Kammerer, Karin Knode, Martha Leister, Phil Lucas, Cindi Marsh, Frank Miller, Kevin O'Donnell, Mary Lou Sigler, Michelle Siruc, Vance Varner, Robin White, Scott Yetter, and Cristy Yoders.

- I. Attendance Sign in and Welcome
 - Mr. Miller thanked everyone for attending. Introductions followed.
- II. Approval of Minutes from November 4, 2021
 - A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Varner, which was seconded by Mrs. Yoders.
- III. Federal Programs Review
 - a. Title I
 1. Allocation - \$2,260,049
 2. Expenditures
 - Supplemental reading and math interventions for K-3 students
 - 22 reading and math intervention teachers
 - Federal Program Coordinator
 - Federal Programs Secretary and Homeless Liaison
 - Chief of Academic Officer
 - Camp on the Way to Kindergarten
 - Mr. Miller noted that the dates for Camp on the Way to Kindergarten have been set for June 20 – 23, 2022
 - School-wide Positive Behavioral Support (PBIS)
 3. Kindergarten Readiness Workshops
 - Mrs. Yoders said the workshops are going well. Attendance is lower than in past years, but parents continue to enjoy the workshops. Seventeen children are scheduled for this Saturday's workshop at East Derry Elementary. Mrs. Yoders commended the school district and the staff who continue to run the workshops, as they help it run smoothly. Each workshop has building representatives, which the parents appreciate.
 - The dates/locations of the workshops are listed below:
 - Strodes Mills Elementary School on January 8, 2022

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- Eight families attended
- Indian Valley Elementary School - January 22, 2022
 - Nine families attended
- East Derry Elementary School – February 5, 2022
- Lewistown Elementary School – February 19, 2022

4. Parental Engagement

- 1% Set aside
- Parent Engagement Building Policies and Compacts
 - Updated on MCSD Federal Programs Website
 - Click on Students/Parents, Federal Programs, Parental Engagement
- Parent Engagement Coordinators for each Title I building

5. Student Homelessness

- Current Numbers
 - Mrs. Siruc noted that 69 students have been identified as homeless.
- Homeless Awareness Week
 - For a \$5 donation, staff were allowed to dress down on Friday, November 19 to support the district's homeless pantry. \$1,575 was raised from the event.
- LIS silly string event - \$3,013.60
 - Students at Lewistown Intermediate School also ran a coin drive to benefit the local homeless shelter. They collected \$3,013.60. For doing such a great job, they were allowed to spray Mr. Aurand, the building principal, with silly string.

b. Title II-Improving Teacher Quality

1. Allocation - \$272,85

2. Expenditures

- Class Size Reduction Teachers (Primary Grades)
- Non-public equitable share for professional development
 - The non-public schools are still working to spend their 20-21 allocation.

c. Title III

1. Allocation - \$13,059

2. Expenditures

- Supplemental resources for EL students
- Professional development for EL teachers

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- WIDA e-conference
 - “Catching Up Your English Language Learners Who Have Fallen Behind” conference
 - Non-public equitable share for EL resources
- d. Title IV
1. Allocation - \$171,642
 2. Expenditures
 - Social Worker (Nicole Frazier)
 - Elementary School Counselor (Alexis DiDomenico)
 - Smartboard training (a percentage must be spent on technology)
- e. Rural & Low Income
1. Allocation - \$112,583 (Increase of \$18,057)
 2. Expenditures
 - Full time Master Level Behavioral Therapist
 - Class Size Reduction Teacher (will now be able to support a higher percentage of the salary/benefits of this teacher this year, with increase)
- f. Ready to Learn (State)
1. Allocation - \$968,914
 2. Expenditures
 - Maintain Full Day Kindergarten Teachers Salaries/Benefits
- g. PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency School Safety and Security Grants (State)
1. Grant ID 33852 -COVID Response & Preparation
 - Allocation - \$315,606 (FER Submitted)
 - Expenditures
 - 30 iPads to increase the amount of educational technology available for distance learning to ensure the continuity of education if remote learning become necessary at any point in the future due to the COVID 19 pandemic.
 - Newsela, an Instructional Content Platform that brings together engaging, accessible content with integrated assessments and insights to supercharge reading engagement and learning in every subject.
 - Educational technology related items and health and safety items (flash-drives, HDMI adapters, headsets, hotpots, monitors, batteries) to address the COVID 19 disaster emergency.

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- Cleaning and sanitizing products that meet the centers for disease control and prevention or department of health criteria.
 - Equipment, including personal protective equipment, thermometers, infrared cameras and other necessary items
2. Grant ID 31391 – Mifflin County School District Trauma Team
- Allocation - \$450,000
 - Expenditures
 - Mental Health Coordinator (21-22 & 22-23)
 - Master's Level Behavioral Therapist (21-22 & 22-23)
 - Licensed Social Worker (21-22 & 22-23)
 - Mental Health training
3. Grant ID 31311 – Mifflin County SRO
- Allocation - \$45,000 (FER Submitted)
 - Expenditures
 - Additional School Resource Officer (Eric Ettinger)
4. Grant ID 29390 – Mifflin County School District Trauma Team
- Allocation - \$550,500
 - The Final Expense Report (FER) was submitted since the last LAC meeting.
 - Positions that were funded by this grant are now being funded through Grant ID #31391.
 - Expenditures
 - Systems Level Psychologist (19-20 & 20-21)
 - Project modification request approved to change title of position to Mental Health Coordinator
 - Master's Level Behavioral Therapist (19-20 & 20-21)
 - Licensed Social Worker (19-20 & 20-21)
 - SRO (18-19)
 - Mental Health Training
5. Grant ID 35164 – Security Software Protection, \$141,820
- Fortinac and FortiClient security software
 - Security software to provide protection to all laptops, student and staff, when both on and off the district network.
 - Non-public equitable share
 - Once encumbered expenditures are paid, the FER will be submitted.
 - MCSD has spent its equitable share of funds.

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h. Continuity of Education Equity Grant

1. Allocation - \$24,500 (FER Submitted)
2. Expenditures
 - 35 additional laptops for distribution to ensure equitable access for learning for Students with Disabilities.
 - 10 additional laptops for distribution to ensure equitable access for learning for Students with Disabilities.

i. Special Education COVID-19 Impact Mitigation Grant

1. Allocation - \$52,027 (FER Submitted)
2. Expenditures
 - Teachers will receive training in various software programs and supplemental resources will be purchased to support students with synchronous learning. Students with vision impairment need touchscreen computers and zoom software, so that they are able to access instructional resources remotely. We are planning to purchase these items in order to ensure these students have access to FAPE.
 - Six, Lenovo L15 touch screen laptops, one Zoomtext Magnifier/Reader, 50 network licenses, five Zoomtext Magnifier/Reader standalone licenses, and a 3-year Snap & Read license
 - Supplemental resources to support CCS services

j. Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER I)

1. Allocation - \$1,835,215
 - \$1.3 million has been spent as of December quarterly report. Should be spent by end of year. Closes September 30, 2022.
2. Expenditures
 - Maintain two elementary teaching positions (20/21 & 21/22)
 - Maintain a middle school reading teaching position (20/21 & 21/22)
 - Maintain a high school English teaching position (20/21 & 21/22)
 - Maintain a high School guidance counselor position (20/21 & 21/22)
 - Maintain an elementary special education teaching position (20/21 & 21/22)
 - Create an additional guidance counselor position at EDES (20/21 & 21/22)
 - Create a new Alpha English teaching position (20/21 & 21/22)
 - Supplemental afterschool and summer learning programs
 - Purchase personal protective equipment/supplies to support the return of students/staff to school and in-person instruction
 - Purchase cleaning and sanitizing supplies to support the return of

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students/staffs to school and in-person instruction

- Data analysis system for LEA to analyze COVID-19 impact on student academic performance
- Salary and benefits for temporary technology staff to sanitize district laptops for COVID-19.
- Mifflin County Regional Police and event staff services for COVID-19 mitigation compliant graduation
- Software that will allow laptops to be used at home and in school
- Non-public equitable share

k. Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II)

1. Allocation - \$8,433,337

- As of the December 31st quarterly report, \$4.7 million has been spent.

2. Expenditures

- Maintain two elementary teaching positions (22-23)
- Maintain a middle school reading teaching position (22-23)
- Maintain a high school English teaching position (22-23)
- Maintain a high school guidance counselor position (22-23)
- Maintain an elementary special education teaching position (22-23)
- Maintain an additional guidance counselor position at EDES (22-23)
- Maintain an Alpha English teaching position (22-23)
- Maintain a math teaching position at MCMS (21-22, 22-23)
- Maintain a chemistry teaching position at MCHS (21-22, 22-23)
- Maintain two MCO teachers (21-22, 22-23)
- Maintain an Alpha administrator ((21-22, 22-23)
- Maintain an Alpha social studies teaching position (21-22, 22-23)
- Hire a full-time Alpha guidance secretary (21-22, 22-23)
- Supplemental afterschool and summer learning programs
- Transportation for supplemental summer learning programs
- Purchase of personal protective equipment/supplies to support the return of students/staff to school and in-person instruction
- Purchase cleaning and sanitizing supplies to support the return of students/staff to school and in-person instruction
- District network upgrade
- District one-to-one student initiative (iPads/laptops)
- Teacher desktop/laptop replacements
- Upgrade power infrastructure for one-to-one initiative
- School Gate Guardian scanners
- Overtime for technology department staff for the one-to-one initiative
- Additional custodial positions for cleaning and sanitizing buildings
- Custodial floater (20-21-21-22, 22-23)

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- Maintenance floater (20-21-21-22, 22-23)
- Lewistown Elementary School ESCO Maintenance Project
- Career Pathways Facilitator (21-22, 22-23)
- Contact tracer
- Additional days for nurses
- Supplemental intervention resources to account for loss of learning time
- Additional Alpha special education teacher (21-22, 22-23)
- Additional days for athletic director
- Plumbing upgrade at SMES for better disinfection
- Servers, switches
- Curriculum writing
- Contracted services for safe schools training
- Vision spot screeners for district nurses to limit exposure to students/staff with outside entities performing the vision screenings on an annual basis
- Riding floor scrubber
- Dishwasher at IVES
- Image Access Scanner
- Vinyl Printer
- Purchase and installation of washers and dryers at schools to wash mops and rags being used for COVID-19 cleaning.
- 6300 network switch for increased bandwidth for online learning throughout the district
- 6400 network switch for increased bandwidth for online learning throughout the district
- Wireless controller to monitor and configure the upgraded wireless access points to increase wireless coverage throughout the district
- Repair exterior coatings and insulation on exterior ductwork at MCHS and MCMS to prevent moisture from infiltrating the ductwork and promoting mold/bacteria growth in air that is circulated by HVAC systems
- Window treatments at MCJH to help maximize outside air being introduced into HVAC system
- Carpet/flooring replacement at MCMS
- Touchless fountains for students to fill water bottles
- Two additional floating custodians to support cleaning and sanitation of buildings to minimize the spread of infectious disease (remainder of 20-21, 21-22 and 22-23 school year)
 - The One-to-One initiative is going well.
 - Mr. White is currently working on the carpet replacement at MCMS. The quote is going to be higher than originally expected, as the old carpet needs to be removed and the glue needs to be

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sanded off the floors before the new vinyl flooring can be installed.

I. American Rescue Plan (ESSER III)

1. Allocation - \$17,058,201

- Funds must be spent by September 30, 2024.
- Will be replacing all smartboard displays in district. Will help differentiate instruction, and be used for many years to come.

2. Expenditures

- Maintain two elementary teaching positions (23-24)
- Maintain a middle school reading teaching position (23-24)
- Maintain a high school English teaching position (23-24)
- Maintain a high school guidance counselor position (23-24)
- Maintain an elementary special education teaching position (23-24)
- Maintain an additional guidance counselor position at EDES (23-24)
- Maintain an Alpha English teaching position (23-24)
- Maintain a math teaching position at MCMS (23-24)
- Maintain a chemistry teaching position at MCHS (23-24)
- Maintain two MCO Teachers (23-24)
- Maintain an Alpha administrator (23-24)
- Maintain an Alpha social studies teaching position (23-24)
- Maintain an Alpha English teaching position (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Maintain a math teaching position at MCJHS (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Maintain a math teaching position at MCHS (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Maintain a tech ed teaching position at MCHS (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Maintain a tech ed teaching position at MCHS (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Maintain a 4th grade teaching position at LIS (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Maintain a 1st grade teaching position at LES (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Maintain a 1st grade teaching position at EDES (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Maintain a 5th grade teaching position at LIS (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Elementary Technology Facilitator (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- 2nd Shift Maintenance Supervisor (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Alpha Guidance Secretary (23-24)
- Career Pathways Facilitator (23-24)
- Custodial substitutes
- Custodial floater (23-24)
- Maintenance floater (23-24)
- COVID Coordinator (20-21, 21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
 - Ms. Sigler asked if the Contact Tracer position was eliminated from the list. Mr. Varner and Mrs. Marsh explained that the position was earmarked, in the event that an extra nurse was

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needed to complete all of the contract tracing at central office. The position title was also changed to, "COVID Coordinator", but because the position has not been needed, it has not been filled.

- Maintain EL teaching position (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Alpha part-time para (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- LES full-time para (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Create an Alpha teacher/learning management software educator (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Maintain an Alpha math teaching position (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Maintain an Alpha science teaching position (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Maintain an Alpha science teaching position (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Health Room Assistant - MCMS (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Health Room Assistant - LES (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Create Technology Facilitator (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Maintain Licensed Social Worker from PCCD Grant ID 31391 (23-24)
- Zoom licenses
- MiFi
- Vision screeners
- Technology upgrades
- SMARTBoard displays, sound bars, mounts, carts, webcams and HDMI cables to support K-12 purchase and installation of SMARTBoards, which will support 1:1 technology initiative for differentiation of instruction to close the achievement gap created as a direct result of the loss of learning from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- SMART notebook advanced software
- LAN school system school software
- Teacher and student laptops and desktops to support 1:1 technology initiative for differentiation of instruction to close the achievement gap created as a direct result of the loss of learning from the COVID-19 pandemic. Laptops and desktops will also help prepare administrators, teachers, and students to respond to any future remote learning that may be necessary throughout ongoing pandemic
- Servers, switches, and storage for physical and virtual server environment for 21/22 technology upgrades
- Software licensing and services for physical and virtual server environment and storage for 21/22 technology upgrades
- LES roofing project
- Administration building HVAC/window project
- Supplemental intervention resources to account for loss of learning time
- Early warning system
- Curriculum writing to account for loss of learning time

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- Professional development to account for loss of learning time
- Supplemental afterschool and summer learning programs
- Transportation for supplemental summer learning programs
- Purchase of personal protective equipment/supplies to support student/staff return to school and in-person instruction
 - Ms. Sigler asked if KN95 masks have been purchased for the district. Mrs. Marsh said the team has not discussed purchasing masks at this point, but she will discuss this with administrators during their next meeting.
- Purchase of cleaning and sanitizing supplies to support student/staff return to school and in-person instruction
- Maintain additional Alpha special education teaching position (23-24)
- Two additional custodians to support cleaning and sanitation of buildings to minimize the spread of infectious disease (23-24 school year)
- Two additional maintenance floaters to support building efforts to minimize the spread of infectious disease. (21-22, 22-23 and 23-24 school year)
- An additional autistic support paraprofessional at LES, an additional autistic support paraprofessional at MCJHS, and an additional MCO teacher at LIS were added since the last meeting Their salaries and benefits will be funded with this grant for the remainder of the 21-22, 22-23, and 23-24 school years.

m. ESSER/American Rescue Plan, 7% Set Asides Consolidated

1. Allocation - \$1,325,805

2. Expenditures

- Minimum allocation for student social, emotional, mental health supports (30% or \$284,101)
 - Two additional therapeutic social workers were hired for the 21-22, 22-23, and 23-24 school years.
 - The district also plans to use the funds to pay for contracted services with outside psychologists.
- Minimum allocation for PD for staff on social emotional mental health supports (10% or \$94,700)
 - Mental health restorative practices professional development has taken place this year.
- Minimum allocation for reading support and improvement (8% or \$75,760)
 - LETRS I & LETRS II
 - Dr. O'Donnell hopes to implement LETRS I and LETRS II training over the next several years. If there are any

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open slots available, he will invite early-childhood staff to attend.

- American Rescue Plan, 1% set-aside for summer enrichment - \$189,401
- American Rescue Plan, 1% set-aside for afterschool programs - \$189,401

n. American Rescue Plan/Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HYC)

1. Allocation - \$68,707

- Still waiting on final approval to begin spending.

2. Expenditures

- Pantry storage units
- Student resources (toiletries, clothing, school supplies)
- Transportation

o. Future Ready Comprehensive Planning

1. Mission

- Educate each student to meet life's challenges

2. Vision

- The relentless pursuit of excellence

3. Action Plan

- Emphasis on differentiation of instruction for all students. (1:1 technology initiative, evidence-based resources and interventions)
- Systemic focus on heterogenous grouping as part of the development of a K-12 multi-tiered systems of support
- Support students social and emotional learning through a strategic and systemic SEL implementation (PBIS, morning meetings)
- After-school and summer school programs to support recovery of lost instructional time due to COVID-19 pandemic
- Emphasis on third grade reading levels
- Effective evaluation of all employees to support high quality differentiated instruction for all students.

4. Completion of Other State Required Reports

- Academic Standards and Assessment Requirements (Chapter 4)
- Gifted Education Plan Assurances (Chapter 16)
- Student Services (Chapter 12)
- Induction Plan (Chapter 49)
- Professional Development Plan (Act 48)

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p. Other District Programs

1. Dr. O'Donnell, Chief Academic Officer

- The school board discussed loss of learning at last week's meeting. He explained that it is a multi-faceted issue.
 - Ms. Sigler thanked district staff for all of their work. It has been a trying two years to say the least. She is glad the district is now focusing more on student mental health issues. On Monday, she, Mr. Varner, and Mr. Styers will be meeting to discuss diversity, equity, and inclusion. She is pleased to hear there will be an emphasis on LETRS training next year. Overall, she thinks the district is moving in the right direction. She also thanked local agency staff for caring.

q. Agency Reports

1. Aleta Kammerer, Communities that Care

- Mrs. Kammerer agreed with Ms. Sigler about mental health being a concern. She believes it is becoming less stigmatized, which is nice. She also wonders if reduced stigmatization is the reason for increased referral numbers.
- Mrs. Kammerer should be receiving the full PAYS data by the end of April. Small groups will begin analyzing the data in May. If anyone is interested in joining one of the groups, please let Mrs. Kammerer know.

2. Rose Schultz, Parent

- Mrs. Schulz was not in attendance, but Mrs. Siruc shared comments on her behalf. Mrs. Schulz watched the livestream of the last board meeting and wanted to thank Dr. O'Donnell for his presentation. It was very thorough and informative. She appreciated his hard work and time in gathering the data.
- Mrs. Schulz also noted that, although she understands the sub shortage, she feels it is unacceptable that the district is taking Title I teachers away from their duties to cover empty classrooms. Parents have contacted her to express their frustrations that their children are reading below grade level and their requests for Title I services are being denied. She feels that we must find a way to solve this problem, and does not feel that lowering our standards is the best way.

3. Nikki Knepp, Clear Concepts

- Liaisons are currently active across the district and are seeing 60 kids for individual counseling. Groups have not met since the start of the pandemic, but she hopes they will return this fall.
- Counselors are seeing a lot of marijuana use, even at the intermediate level. Students are also struggling with anxiety, depression, and sleep issues.
- Ms. Knepp also thinks it is great that the district has hired two therapeutic social workers.

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4. Robin White, Mifflin Juniata Human Services

- Funding is available for rental, utility, and heating assistance. Clients should call 717-447-5121 for more information.
- The “Money in Your Pocket” tax program is being offered by the Area Agency on Aging this year for anyone, whose household income is under \$58,000 per year. Interested residents should call 717-242-0315 and choose option 6.

5. Scott Yetter, The Lumina Center

- Twelve kids regularly attend the afterschool program, Monday through Thursday. Two of the kids also attend after school tutoring in the district. However, they often do not bring homework with them to the Lumina Center. A lot of kids need one on one help, but the Lumina Center has limited staff and volunteers. Valerie Adams serves as the program director. She is trying to focus on math and reading centers, but kids tend to want to play and do not have the drive to focus. Mr. Yetter said the center needs to find a way to get parents involved with their children.

r. Future Meeting Dates

- Mr. Miller thanked members for serving on the committee and for their work to drive the school district forward.
- The next meeting will be held on May 5, 2022 at 11:30 am via Zoom. At that time, Mr. Miller will solicit feedback to decide if meetings will return to the Downtown OIP or continue via Zoom next year.
- Mr. Varner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Sigler.