

MIFFLIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Local Advisory Council
Federal Programs-Mifflin County School District
Thursday, September 16, 2021
11:30 am
Zoom

Minutes

- I. Attendance Sign in and Welcome
 - Mr. Miller welcomed everyone to the meeting.
 - David Boyer, Mark Crosson, Aleta Kammerer, Nikki Knepp, Shelby Liebegott, Cindi Marsh, Frank Miller, Kevin O'Donnell, Rose Schulz, Lauren Shields, Mary Lou Sigler, Michelle Siruc, Vance Varner, Robin White, Scott Yetter, and Cristy Yoders were in attendance.

- II. Approval of Minutes from May 6, 2021
 - Mr. Miller asked attendees to review the minutes from the meeting on May 6. Mr. Varner made a motion to approve the minutes. His motion was seconded by Mrs. Marsh.

- III. Federal Programs Review
 - a. Title I
 1. Allocation
 - MCSD received an \$2,260,049 Title I allocation for the 2021-2022 school year.
 2. Expenditures
 - MCSD uses Title I funds to provide supplemental reading and math interventions to K-3 students. Funds are also used to support the salary and benefits of twenty-two intervention teachers, the Federal Programs Coordinator, and Chief Academic Officer.
 3. Title I Schoolwide Plans
 - Mr. Miller explained that schoolwide plans are developed on an annual basis and must be submitted to the state by September 1st each year.
 4. Multi-Tier System of Support Model
 - A multi-tiered system of support emphasizes universal screening of all K-5 students in the area of reading literacy. It also effectively uses all existing resources, including staff expertise and services,

proactively assesses student strengths and weaknesses based on academic performance in the general education setting, delivers early interventions in the general education environment that are based on observable, reliable, and measurable information, and frequently and directly monitors and charts students' responses to interventions. The system also helps to de-emphasize categories and labels while encouraging creativity, problem solving, and providing support to students, staff, and parents in a proactive manner

5. Research-based reading and math interventions and university screeners for all K-3 teachers and students
 - The district uses a benchmark assessment system and universal screeners for reading for math.
6. The district continues to invest in School-wide Positive Behavioral Supports (PBIS).
7. Chief Academic Officer
 - One-to-One Initiative
 - Dr. O'Donnell explained that a good portion of federal funds have been used to purchase iPads and laptops for all students in the district, as part of its one-to-one initiative. Students in grades K-2 will not have the opportunity to transport their devices home on a daily basis, but students in grades 3-12 will.
 - Students are not required to take home or even accept a district device. However, it would be advantageous for students to accept a district device, as all the licenses for various district programs are included.
 - Dr. O'Donnell noted that students experienced one growing pain since receiving their devices. Because many of the devices were received in the spring, some needed to undergo updates.
 - In addition to purchasing new technology for the one-to-one initiative, teachers were provided with five days of professional development geared towards technology. Some chose to earn a Google Certified Educator Level 1 certificate.
 - Morning Meetings
 - This year, teachers will be implementing morning meetings, as a way to talk with students about social emotional health.
 - Students have the ability to privately note on a morning survey if they would like to see a school psychologist or counselor each day.
 - Curriculum
 - Teachers rewrote a lot of curriculum over the summer. In total, the district rolled out thirty-seven redesigned content areas, including thirteen new courses.

- The district is looking at potentially adding two additional courses at the high school level.
- The PA Department of Education recently adopted new STEM standards. The district will begin retooling its related curriculum in January.
- Staff continue to work to recover loss instructional time by implementing tutoring. Dr. O'Donnell hopes to provide more detailed academic information at the next meeting once teachers have had a chance to further assess students.
- Mrs. Schulz asked if the district received its PSSA and Keystone results from last year. Dr. O'Donnell anticipates receiving those by the end of the month.

8. Camp on Your way to Kindergarten

- The district was able to host in-person camp this summer. There was an 80-90% attendance rate at each building. The camp helps promote a smooth transition for incoming kindergarten students.

9. Parental Engagement

- 1% Set aside
 - Any district that receives over \$500,00 in Title I funds must set aside 1% of its budget for parent engagement activities. The parent engagement coordinators help to revise their building policies and compacts, as well as send out a needs assessment survey.
- Parent Engagement Policies and Compact
 - District Title I Parent Engagement Policy
 - The monitor for Federal Programs asked the district to add the following statement to its district parent engagement policy, “The committee will collect feedback from parents and families regarding the effectiveness of the activities and use this feedback to evaluate the programs, identify barriers, and plan for the future”.
 - Local Advisory Council members were asked at May’s meeting to provide feedback on the current draft of the policy. No suggestions were received.
 - Mr. Miller asked the committee for a motion to approve the policy for use during the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Sigler made a motion to approve the policy, which was seconded by Dr. O’Donnell. Mr. Miller will have the policy added to the Federal Programs portion of the MCSD website.

10. Right to Know – Appropriate State Certification

- Mr. Miller explained that if a student is taught by a teacher, who does not have the appropriate certificate, for four or more weeks, parents must be notified.

11. Student Homelessness

- Current Numbers
 - Twenty-three students have been identified so far this year. Mrs. Siruc is continuing to work with school counselors and secretarial staff to identify students who are still experiencing homelessness from last year.
- Backpacks from Kim Crone
 - Kim Crone, who is a retired school counselor from MCHS, recently donated 20 backpacks on behalf of St. John's Lutheran Church. The backpacks were full of school supplies and were sent to the MCMS, MCJHS, and MCHS for distribution.
- Chips from Hartley's
 - Hartley's Chips continues to donate several boxes of chips every two weeks to support the district's K-3 Weekend Powerpack programs.
- Jane Neff Event
 - The local homeless shelter is facing a deficit of \$50,000 in private donations this year. They are planning to hold a homeless simulation at Kish Park called, "The Great Escape from Homelessness" on Friday, October 22. The shelter hopes the event will raise community awareness and help to rebuild their funds. If anyone would like more information, Mrs. Siruc is happy to share an informational flyer.
- Current Needs
 - Currently, the district needs toothbrushes, toothpaste, and deodorant for its student supply pantry.

b. Title II-Improving Teacher Quality

1. Allocation

- The district received \$272,850 in funds.
- Mr. Miller said that the district's allocation continues to decrease. The \$272,850 allocation is an estimate. A funding adjustment will take place in January. Most likely, the district will receive a smaller allocation, as charter schools receive their fair share.

2. Expenditures

- The district uses its funds to pay for the salary and benefits of class size reduction teachers at the primary level.
- Non-public schools in the district also receive an equitable share for professional development.

- c. Title III
 - 1. Allocation
 - The district received \$13,059 in funds.
 - 2. Expenditures
 - Funds will be used to purchase supplemental resources for EL students and pay for professional development for EL teachers.
 - District EL teachers are currently on a waiting list to attend the national WIDA conference.
- d. Title IV
 - 1. Allocation
 - The district received \$171,642 in funds.
 - 2. Expenditures
 - The district uses its funds to pay for the salary and benefits of a district social worker and elementary counselor. Funds are also used to pay for the AP testing fees for low-income students and for new staff to attend a 2-day smartboard training at the beginning of the year.
- e. Rural & Low Income
 - 1. Allocation
 - The district received \$94,526 in funds.
 - 2. Expenditures
 - Funds are used to pay for the contracted services of a full-time time Master's level behavioral therapist and the salary and benefits of a class size reduction teacher.
- f. Ready to Learn (State)
 - 1. Allocation
 - The district received \$968,914 in funds.
 - 2. Expenditures
 - Funds are used to pay for the salary and benefits of the district's full-day Kindergarten teachers.
- g. PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency School Safety and Security Grants (State)
 - 1. Grant ID 33852 -COVID Response & Preparation
 - Allocation
 - The district received \$315,606 in funds, which have been spent.
 - Expenditures
 - The following items were purchased:
 - Thirty 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.
- 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
 - The district received \$450,000 in funds.
- Expenditures
 - A portion of the funds will be used to pay for the contracted services of a Mental Health Coordinator for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. Lauren Shields is currently serving in the role. She will be working on completing a needs assessment to ascertain where the district is with its trauma-informed practices. She will also be working to improve the disciplinary processes in the district, so that they are more inclusive. Additionally, Ms. Shields will be starting a parent/caregiver support group, which will meet via Zoom from 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Elementary parents/caregivers will meet on the first Tuesday of the month, while secondary parent/caregivers will meet on the second Tuesday of the month. A Skylert went out yesterday to notify parents/caregivers about the group. Information is also posted to the district website.
 - Funds from the grant will also be used to pay for the cost of SEL training. Last year's training focused on the definition of SEL. This year's training will focus on how SEL can be used to engage students and how practices can be embedded. The SEL team plans to present at the October 28th board meeting.
 - Funds from the grant will also pay for the contracted services of a Master's level behavioral therapist for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school year, as well as the salary and benefits of al licensed social worker

3. Grant ID 31311 – Mifflin County SRO

- Allocation
 - The district received and spent its \$45,000 allocation.
 - Expenditures
 - Funds were used to pay for the costs of an additional School Resource Officer, Eric Ettinger.
4. Grant ID 29390 – Mifflin County School District Trauma Team
- Allocation
 - The district received and spent its \$550,500 allocation.
 - Expenditures
 - The funds were originally set aside to pay for the contracted services of a Systems Level Psychologist during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. A project modification request was submitted and approved to later change the title of the position to, “Mental Health Coordinator”.
 - Funds were also used to pay for the contracted services of a Master’s level behavioral therapist during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, as well as the salary and benefits of a licensed social worker. Remaining funds were used to pay for a School Resource Officer and SEL training.
1. Continuity of Education Equity Grant
- Allocation
 - The district received and spent its \$24,500 allocation.
 - Expenditures
 - The following items were purchased with the funds:
 - Thirty-five additional laptops for distribution to ensure equitable access for learning for students with disabilities.
 - Ten additional laptops for distribution to ensure equitable access for learning for Students with Disabilities.
- h. Special Education COVID-19 Impact Mitigation Grant
1. Allocation
 - The district received \$52,027 in funds.
 2. Expenditures
 - Teachers received training in various software programs and supplemental resources to support students in synchronous learning. Students with vision impairment needed touchscreen computers and zoom software so that they could access instructional resources remotely. The district purchased these items in order to ensure these students had access to FAPE.
 - Six Lenovo L15 touch screen laptops, one Zoomtext Magnifier/Reader, 50 network licenses, five Zoomtext Magnifier/Reader standalone licenses, and a Snap & Read 3-year

license were purchased.

- Supplemental resources to support CCS services were also purchased.

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

1. Allocation

- The district received \$1,835,215 in funds.

2. Expenditures

- Maintain
 - two elementary teaching positions (20/21 & 21/22)
 - a middle school reading teaching position (20/21 & 21/22)
 - a high school English teaching position (20/21 & 21/22)
 - a high school guidance counselor position (20/21 & 21/22)
 - an elementary special education teaching position (20/21 & 21/22)
- Fund
 - an additional guidance counselor position at EDES (20/21 & 21/22)
 - an English teaching position at Alpha (20/21 & 21/22)
 - supplemental afterschool and summer learning programs
 - the salaries and benefits of temporary technology staff to sanitize district laptops
 - the cost of services for the Mifflin County Regional Police and event staff to hold a COVID-19 compliant graduation
 - an equitable share for non-public schools
- Purchase
 - personal protective equipment/supplies to support the return of students/staff to school and in-person instruction
 - cleaning and sanitizing supplies to support the return of students/staff to school and in-person instruction
 - a data analysis system to analyze the impact of COVID-19 on student academic performance
 - software that will allow laptops to go between home and school

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

1. Allocation

- The district received \$8,433,337 in funds.

2. Expenditures

- Maintain
 - two elementary teaching positions (22-23)
 - a middle school reading teaching position (22-23)
 - a high school English teaching position (22-23)
 - a high school guidance counselor position (22-23)
 - an elementary special education teaching position (22-23)
 - an additional guidance counselor at EDES (22-23)

- an English teaching position at Alpha (22-23)
- a math teaching position at MCMS (21-22, 22-23)
- a chemistry teaching position at MCHS (21-22, 22-23)
- two MCO teachers (21-22, 22-23)
- an Alpha administrator ((21-22, 22-23)
- a social studies teaching position at Alpha (21-22, 22-23)
- a guidance secretary position at Alpha (21-22, 22-23)

- Fund
 - supplemental afterschool and summer learning programs
 - transportation for supplemental summer learning programs
 - overtime for technology staff, as part of the one to-one initiative
 - additional custodial positions for cleaning and sanitizing buildings
 - a custodial floater and maintenance floater (20-21-21-22, 22-23)
 - Career Pathways Facilitator (21-22, 22-23)
 - Contact tracer
 - additional days for nurses
 - an additional special education teacher at Alpha (21-22, 22-23)
 - additional days for athletic director
 - curriculum writing
 - contracted services for safe schools training

- Purchase
 - personal protective equipment/supplies to support the return of students/staff to school and in-person instruction
 - cleaning and sanitizing supplies to support the return of student/staff to school and in-person instruction
 - district network upgrade
 - iPads and laptops to support the district's one-to-one student initiative
 - teacher desktop/laptop replacements
 - upgrades to the power infrastructure for the one-to-one initiative
 - School Gate Guardian scanners
 - An air handler control system at LES
 - supplemental intervention resources to account for loss of learning time
 - a plumbing upgrade at SMES for better disinfection
 - servers and switches
 - vision spot screeners
 - a riding floor scrubber
 - a dishwasher at IVES
 - an image access scanner
 - a vinyl Printer

3. Comments

- Mrs. Schulz inquired about the status of the grant funded positions once the money run out in 2024. Mr. Miller explained that the grants will help the district build up its reserves to hopefully continue funding the positions even after the grant money is used.
- Mr. Varner said the district is aware and worried about the financial cliff that it will face once the grant money runs out. The district has tried to prepare by making new hires aware that their positions may not be permanent.

k. American Rescue Plan (ESSER III)

1. Allocation – The district received \$17,058,201 in funds.

2. Below is a list of expenditures

- Maintain
 - two elementary teaching positions (23-24)
 - a middle school reading teaching position (23-24)
 - a high school English teaching position (23-24)
 - a high school guidance counselor position (23-24)
 - an elementary special education teaching position (23-24)
 - an additional guidance counselor at EDES (23-24)
 - an English teaching position at Alpha (23-24)
 - a math teaching position at MCMS (23-24)
 - a chemistry teaching position at MCHS (23-24)
 - two MCO teachers (23-24)
 - an Alpha administrator (23-24)
 - a social studies teaching position at Alpha (23-24)
 - an English teaching position at Alpha (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
 - a math teaching position at MCJHS (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
 - a math teaching position at MCHS (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
 - a tech ed teaching position at MCHS (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
 - a tech ed teaching position at MCHS (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
 - a 4th grade teaching position at LIS (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
 - a 1st grade teaching position at LES (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
 - a 1st grade teaching position at EDES (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
 - an EL teacher (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
 - a math teacher at Alpha (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
 - a science teacher at Alpha (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
 - a science teacher at Alpha (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
 - a licensed social worker from the PCCD Grant ID 31391 (23-24)
- Fund
 - a 5th grade teaching position at LIS (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
 - an elementary technology facilitator (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
 - a 2nd Shift maintenance supervisor (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
 - an Alpha guidance secretary (23-24)
 - a Career Pathways Facilitator (23-24)
 - costs of custodial substitutes
 - a custodial floater and maintenance floater (23-24)
 - a COVID-19 coordinator (20-21, 21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
 - a part-time para at Alpha (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)

- a full-time para at LES (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- a Learning Management Software Educator at Alpha (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- a health room assistant at MCMS (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- a health room assistant at LES (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- a technology facilitator position (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- supplemental intervention resources to account for loss of learning time
- curriculum writing to account for loss of learning time
- professional development to account for loss of learning time
- supplemental afterschool and summer learning programs
- transportation for supplemental summer learning programs
- an Alpha special education teacher (23-24)

- Purchase

- Zoom licenses
- MiFi
- vision screeners
- technology upgrades
- an ESCO+ Boiler at LES
- personal protective equipment/supplies to support the return of students/staff to school and in-person instruction
- cleaning and sanitizing supplies to support the return of students/staff to school and in-person instruction

1. ESSER/American Rescue Plan, 7% Set Asides Consolidated (State was setting aside 7% of other ESSER grant funds – must now be distributed).
 1. Allocation – The district received \$1,325,805 in funds.
 2. The district must spend the funds in the following categories:
 - 30% for student social, emotional, and mental health supports
 - 10% for professional development for staff on social, emotional, and mental health supports
 - 8% for reading support and improvement
 - 1% from the American Rescue Plan will be used for summer enrichment
 - 1% from the American Rescue Plan will be set aside for afterschool programs.
 3. Comments
 - Ms. Sigler asked if the remaining 50% of funds could be used in the social, emotional, and mental health supports category to improve student equity. Mr. Miller said the district has not decided how it will spend the remaining funds yet, but he expects to submit the grant application by November.

m. Future Ready Comprehensive Planning

1. Mission
 - The mission of the Mifflin County School District is to educate each student to meet life’s challenges.
 2. Vision
 - Mr. Varner’s vision for the district is the relentless pursuit of excellence.
 3. Educational Values
 - The district expects –
 - students to be prepared to model Ready, Responsible, Respectful and Safe behaviors on a daily basis.
 - staff to increase student achievement and growth through effective differentiated instruction for all of our students.
 - the administration to work as a collaborative team that openly communicates and promotes academic excellence.
 - parents and the community to openly communicate and promote academic excellence in a safe learning environment that differentiates instruction for all students.
 4. Action Plan
 - The district’s action plan will:
 - have an emphasis on differentiation of instruction for all students (1:1 technology initiative, evidence-based resources and interventions).
 - include a 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 and morning meetings).
 - include after-school and summer school programs to support the recovery of lost instructional time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - have an emphasis on third grade reading levels.
 - include an effective evaluation of all employees to support high quality differentiated instruction for all students.
- n. Other District Programs
1. Nothing to add at this time.
- o. Agency Reports
1. Aleta Kammerer, Communities that Care
 - The Positive Vibes group has been working with the PBIS group at the high school. The group handed out, “Be Kind” keychains to students and staff at the high school today.
 - The group will be holding another tie dye shirt event on September 22 from 3:15 pm – 8:00 pm. Seven hundred t-shirts have been purchased for the event. Students will be asked to wear their shirts October 1st, as it will be tied into the theme for the evening’s football game.
 - The CTC will be holding an open house from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

on September 24 at the Career Link on September 24 to celebrate its twentieth anniversary.

- The PA youth survey will be given to 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students this year. The results will help guide the intervention efforts of the CTC.
2. Robin White, Mifflin Juniata Human Services
 - Mifflin Juniata Human Services has emergency funds available for rent and utility assistance. Families can call the office at 717-447-5121 to inquire.
 3. Shelby Liebegott, TIU
 - The Second Step program for K-5 students kicked off today. The program is now being offered at Belleville Mennonite School.
 - Project Yes, which is a program for at risk youth, currently has thirteen students enrolled. Seven additional spots are available. Eighteen students attended a summer program, as well.
 - The Life Skills program will be offered to all 7th grade students and will run for 15 weeks beginning October 4.
 - The Elect Program is for pregnant and parenting students. New flyers were created and given to the junior high and high school guidance departments, as well as to administration at Alpha. Currently five students are enrolled in the program, and three students have been referred.
 - The Strengthening Families program will be able to support ten families with students in grades 4-7. The program will run from October 12 -November 23.
 4. Nikki Knepp, Clear Concepts
 - SAP teams are just getting beginning. Mrs. Knepp expects it to be a busy year.
 5. Scott Yetter, The Lumina Center
 - A new program director, Mallory Adams, was recently hired. She is busy planning evening activities.
 6. David Boyer, Parent
 - Mr. Boyer discussed the Global Youth Initiative. During the months of April and October, leadership events will be hosted around the world with the intent to prepare our next generation of leaders. As a speaker, trainer, and coach on the John Maxwell Team, Mr. Boyer will be focusing his efforts on helping primary and secondary students learn leadership values and how to apply them in their own lives. Through the use of virtual and in-person youth exploratory DISC impact reports, interactive leadership assessments, small group workshops, and book readings, students will be given a positive environment of learning and discovery. If you are open to helping equip and empower the youth in our community to inspire change and transformation, please contact Mr. Boyer at 717-994-2917 or david.boyer@eastern.edu.

7. Rose Schulz, Parent

- Ms. Schulz is concerned about the academic performance of students. She would like to know if the district is seeing an increase or decrease in performance, as students were already behind grade level before the pandemic.
- Dr. O'Donnell said that students who consistently attended remote learning or summer learning have either stopped a slide or progressed. Though the district continues to struggle with getting families to attend the supplemental tutoring sessions, Dr. O'Donnell highlighted a success story of a kindergarten student who attended. The student initially only knew 18 sight words, but was able to learn all 45 sight words after attending the summer tutoring sessions. Dr. O'Donnell added that the focus of the next Act 80 day on October 15th will focus on data analysis. As of now, the district is seeing a 30-40% decrease in academic performance. A larger decrease also exists in EL families and those with a low SES. MCSD has large population of both.

p. Future Meeting Dates

- The Local Advisory Council will meet again on November 4, 2021, February 3, 2022, and May 5, 2022.

q. Adjournment

- Mrs. Schulz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Varner.