

# MIFFLIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

201 Eighth Street - Highland Park  
Lewistown, Pennsylvania 17044

TELEPHONE (717) 248-0148

FAX (717) 248-5345

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James A. Estep, Superintendent  
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Melinda K. Kenepp, Chief Financial Officer

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**Local Advisory Council**  
**Federal Programs - Mifflin County School District**  
**Thursday, November 5, 2020**  
**9:00 am**  
**Zoom**

**Minutes**

In Attendance: Erica Hargenrader, Aleta Kammerer, Nikki Knepp, Shelby Liebegott, Frank Miller, Rose Schulz, Mary Lou Sigler, Michelle Siruc, and Cristy Yoders.

- I. Attendance Sign-In and Welcome
  - Mr. Miller thanked everyone for attending. He hopes the group will be able to hold future meetings in a traditional format at the OIP.
  
- II. Approval of minutes from September 17, 2020
  - Mrs. Yoders made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sigler.
  
- III. Program Review
  - a. Title I - Improving Programs
    1. Title I Building Parent Engagement Policies & Compacts
      - The parent engagement coordinators and principals at each K-3 building held schoolwide meetings via Zoom. During the meetings they reviewed the schoolwide plans, compacts, and policies. Holding the meeting via Zoom was beneficial, as it allowed many new parents to participate in the meetings.
      - Title I guidelines recommend that each building has their own unique policy and compact. It is also recommended that the compacts are sent home with students.
  
    2. Equity Plan
      - Each year the district has to complete an equity plan. The plan looks at school poverty percentages, minority percentages, teacher effectiveness, and teacher experience. If a teacher has three or more years of experience, he/she is considered an experienced teacher.
      - LES has a higher level of low-income students, but the percentage was not high enough to require the district to move students or staff.

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### 3. Comparability Assurances

- The district must also complete a comparability report. The report compares the ratio of students receiving free and reduced lunch to the number of teachers assigned to the building. Numbers from last year are used for the report.

### 4. Title I Schoolwide Plans

- All of the Schoolwide Plans have all been updated. They can be found on the district's website by going to [mcsdk12.org](http://mcsdk12.org), selecting Students/Parents, clicking on Federal Programs, clicking on Schoolwide Plan, and selecting the building.

### 5. K Registration

- Unfortunately, the district is unable to set dates for Kindergarten registration at this time. More discussion needs to take place to determine if registration can occur in-person. If registration cannot occur in person, principals will need to get creative to offer virtual registration.

### 6. K Readiness Workshops

- Similar to Kindergarten registration, Cristy Yoders and principals will need to find a creative way to offer the K Readiness Workshops.
- Mrs. Yoders said she is considering sending home packets of information during K registration.
- Mr. Miller suggested turning the workshops into asynchronous lessons for parents to access at their leisure.

### 7. K Camp

- The tentative date for K Camp have been set for June 7 – 10. Mr. Miller is hopeful that the district will be able to hold K Camp in-person, but the district is unable to move forward with planning at this time.

### 8. Homelessness

- Current student numbers
  - Mrs. Siruc said 53 homeless students have been identified so far this year. The number is lower than last year, as approximately 80 students had been identified around this time last year. Mrs. Siruc believes the decrease in numbers is due, in part, to the eviction moratorium set by the state and CDC. She also believes that many of the children, who normally would have been identified, have elected to do online learning. Because they are not regularly in the

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buildings, district staff are unable to make the same amount of contact as they would have in past years.

- Monitoring Visit
  - Mrs. Siruc completed a monitoring visit via Zoom on October 22 with PDE. Mr. Miller also joined the monitoring visit.
  - The monitor was very impressed with the amount of documentation that was submitted, especially in relation to the amount of outreach Mrs. Siruc has done with community agencies to spread awareness and collect donations for students in need.
  - The monitor said all requirements had been met and made no recommendations for improvements to the program.
  
- ECYEH Conference
  - Mrs. Siruc attended the state homeless conference via Zoom on October 13-15. Copies of the handouts and videos of the sessions are available online. If anyone would like to access the information, please let Mrs. Siruc know.
  
- Homelessness Awareness Week
  - Homelessness Awareness Week is scheduled for November 16-20 this year. Mrs. Siruc collaborated with the AMCE union to hold a staff dress down day on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Staff are asked to donate \$5 if they dress down and are also encouraged to wear red.
  - Students and community members are also invited to participate by wearing red and donating non-perishable food items to the K-3 Weekend Powerpack Programs. Students and community members are also welcome to donate gift cards or make monetary donations. All monetary donations will be deposited in a fund at the central office and will be used to purchase items for students in need.
  - So far, funds have been used to purchase various clothing items, work boots for a student enrolled in an Ag class at The Academy, and pay for a flute rental for a student at the middle school.

b. Title II-Improving Teacher Quality

- Funds continue to be used to support class size reduction teachers. Non-public schools also receive an equitable share, which is used for professional development.

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- c. Title III – ESL
  - Funds continue to be used to support professional development and instructional resources for EL learners.
  
- d. Title IV
  - Funds continue to support the salaries and benefits of Nicole Frazier, one of the district's social workers, and Alexis DiDomenico, the school counselor at Strodes Mills Elementary. Funds are also used to pay for the AP test fees for low-income students and for new teachers to attend a two-day smartboard training at the beginning of the school year.
  
- e. Rural & Low
  - Rural & Low grant funds continue to support services provided by a Master's Level Therapist Behavioral Therapist through Laurel Life. Funds also support the salary and benefits of a class size reduction teacher.
  
- f. Ready to Learn (State)
  - Funds from the Ready to Learn grant continue to support the salary and benefits of full-day kindergarten teachers.
  
- g. PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency School Safety and Security Grant (State)
  - 1. Grant ID 33852 -COVID Response & Preparation
    - The following items were purchased using funds from Grant ID 33852:
      - 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.
      - 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

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2. Grant ID 31391 – Mifflin County School District Trauma Team
  - Funds from Grant ID 31391 were used to pay for the salary and benefits of a Systems Level Psychologist for the 21-22 and 22-23 school years. Unfortunately, with Dr. Hall's departure over the summer, the position has not yet been filled.
  - Funds from the grant also continue to support the salary and benefits of a Master's Level Behavioral Therapist from Laurel Life and the salary and benefits of Mrs. Kerry Harper, a Licensed Social Worker for the 21-22 and 22-23 school years.
3. Grant ID 31311 – Mifflin County SRO
  - Funds from this grant support the salary of a School Resource Officer, Eric Ettinger.
4. Grant ID 29390 – Mifflin County School District Trauma Team
  - Funds from this grant supported the salary and benefits of a Systems Level Psychologist for the 19-20 and 20-21 school years.
    - Since Dr. Hall's departure over the summer, the position remains unfilled. Mr. Miller said the district is going to see if it can change the position to a contracted service or be able to provide a stipend to one of the district's mental health team members to take on the extra responsibilities.
    - Ms. Sigler asked if the position can be filled by any licensed psychologist. Mr. Miller said he would find out.
  - Funds from the grant also supported the salary and benefits of a Master's Level Behavioral Therapist from Laurel Life and a licensed social worker for the 19-20 and 20-21 school years.
  - Funds were also used to add Officer Ettinger as a SRO for the 18-19 school year.
5. Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)
  - Funds were used to:
    - maintain two elementary teaching positions for the 20-21 and 21-22 school years.
    - maintain a middle school reading teacher position for the 20-21 and 21-22 school years.
    - maintain a high school English teacher for the 20-21 and 21-22 school years.
    - maintain a high school counselor for the 20-21 and 21-22 school years.

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- maintain an elementary Special Education teacher for the 20-21 and 21-22 school years.
- create an additional school counselor position at EDES for the 20-21 and 21-22 school years.
- create a new Alpha English teacher position for the 20-21 and 21-22 school years.
- fund supplemental afterschool and summer learning programs.
- purchase personal protective equipment and supplies to support the return of students and staff return for in-person instruction.
- purchase cleaning and sanitizing supplies to support the return of students and staff for in-person instruction.
- purchase a data analysis system for the district to analyze the impact of COVID-19 on student academic performance.
- fund the salaries and benefits of temporary technology staff to sanitize district laptops.
- fund the Mifflin County Regional Police and event staff services for a COVID-19 graduation ceremony.
- purchase software that will allow laptops to go between home and school.

## h. Continuity of Education Equity Grant

- Funds from this grant were used to purchase 35 additional laptops for distribution to ensure equitable access for learning for Students with Disabilities.
- Funds were also used to purchase ten additional laptops for distribution to ensure equitable access for learning for Students with Disabilities.

## i. Special Education COVID-19 Impact Mitigation Grant

- Teachers will receive training in various software programs and supplemental resources to support students in synchronous learning. Students with vision impairment need touchscreen computers and zoom software so that they are able to access instructional resources remotely.
- The district plans to purchase the following items in order to ensure these students have access to FAPE:
  - Six, Lenovo L15 touch screen laptops
  - One, ZoomText Magnifier/Reader
  - Fifty network licenses
  - Five, ZoomText Magnifier/Reader standalone licenses
  - One, Snap & Read 3-year license

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- Additional supplemental resources to support CCS services
  - j. Future Ready PA Index (FRPI)
    - The Future Ready PA Index portal was updated by PDE on October 16. There is new demographic information available, but there is no other new data as there were no PSSAs last year.
    - To visit the Future Ready PA Index, go to [www.mcsdk12.org](http://www.mcsdk12.org), click on Students/Parents, click on Federal Programs, click on Federal Reporting Measures.
  - k. Curriculum & Professional Development
    - One-to-One Initiative
      - Dr. O'Donnell plans to purchase enough laptops so that every student in grades 3-12 will receive one next school year. He also plans to have every teacher certified as a Google Educator.
  - l. Comprehensive Planning
    - The deadline for Phase II districts to submit their revised Comprehensive Plan has been extended to November 30, 2021.
- IV. Agency Reports
- a. Nikki Knepp, Clear Concepts
    - The Student Assistance Program is continuing to receive referrals. It has been a challenge for counselors to see students, as many have been quarantined or buildings have been closed. The program is working to set up teleservices or have students meet with counselors in the SAP office building.
    - Counselors are seeing an increase in anxiety, depression, addiction, and chaos in family systems due to the repercussions of COVID-19 closures.
  - b. Shelby Liebegott – TIU
    - The Second Step program is continuing and has recorded its lessons, so that they are available on remote Fridays.
    - Project Yes is also up and running and is beginning to receive new referrals. Curt Eversole, the program coordinator, is continuing to work one-on-one with students. He decided to discontinue the afterschool program, but is staying after school to meet with students, as needed.
  - c. Aleta Kammerer – Communities that Care
    - Communities that Care celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> year in September.
    - It is looking to revamp its logo with an updated mission statement.

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- Groups have continued to work on analyzing PAYS data. Group members will meet from 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm, via Zoom, on November 9<sup>th</sup> to further discuss the data.
  - Ms. Knepp asked if it was ok if she is late to the meeting. Ms. Kammerer said attendees are free to join and leave the Zoom, as needed.
  - Typically, members meet to discuss data on Fridays, but the November meeting was moved to Monday to allow Mrs. Pascoe and members of the Positive Vibes group to attend.
- d. Cristy Yoders, Success by 6
  - The United Way recently applied and received an EITC certification. Parents will be able to apply in January to receive subsidized child care costs.
- e. Rose Schulz – Parent
  - Mrs. Siruc asked if any attendees attended the PEAL conference on Mrs. Schulz's behalf. To Mr. Miller's knowledge, he does not believe any one has, but he will double check with Mrs. Marsh and Dr. O'Donnell.
- V. Future Meeting Dates
  - The remaining meeting dates for the 2020-2021 school year are scheduled for February 4<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup>.
    - At this time, the group plans to meet via Zoom for the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Due to conflicts with other meetings, the group decided to move the meeting start time to 10:00 am.
- VI. Adjournment
  - Ms. Sigler made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mrs. Yoders.