

MIFFLIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

201 Eighth Street - Highland Park
Lewistown, Pennsylvania 17044

TELEPHONE (717) 248-0148

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Vance S. Varner, Superintendent
Clint N. Aurand, Chief Operations Officer Steven F. DeArment, Chief Academic Officer
Melinda K. Kenepp, Chief Financial Officer

**Local Advisory Council
Federal Programs - Mifflin County School District
Thursday, September 7, 2023
11:30 am
Downtown OIP**

Minutes

- I. Attendance Sign in and Welcome
 - Erin Barlup, Justin Barlup, Vickie Briggs, Rachael Davis, Steven DeArment, Aleta Kammerer, Nikki Knepp, Shelby Liebegott, Phil Lucas, Cindi Marsh, Frank Miller, Mary Lou Sigler, Michelle Siruc, Vance Varner, Robin White, Rebecca Wills, and Scott Yetter were in attendance.

- II. Approval of Minutes from May 4, 2023
 - Phil Lucas made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mary Lou Sigler.

- III. Federal Programs Review
 - a. Title I
 1. Allocation - \$2,838,490 (Increase of \$264,698)
 - Increase of \$578,492 over past two years
 - Mr. Miller noted that the district has been able to add additional staff members and purchase additional resources with the increase in funds.

 2. Expenditures
 - Supplemental reading and math interventions for K-3 students
 - 24 reading and math intervention teachers
 - Includes one teacher for non-public schools
 - Federal Program Coordinator
 - Federal Programs Secretary and Homeless Liaison
 - Chief Academic Officer
 - Camp on the Way to Kindergarten
 - Since instituting the program, 80-90% of incoming kindergarten students have attended.
 - School-wide Positive Behavioral Support (PBIS)
 - Heggerty Phonemic Awareness
 - Flyleaf Decodable Readers
 - University of Florida Literacy Institute Phonics (UFLI)
 - All K-2 teachers are using this program. It is a program recommended by Dr. Collins, a consultant from PATTAN, who Mrs. Marsh has been working with to design a comprehensive

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system of supports.

- ESGI progress monitoring for K-2 report cards
 - Last year, Mr. DeArment met with teachers and asked for their thoughts as to whether any changes needed implemented in the district. K-2 teachers said it is difficult for parents to understand the current standards-based report card and suggested using a program called ESGI. K-2 teachers are now piloting the program.

- 3. K Camp/K Readiness Workshops
 - Camp on the Way to Kindergarten: June 19 – 22, 2023
 - Tentative dates: June 17 – 20, 2024

- 4. Title I Schoolwide Plans
 - The plans were put on the board agenda for public review and were submitted to PDE for review.

- 5. Parent Engagement
 - 1% Set aside
 - If a district receives more than \$500,000 in Title I funds, at least 1% must be set aside for parent engagement activities.
 - Board Policy #918 for ESSA compliance
 - Mr. Varner has been working to update all of the district policies. Next week, the committee will meet to review the “900” policies.
 - Recommendation/approval of 23-24 ESSA compliant district parental engagement plan
 - Mr. Miller provided a copy of the parent engagement plan at the May and asked for attendees to let him know if any changes were necessary. He did not receive any suggested revisions, so he asked for a motion to approve the plan. Ms. Wills made a motion to approve the plan, which was seconded by Mrs. Kammerer.
 - Parent Engagement Coordinators
 - Building Needs Assessment
 - Building Title I Parental Engagement Policy & Compact
 - Estimated parental engagement building allocations
 - EDES - \$5,367
 - IVES - \$7,000
 - LES - \$10,000
 - SMES - \$5,000
 - Non-Public - \$1,018

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6. Student Homelessness
 - Current Numbers
 - Mrs. Siruc noted that 125 students were identified as homeless at the close of last school year, which is the highest number identified to date.
 - Forty-eight students have been identified so far this year. She anticipates seeing increased numbers of homelessness due to inflation, increasing rent costs, and housing shortages.
 - Continuing Development of Building Level Pantries
 - Secretaries, counselors, and social workers continuing to work with Mrs. Siruc to identify students, who qualify as homeless.
 - Each building has its own pantry, which is stocked with various toiletries and supplies. Federal grant money and donated funds continue to be used to purchase additional supplies for students.
 - Ms. Davis asked if students are aware that a pantry exists in their building. Mrs. Siruc explained that this has always been a tricky situation to navigate, as staff want to ensure students are aware that help is available, while also keeping things as low-key and confidential as possible to avoid causing stigma.
7. Right to Know & Appropriate State Certifications
 - If a student is taught by a teacher, who does not have the appropriate certification, for four or more weeks, the district must notify parents.
 - Mr. Varner anticipates that MCSD will be forced to continue hiring teachers, who are not appropriately certified, for a variety of reasons. For example, State College Area School District pays an average of \$8-\$12k more than MCSD. The state pension is also not as good as it once was. For some teachers, especially those with families, the daily drive over the mountain can be daunting. Finally, there has been a decrease in the number of people going into education, as the respect for the profession has decreased.
 - On a positive note, the district only has one teaching position unfilled at this time. It is an English position at MCHS. If the district chooses to hire a person, who has a 4-year degree, but is not certified to teach, the person must take nine college credits a year to earn his/her certification.
- b. Title II-Improving Teacher Quality
 1. Allocation - \$304,742 (Decrease of \$8,850)
 2. Expenditures
 - Class Size Reduction Teachers (Primary Grades)
 - Non-public equitable share for professional development
 - Still spending 22-23 equitable share

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c. Title III

1. Allocation - \$12,127 (Decrease of \$474)
 - Allocation is based on the number of EL students.
2. Expenditures
 - Supplemental resources for EL students
 - Professional development for EL teachers
 - WIDA
 - Non-public equitable share for EL resources
 - BMS & SHS

d. Title IV

1. Allocation - \$203,111 (Increase of \$34,185)
2. Expenditures
 - Social Worker (Nicole Frazier)
 - Elementary School Counselor (Brooke Marker)
 - Smartboard training
 - Non-public equitable share
 - STEAM Professional Development Workshops

e. Rural & Low Income

1. Allocation - \$143,043
 - MCSD did not receive an allocation in 23-24 because it did not meet the 20% threshold for the census poor calculation.
2. Expenditures
 - Full time Master Level Behavioral Therapist – Christina Combs
 - Percentage of Salary/Benefits of Class Size Reduction Teacher

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 31391 – Mifflin County School District Trauma Team
 - Allocation - \$450,000
 - Balance of \$0 as of 6/30/23 quarterly report
 - Final Fiscal and Program Report submitted

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- 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
- 2. Grant ID 38351 - Act 55 of 2022 School Safety and Security
 - Overall Allocation - \$348,694
 - Balance of \$312,083 as of 6/30/23 quarterly report
 - Physical Security (\$174,347)
 - Expenditures
 - SRO at MCJHS
 - Additional hours for SRO at LIS/MCMS
 - Playground fencing at SMES
 - Behavioral Health & School Climate (\$174,347)
 - Expenditures
 - Master's Level Behavioral Therapist for 23-24 & 24-25 (Cynthia Boliek)
 - District-wide behavioral health/SAP program assessment
 - A consultant will be visiting the district to conduct staff interviews and will provide a report to show where improvements can be made. By completing the assessment, the district will become eligible for future grants.
- h. Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II)
 - 1. Allocation - \$8,433,337
 - Balance of \$0 as of 6/30/23 quarterly report
 - FER due 12/30/23
 - Already submitted and approved by federal government.
- i. American Rescue Plan (ESSER III)
 - 1. Allocation - \$17,058,201
 - Balance of \$7,040,741 as of 6/30/23 quarterly report
 - End date - September 30, 2024
 - LEA Liquidation Period – No later than December 30, 2024
 - 2. Expenditures
 - Maintain two elementary teaching positions (23-24)
 - Maintain a middle school reading teaching position (23-24)

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- 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) – No intentions to fill
- Maintain EL teaching position (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Alpha part-time para (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
 - **Eliminated in 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

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- 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 (on pause/hold)
- Supplemental intervention resources to account for loss of learning time
 - Benchmark for K-5
 - EnVision Math for 6th & 7th Grade
 - Inspire Science for K-5
 - Into Math for Grade 8
 - I-Ready for K-5
 - My Math Lab for Algebra & Trigonometry at MCHS
 - Reveal Algebra 2 for MCHS
 - TCI Social Studies for MCJHS
 - Typesy for 5th grade at IVIS & LIS
 - World History & Geography at MCHS
- Early warning system
- 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
- Purchase of personal protective equipment/supplies to support student/staff return to school and in-person instruction
- 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)

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- One additional custodian to support cleaning and sanitation of buildings to minimize the spread of infectious disease (23-24 school year)
- Three additional maintenance floaters to support building efforts to minimize the spread of infectious disease. (21-22, 22-23 and 23-24 school year)
- One additional autistic support paraprofessional at LES (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Additional autistic support paraprofessional at MCJHS (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Additional MCO teacher at LIS (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Four additional full-time elementary teacher substitutes (22-23, 23-24)
 - 1 additional full-time elementary teacher substitute, so EDES & SMES do not have to share (22-23, 23-24)
- One additional autistic support paraprofessional at LES (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- Floating HRA at IVEC
- Three additional learning support interventionists
 - Two at MCHS, One at MCJHS
- Two additional learning support paraprofessionals
 - One at MCHS, One at MCJHS
- Carpet/flooring replacement at MCMS
 - Increase to estimated cost and scope of project (\$180,000 to \$780,000)
 - Moved carpet project from ESSER II due to low inventory of vinyl tile and need to complete work prior to end of grant funding period. Gives district one more year to complete project
- Two FortiGate-601F edge devices plus a year of FortiCare Premium and FortiGuard Unified Threat Protection due to the increased demand on our internet bandwidth. This will also provide updated cyber security for our network due to the increased usage of electronic learning resources

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

1. Allocation - \$1,325,805

- Balance of \$564,400 as of 6/30/23 quarterly report
- End date - September 30, 2024
- LEA Liquidation Period – No later than December 30, 2024

2. Expenditures

- Minimum allocation for student social, emotional, mental health supports (30% or \$284,101)

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- Two additional therapeutic social workers (21-22, 22-23, 23-24)
- School Psychologist Intern
- Contracted services for psychologists

- Minimum allocation for PD for staff on mental health supports (10% or \$94,700)
 - SAP Training, PBIS, restorative practices
 - Continuation of Mental Health Coordinator position from PCCD grant for 23-24

- Minimum allocation for reading support and improvement (8% or \$75,760)
 - LETRS, 3rd Edition training
 - Unit 1 – June 27, July 2, or August 7
 - Unit 2 – June 28, July 13, or August 8
 - Unit 3 – September 22
 - Unit 4 – February 16
 - 84 teachers attended

- American Rescue Plan, 1% set-aside for summer enrichment - \$189,401
 - Summer 2022 tutoring
 - All funds expended

- American Rescue Plan, 1% set-aside for afterschool programs - \$189,401
 - 2023 Afterschool programs
 - All funds expended

- Other Learning Loss Activities
 - Each building given allocation of \$21,439 for building-specific learning loss
 - EDES – Flyleaf Decodable Readers
 - IVES – Flyleaf Decodable Readers
 - LES – Sensory Room and Library/STEM Resources
 - LIS – Flyleaf Decodable Readers and Library Books from Follett
 - SMES – Flyleaf Decodable Readers and Heggerty Phonemic Awareness
 - MCJHS – Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Math Resources and Language Live
 - MCHS – World History and Geography Modern Times 1-year text subscription

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

1. Allocation - \$72,051 (Increase of \$3,344)
 - Balance of \$10,942 as of 6/30/23 quarterly report
 - End date - September 30, 2024
 - LEA Liquidation Period – No later than December 30, 2024
2. Expenditures
 - Pantry storage units
 - Refrigerator at LES
 - Student resources (toiletries, clothing, school supplies)
 - Transportation

m. Future Ready Comprehensive Planning – Submitted for 2021 through 2024

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. Federal Reporting Measures
 - www.mcsdk12.org, Students/Parents, Federal Reporting Measures, 21-22

IV. Other District Programs

- Nothing to add at this time.

V. Agency Reports

- a. Robin White, Mifflin Juniata Human Services
 - The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) has ended. Unfortunately, Robin and her team are now seeing a lot of people struggling to pay their rent.

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Some funds are still available through other programming to assist with rent and utility costs. Housing is a huge need in the community right now.

- b. Shelby Liebegott, TIU
 - Youth programs from the TIU start next week.
- c. Rebecca Wills, The Abuse Network
 - If anyone needs services, please refer them.
- d. Aleta Kammerer, Communities that Care
 - Pawsitive Vibes will be holding their kickoff event on September 12th. Students and staff will be able to tie dye shirts. The slogan on the shirts is, “Keep your Focus”. Everyone is asked to wear their shirts on September 15th as September is suicide awareness month. Community members may join the event once school is over. The event will run until 7:00 or 7:30 p.m., or until the group runs out of shirts. Emily Eckenroth is stepping into role of advisor for Pawsitive Vibes.
 - The PA Youth Survey will be implemented this fall. Teachers will be able to give the survey online.
 - WPSU will do a live broadcast at 8:00 p.m. tonight about Mifflin County.
- e. Nikki Knepp, Clear Concepts
 - Clear Concepts provides prevention and early intervention drug and alcohol services. Most schools have started their meetings this week. Vaping and tobacco cessation groups will also be running throughout the school year.
- f. Phil Lucas, Mifflin County Emergency Services
 - The 911 center continues to be busy and is receiving an influx of calls due to glitches with technology. The 911 center receives many faux calls due to butt dialing, but it also receives calls any time someone drops their smart watch.
 - The center will be implementing live translation services through AI.
 - Implementing new programming is sometimes a struggle, as leadership has to develop new ways to provide effective training to staff.
- g. Scott Yetter, The Lumina Center
 - The center provided \$9,300 worth of power packs to LES last year. It previously provided power packs twice a month, but it can only provide power packs once per month this year. Luckily, another group was able to sponsor the other week.
 - One hundred and six kids participated in summer camps this year. The center hired Sherri Bickert to run the summer camp. She is going to stay on part-time to help with the after-school program. The center can only take 25 kids for the after-school program, but it already has 28 kids interested. The center can always use volunteers.
 - If anyone would like to receive a newsletter, please let Mr. Yetter know.

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- h. Vickie Briggs, Parent
 - Ms. Briggs is a parent of a 16-year-old, a 10-year-old, and a 2-year-old. She is working to get the old FAME building up to code and hopes to turn it into a museum.

- VI. Future Meeting Dates
 - Mr. Miller said Administration will consider moving this year's remaining meetings to the MCSD Administration Building to ensure the internet works more smoothly.
 - The remaining meeting dates are Thursday, November 2nd, Thursday, February 1st, and May 2nd at 11:30 a.m.

- VII. Adjournment
 - Mr. Varner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Briggs.