

Please click [here](#) to learn more about what is an Unspent Authorized Budget (UAB), Teacher Salary Supplement (TSS) and more. [Financial Glossary of Terms](#)

**What is the current balance in the PPEL fund that the 32k (for the intercom system) will be pulling from for the intercom system in Wyoming?**

As of February 29, 2024 these are the figures, Cash and Investment Balance \$56,664.25, Balance Sheet Balance \$702,007.98, balances change regularly.

**When will superintendent resignation be effective?**

June 30, 2024

**With the superintendent search beginning is the school board going to look into sharing again like we have in the past to save money?**

Yes, the position is posted for both full, part-time, and sharing. Superintendent Jurgensen suggests that having this position be shared or part-time makes the most sense for the district.

**You mentioned that we currently have 22 shared positions and we only can have 21 but you were hoping legislation was going to change that to 29. Does this mean we only get sharing dollars for 21 of the 22 positions?**

Yes, to date, the state only provides supplemental funding for 21 shared positions. Even if we do not receive money from the state for the 22nd shared position, there is still a financial benefit to paying only a portion of an employee's salary/benefits. If the current legislature increases the number of shared positions that receive supplemental funding, the entire state would rejoice. This item has been on the table for the last few years.

**Why does the school need 2 part time HR positions? Last night the board approved sharing an HR person with the city of Wyoming, and another person with the Monticello school district.**

Midland does not have two HR positions. There are two positions, one of the employees works for the City of Wyoming and one works for the district. These are both shared positions, and the shared dollars benefit both entities.

The agreement with Monticello CSD is for Transition Alliance Program Specialist (TAPS). TAPS is a partnership between district(s) and Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services to receive help in vocational training, independent living, and post secondary education.

**In these sharing agreements who is paying for the benefits? Is the school being reimbursed by percentages or is the school paying full benefits on all these positions?**

With any shared position, one public entity employs the individual in the shared position and holds the employment contract. The contract-holding district pays for salary and benefits. The contract-holding district then sends regular invoices to the sharing district according to the sharing agreement for salary, benefits, and mileage.

**How much is the general fund short for the fiscal year?**

**General Fund** – The fund that receives the revenues from the school finance formula. It is a governmental fund under GAAP and accounts for the revenues and expenditures for the educational program and most school district operations. All money received by a school corporation from taxes and other sources must be accounted for in the General Fund except money required by law to be accounted for in another fund. Iowa Code §298A.2. There are several sources of revenue that flow into the General Fund. The majority of those funds (80%) are paid out to teachers and paras for salaries and benefits. We are not short for the fiscal year. In saying that, the entire answer is much more complicated than that, as school funding is nothing like our personal bank accounts or businesses. I hope this helps.

**Is the old bond still being paid ahead? Is there a way to recast that bond to lower our obligations out of the general fund?**

In FY24 the debt service levy was at \$4.05, based upon what was passed back in April 2015. Much of the debt service levy was used for the Wyoming project, which was refinanced in 2021. At this time, no changes will be made due to additional costs of the refinance and long-term debt structure.

**When could we expect to have access to the district's financials for the last 3 years as requested last night?**

Any person who has requested financial records are treated as requesting copies of public records under Iowa Code Chapter 22 (Iowa's open records law) and Board Policy 901. We then work to gather the records you have requested and will prepare them for you to pick up. Consistent with the requirements of Iowa's open records law, the records will be ready in 10-20 days. If there is a fee associated with gathering the records, we will notify you and will require payment prior to releasing the records. We will contact you when we have gathered the records to outline next steps.

**When will results of the State Audit be available?**

Anderson Larkin & Co PC is the district's auditor. The [audit](#) is submitted to the Auditor of State. The statutory deadline for filing an audit is March 31st, if falling on a weekend it will be the next business day. All district audits are linked on our [District School Board Website](#). The 2023 Audit has been completed.

**Why is there not a beginning and ending monthly financial report available? (all of the boards I've served on have these available at each meeting)**

The board receives financial reports monthly. We are working to make these documents available to the public prior to each board meeting. This is part of the transparency that we are working on implementing for the community.

**Who is double checking each line item coming in and out of those accounts at least monthly? Why is that information not available at meetings or for public viewing? Is there a report that shows where the funds spent sit with what was budgeted for the year?**

Reports with this much specificity are not immediately available to the public. The District would need to review any records to confirm there is nothing confidential being disclosed. With financial records such as this, the primary thing to consider is whether any student names/information are noted on any financial records (i.e., an expense for "John Smith's gym wheelchair" from the special education fund). If there is student information, we need to redact that before producing it. If you want access to this information, you can make a records request pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 22 and Board Policy 901. Understand that it may take some time and resources for the District to review these records to ensure that no confidential information is being disclosed.

**What were the cash reserve fund yearly balances for 2019 forward to the present?**

2019 = \$0, 2020 = \$0, 2021 = \$0, 2022 = \$0 - Not allowed to levy, 2023 = \$0 - Not allowed to levy, 2024 = \$0

**What did the district receive in GEER and ESSER Funds (COVID Money)?**

GEER = \$25,600.00, ESSER I = \$89,620.00, ESSER II = \$357,220.00, and ESSER III (80% and 20% to Learning Loss) = \$802,266.00 for a total of \$1,274,706.00. This money has been accounted for and spent on a variety of needs the district had during the Covid years. Examples would include: Curriculum, Summer School Teachers, Supplies (air purifiers, extra cleaning supplies) and teachers who could provide extra support.

**What is the cash reserve levy?**

Cash reserve levy is one component of school finance, [here](#) is a visual representation of school finance prepared by Iowa School Finance Information Services, Inc (ISFIS). Generally speaking, the Cash Reserve Levy provides cash to operate the district. Each year, school districts are granted spending authority that outlines how much they can spend. The School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) cash reserve levy funds (or provides cash for) the spending authority granted by the SBRC. The SBRC reviews district cash reserve amounts annually, and the cash reserve levy is limited to no more than 20% of the school district general fund expenditures minus the unexpended ending fund balance for the prior fiscal year to base year. Iowa Code Sections 257.31 and 298.10.

**The gym roof cost \$300,000. Did the district receive any insurance funds?**

The black gym (north gym in Wyoming) roof had holes in the roof causing water damage to the roof and gym floor, 2023. Insurance claim was filed with EMC.

**Who is the district's auditor?**

Anderson Larkin & Co PC

**Where do you find school audits?**

Audit Reports can be found at the [Iowa Auditor of State website](#).

**Who establishes the budget?**

It is the responsibility of the Superintendent and Board Secretary to prepare the budget for review by the board prior to the April 30th deadline each year. The District will provide all the information necessary for the Proposed Property Tax Statement to the Department of Management (DOM) by March 15th. Reference Board Policy 703.1 - Budget Planning

**How much is the total cost of the OJ (elementary building) project?**

The total projected cost is \$9,965,737 for the elementary remodel/addition.

**Who is going to oversee the OJ project if the superintendent is leaving?**

The board has a building and grounds committee - Jeremie Ellefson and Lennie Miller, Clay Pestka, Deanna Martens, Megan Frankfurt, and superintendent.

**Who monitors the Amazon account?**

Megan Frankfurt and Lacie Potter are responsible for ordering supplies after Terese Jurgensen, in cooperation with the building principals, approves the order/request. Terese Jurgensen, has access to the account. This separation of duties is in compliance with best practices.

**What is the plan to fix the problem?**

We have been working on the budget, reducing expenditures, putting new systems in place for ordering, creating a 5 year projection with Iowa Association of School Finance, providing professional learning for all school board members during work sessions and conferences at the Iowa Association of School Boards, hiring CFO, Chris Stensland. Ms. Stensland will have a report prepared by the April 22, 2024 regular board meeting. We have also moved all financial information away from the Consent Agenda, reviewing potential website supports for all school board meetings to create further transparency. Additional board policy is being considered to prevent employee benefits provided outside of traditional contracts.

**Who found the shortage?**

As superintendent, it was my responsibility to oversee the budget of the school district. On September 15th, every school in Iowa submits information to the Iowa Department of Management. It was shortly after this date, I became aware of the shortage. As the superintendent when this shortage came to my attention, I notified the board immediately. On Monday, October 9th, I invited [Larry Siegle](#) from Iowa School Finance Information Services to review the district's budget, what needs to be done to address (increase enrollment, decrease spending) and all budgetary questions and concerns. This was an Open Board meeting. Community and teachers were invited to attend. I sent out an email to all staff encouraging attendance. This report outlined the solvency problem, but the district has a strong Spending Authority.

Definition: Spending Authority – The maximum amount authorized under the school funding formula for a school district to spend on its general fund budget for a fiscal year. It includes the sum of the combined district cost, pre-school funding, instructional support levy, educational improvement funds, miscellaneous income, modified allowable growth and prior year unspent balance. Iowa Code §257.7

If you look up at question #13, you can see that the district has not added additional tax for the Cash Reserve Levy for the past 7 years. The State recommends that schools have 5-15% solvency (cash). Last year the school board could have levied for cash because the solvency was low. They chose not to. Of the two problems that districts can come up against regarding financing education: Solvency(cash) vs Spending Authority; although neither are optimal, Spending Authority problems are much more concerning. Several years ago, elementary schools across Midland had to be shut down because of little or no Spending Authority. When this happens, School Board Review Committee (SBRC) comes in from the Iowa Department of Education and makes those decisions/cuts for the district. The district has no authority when this happens.

**Has the district looked at cuts?**

Terese Jurgensen presented cuts to the school board in February.