

Funding, Test Scores, The Wildcat Den II and Electric Buses--

The Questions and The Answers

I asked the Board of Education President, Ron Johnson for his response to some of the questions that have been popping up over the last couple of months. Ron passed those questions on to the Superintendent Barry Markwart. Below are those questions and the answers. The answers are exactly worded as provided by Superintendent Markwart, without corrections or additions. **They are shown in blue colored print.** - Victoria Shields – “75 Historian & Website Editor

1. Sports Hall of Fame – Where does the funding come from?

- a. Funded the first year to get it started. Paid for the Sports Hall Of Fame showcase food and plaques. However, the money was from the **Internal Account** which comes from leftover fundraisers money throughout the school years. This **was not** paid for from **taxpayer money**.
- b. Yearly costs are minimal and covered by donated money to the Sports Hall of Fame.
- c. All programs, food are donated and only pay for the plaques.



Editor's Note: If you have been keeping current with the MHS Alumni Association, you are aware of the program that the Mayville School sponsors each fall called the **"Sports Hall of Fame"**. The event honors MHS Alumni members from past sports teams, and players as well as coaches. There are refreshments provided prior to the program and the recipients are presented with a paper certificate to take home and wooden plaques that are hung in the school hallway outside of the Auditorium. (Shown in photo) There is no charge for the attendees, and this event is not affiliated with the Alumni Association. Photos from 2023 Sports Hall of Fame are pictured here.

2. What amount of money is budgeted for school supplies for the supply closets at each school yearly?

*We have a general teacher supply budget for the staff to cover pens, pencils, paper, paper clips, highlighters, etc. Any extra supplies besides the general lists needed, staff **must request at the end of the school year** and it is determined if we can purchase through the budget process. (Which will happen if the teachers request).*



Editor's Note: The Mayville Alumni was notified shortly after school started in August, that the Supply Closets in both school buildings were very low on needed supplies. The Alumni began a fund raiser, with donations coming in totaling \$3200. At the October 11, 2023, School Board meeting, the first order of supplies was presented by Alumni President Patti Vollweiler and Alumni Secretary/Treasurer Jill Pape.

3. How and where did the Mayville Schools spend the federal funds that were given out because of Covid, and where did the funds for the Wildcat Den II come from?

Federal Funds for Covid (ESSER I, II, III, etc).

- a. We used to offset teacher salaries, benefits in our General Fund*
- b. We added Two behavioral Interventionists for mental health, behavioral interventions and counseling.*
- c. We added another Special Education teacher because of our increased amounts of IEP student population.*

***Editor's Note:** IEP – Individualized Education Program – IEP students are those who need extra help and support in school.

- d. Wildcat Den II funds were used through our Capital Outlay improvement funds no Federal Funds used.***

****From the Advertiser July 6, 2022:**

Superintendent Markwart explained how the Wildcat Den II would be funded. *“We would not be doing this project if we did not receive ESSER funds, which are one-time grants,”* Markwart said. *“We use the grants, which need to be used by 2024, to maintain teachers’ salary, so that holds us over on the teachers’ salary for a bit and that shifts money out of the fund balance into a capital outlay fund into our budget item line.”*

If you are interested in learning more about the ESSER funds and their intended use the following website gives a brief overview and includes links to the https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OFM/Grants/Grants/ESSER_Important_Information.pdf?rev=c542290888904c56be3d7bba8d2d87b5 The easiest way to find the site is to google/search: **Michigan ESSER Important Information.**



From the November 22, 2023 edition of The Advertiser: “New batting cages have been installed inside the Wildcat Den II, shown above. The renovated building will be used by Mayville Community School students, including baseball and softball players.”

There are currently a few photos of the interior and exterior views of the Wildcat Den II on the Mayville School website: <https://www.mayvilleschools.org/Home>

Editor’s note: The Wildcat Den II is a newly built structure that replaced the original Wildcat Den, that was completely torn down.

4. How do Mayville Test scores compare to other schools in the area?

ELA	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	11th
Mayville	23.1	36.1	42.4	22	29.8	43.8	37.2

ELA – English language arts

ELA	State Avg- 42.8	State Avg- 44.2	State Avg- 43.7	State Avg- 38.6	State Avg- 40.7	State Avg- 63.6	
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MATH

Mayville	41	55.6	50	17.1	17	14.6	<10
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MATH	State Avg- 42.3	36.5	/ 29.6	State Avg- 28.6	State Avg- 32.3	State Avg- 36
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Our scores have been lower than state average in some areas, however, as you can see in several areas we are well above or close to state averages.

We have desegregated data and the following has affected our scores:

- *IEP population of students has increased dramatically over the past several years*
- *During the 21-22 school year, after the pandemic our % of students absent was 47% which has affected our day to day educational process and caused some learning GAPS.*
- *During the 22-23 school year we decreased our absent rate to 27%. Hoping this trend of decreasing continues.*

- *We have a transient student population and have students coming and going throughout the school year which hurts our data.*

5. Is more money spent on sports than is spent on education?

*Mayville schools have not been spending more money on sports vs education of students. All the sports budgets have been the same for many years in our general fund athletic budget. Any extras needed the teams run annual fundraisers to supplement any items above and beyond the athletic budget. **The Baseball and Softball complex was completely remodeled on donations from individuals, businesses and donated labor by individuals.***

Editor's Note: From the website Schooldigger.com: (one of the many websites that publish Michigan School statistics taken from the Michigan Department of Education.) Here is the breakdown of expenditures per student at Mayville Schools **for the year of 2022.**

Elementary School Expenditures per student- 264 students: \$12,005.00 per student in 2022.

From Federal Funds: \$2,123.00 - 17.7%

From State and Local Funds: \$9,882.00 - 82.3%

MS/HS School Expenditures per student- 321 students: \$11,277.00 per student in 2022.

From Federal Funds: \$2,164.00 - 19.2%

From State and Local Funds: \$9,113.00 - 80.8%

Total number of students in 2022 – 585

Total number of students in 2021– 571

Total number of students in 2020 – 426

Total number of students in 2019 – 458

***Please note that these numbers were not verified by the Mayville Community Schools but are taken from the independent website Schooldigger.com.**

6. In July of 2023, Governor Whitmer signed into law a state budget that includes funding for universal free school meals for the 2023-2024 school year (for all students) – has this program taken effect at Mayville Schools?

*We have had **free breakfast/lunch** through the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) for **over 5 years** which allows students to be **free** because of the district's*

*high percentage of low income in our area. Governor Whitmers signed law did not pertain to us since we **qualified for the CEP in 2019.***

Editor's Note: According to Schooldigger.com (one of the many websites that publish Michigan School statistics), 76.9% of Mayville Elementary School students receive discounted/free lunches and 68.5% of MS/HS students receive free lunches. **Please note that these numbers were not verified by the Mayville Community Schools but are taken from the independent website and are from the year 2022.**

- 7. In order to qualify for Electric Buses must an equal number of fuel (gas-Diesel) buses be removed from the fleet and taken completely out of service?**

*We qualified for electric bus and chargers rebates from a statewide program. We had two gas buses that qualified to be replaced by electric buses. Through the grants and rebates we will **save approximately \$45,000 a year for 5 years. The district savings of over \$200,000 for that 5 year period.** All grants and rebates covered all buses and chargers. District **only** had to pay for the electric hook up from the **pole to the chargers.** The district will keep **7 gas buses** along with the new **2 electric buses*** in its fleet. Any further decisions will be a wait and see.*

***From the November 22, 2023 Advertiser:**

The district was one of 389 across the U.S. chosen last year by the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus Program to receive funding. The district was given \$750,000 for two new electric buses and \$40,000 for charging infrastructure. Superintendent Barry Markwart told the district's board of education on Nov. 6 – almost a year after the district was given the EPA funding – that the buses haven't arrived yet from Blue Bird Corp. of Macon, Georgia. Markwart said district officials had hoped the two buses would arrive by October, but they have been told the delivery will be delayed.

[Markwart also stated] *"The buses will come with warranties to cover any big repairs", Markwart said, "and when those warranties run out the district can decide if it wants to continue to lease electric buses or go back to using diesel or gasoline-powered units."*