



# TALONTalk!

## Moving M-P forward on step at a time

More than 25 people worked together over the course of several weeks to create a plan for the district's future.



The resulting Strategic Plan will set the pace for Madison-Plains to identify the best possible ways to prepare students to be successful beyond post-secondary study and in the workforce. The teachers, parents, business leaders, and Board of Education and staff members retooled the district's mission and beliefs statements to set the course for the future. To learn more about the process see [mplsd.org/StrategicPlan](http://mplsd.org/StrategicPlan).



## Congrats to the Class of 2016

The Madison-Plains High School Class of 2016 left its mark as the 96 graduates earned a total of \$741,250 in scholarships. Valedictorian James Lawless, who plans to attend Purdue University, addressed his

classmates after performances by the Concert Band. Salutatorian Taylor Sollars delivered the Pledge of Allegiance. She plans to attend The Ohio State University. Congratulations to all!



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# Finances strong now, but FY19 cliff looms

The district's finances continue to stand on strong footing as the school and fiscal years come to a close.

Treasurer Todd Mustain recently shared information about the status of the district's General Fund with members of the Madison-Plains Advisory Council (he also delivers reports every month to the Board of Education).

The General Fund pays for daily operations, which includes salaries, wages and benefits (roughly 77 percent of the fund), routine costs (15 percent), supplies and materials (4 percent) and various financial charges (less than 4 percent).

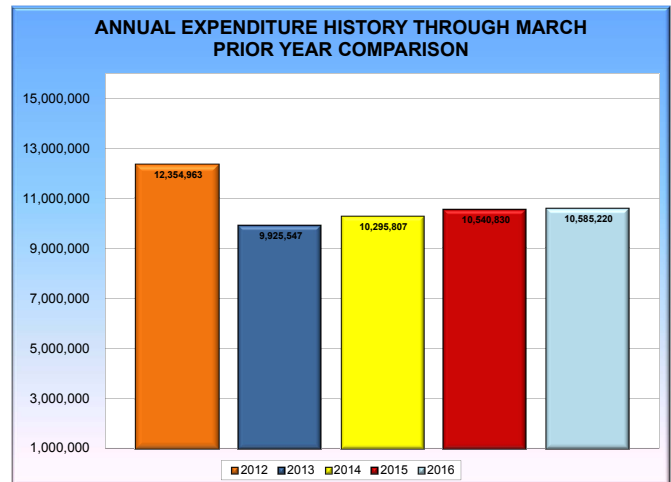
Mustain presented the 5-Year Financial Forecast to the Board in May. The forecast is a requirement for school districts so officials can identify when their system is in a deficit and needs to establish more funding. (School districts are not permitted to operate in the red under state law.)

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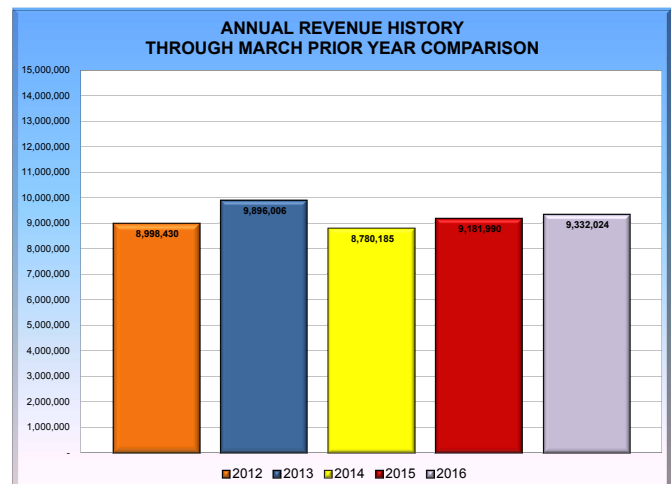
Superintendent Tim Dettwiller said the district's fiscal conservancy is worth significant praise.

Mustain said the district will end FY17 and FY18 with a positive cash balance, but projections show the balance dips below zero in September 2018.

Board members will ultimately decide when and how it will ask the community for continued financial support. No new dollars have been voted in for daily operating costs since 2005.



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## Academic strides continue to propel district ahead

Madison-Plains earned five A's this year, the most it has ever received on the State's Local Report Card. And, district officials say they see indicators of continued progress. In fact, the Junior High recently was granted a Momentum Award for its performance (see more online).

The state released the report card this spring, but the results are based on data from the 2014-15 school year. While the state is shifting its testing practices (one reason why the data is a year old), the district is continuing

to make the types of changes that brought the gains.

Curriculum Director Karen Grigsby said the district's dramatic shifts in its delivery of material to students has made a significant difference. The Madison-Plains Improvement Plan was created in 2013 and continues to be refined as it outlines specific and measurable goals for progress and is also a big part.

Madison-Plains earned A's for its overall improvement, four- and five-year graduation rates, progress

shown by students with disabilities and progress shown by students with the lowest 20 percent in achievement.

Superintendent Tim Dettwiller said the results show how the district has made changes academically and operationally.

"We have work to do, but we expect these trends to continue," Dettwiller said. "We have really focused on creating the academic foundation we needed for our students and teachers to excel. Now we will build upon it."

## M-P ELEMENTARY & INTERMEDIATE

### Reading until the cows come home

Literacy is a major focus districtwide but students at the Elementary and Intermediate buildings found themselves reading right alongside farm animals — at school. This year's theme for the annual Right to Read Week was Read Until the Cows Come Home, and a few pigs and a calf found their way to the event.

Teachers in the buildings — and at the Junior High and High School — are collaboratively working day and night to boost student achievement. Based on goals set forth in the district's Improvement Plan (MPIP), teams of teachers are implementing practices proven to impact student growth. The goal is for students to show one year of growth in reading and writing proficiency in one year's time (as measured by the state's report card).

Teachers measure achievement during the year through tests and other assessments and collect data that show particular progress. The results also demonstrate when intervention is needed or if the teacher needs to make a shift in what and how they are teaching any given topic.



## M-P HIGH SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

### Taking expertise on the road

Six staff members from Madison-Plains Junior High and High School recently presented at a statewide High Schools That Work conference at Ohio University in Athens. During the “Teachers Teaching Teachers” presentation, the MP staff addressed the ongoing need for quality professional development and discussed how schools can better utilize their in-house resources to provide training. The team has been asked to present again in the Fall at the HSTW Ohio Schools Improvement Institute Conference.

Assistant Principal Jason Weese, Instructional Coach Christina Finney and teachers Ryan Curtis, Michele Hildebrandt, Alecia McCafferty and Geoff Stokes discussed how ongoing dialogue between staff members after participating in training conducted by their colleagues aids in their development. The MP team was selected to share their knowledge for the Best Practices Showcase for Ohio central/southeastern region of High Schools That Work conference.

High Schools That Work and Making Middle Grades Work is all about raising student achievement, with research and data that prove it works. HSTW is a framework that provides direction for schools to



improve academic and career-technical instruction. Making Middle Grades Work (MMGW) is the middle grades component of the HSTW school improvement initiative.

Pictured above from left to right are: Curtis, Stokes, Finney, McCafferty and Hildebrandt.



# Start at the beginning to get to top

**Tim Dettwiller**  
Superintendent

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When I took the helm of the superintendency nearly two full years ago, we went back to the basics – in a way.

Madison-Plains is a great school district, full of wonderful students, staff and family members. The community is outstanding and supportive of our efforts.

Yet, as a district we were not showing our true potential. I was charged by the Board of Education to look closely at what we were doing – to find what worked and identify areas of improvement. We were on good foundation, but we needed to make it stronger.

Over the course of the past two years, we have made significant change and significant progress. We started with the ground up, literally. We made improvements to our facilities both inside and out. We cleaned up landscaping, changed the flow of traffic and parking patterns near the Elementary, Intermediate and Administration office, and made improvements to the stadium and grounds.

We also invested in new furniture for classrooms and discovered we needed a plan that truly identified a rotation schedule, which in turn would aid our budgeting practices but also ensure students are equipped with proper facilities in an environment that encourages learning and discovery.

The Madison-Plains Improvement Plan that we retooled proves to be a significant development in ensuring our students are making progress, and we are encouraged by indications the charge ahead continues. We are preparing to update our 10-year master facilities plan in the coming months and continue to actively work with community members in the process.

We will begin the conversation with members of the Madison-Plains Advisory Council, which meets once a month. It's the dedicated commitment such as theirs, and that of the business leaders, residents and staff, who helped develop the district's Strategic Plan that keep us moving forward.

**SAVE THE DATE**

Aug 17	Kindergarten starts
Aug 16	Board of Education
Aug 15	School Resumes (1-12)
Aug 11	Teachers Return
July 12	Board of Education
June 14	Board of Education
May 23-31	Summer Reading Program

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