

**McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**December 6, 2017**

<b>Presiding</b>	Joseph Lopretto, President
<b>Date, Time, Place</b>	Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 7:30 PM, Board Room, Administration Building, 3590 O'Neil Boulevard, McKeesport, PA 15132.
<b>Opening Exercises</b>	Mr. Lopretto called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM, followed by the Pledge to the Flag. We met in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel and potential litigation items and issues. Please be reminded to turn off all cell phones upon entering the Board Room.
<b>Present</b>	Jim Brown David Donato Thomas Filotei Ivan Hampton Mary Jane Keller Steve Kondrosky Joe Lopretto James Poston Mindy Sturgess
<b>Others Present</b>	Dr. Mark Holtzman, Superintendent Dr. Tia Wanzo, Assistant to the Superintendent David M. Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary Matthew Gergely, Assistant to the Business Manager/Grants & Outside Funding Gary Matta, Solicitor

**Board President's Remarks** – I thanked everybody twice, but again I have to bring up about the fundraiser that we had earlier this year. We were able to coat 770 kids up at Twin Rivers thanks to the fire department, thanks to the police department, thanks to our staff at Twin Rivers. They all came together, when you say groups can't work together, that's totally wrong, because that's three organizations right there that came together strong and within a month's time we raised over \$10,000. I also have to give a shout out, because we were short a few jackets, to the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire local union #1 for donating some coats to help us fulfill our needs up at the school and every kid at Twin Rivers, 770 children, are suited with new coats. I just think that is so fabulous and next year we plan on doing it again and making it bigger and better.

At this Regular Board Meeting  
December 6, 2017

time, if I can have Mr. Sweda and Ms. Lusebrink come up, and if I can have Sgt. Kondrosky and Firefighter Kovack and Capt. Gene Eskin. Recognition from the staff at Twin Rivers for helping us out with this coats for kids with a certificate inside and again like I said, without the police and fire organization, we could not have done it. This here is for the police department. This is a picture of all the volunteers that came up that day and handed out the 770 coats. We also gave the police department a certificate of recognition and I want to thank them. Also, the fire department the same thing, we have the certificate inside and the picture, but again, the fire department beat us by like \$100 in the tips. They got a flag for it. But, that flag is not going to hang on that wall next year, is it Sgt., it's going to go to the police department. So, you guys get comfortable, you're going to have the barest one on the wall next year. Thank you guys.

**Superintendent's Report** – Good evening. I would like to welcome everyone as well. I have to say that unless you were there while those 700 almost 800 children came in to be fitted for coats and people scrambling to pick up those little gel packs that were in their pockets to make sure nobody gets theme. It really was an amazing effort and just to see some of the adults and some of the gentlemen in the back of the room that were just here that are lifelong friends of mine, interacting with the children, I didn't really know they had it in them. It was awesome just to see them get down on one knee and work with the kids, so it was really meaningful experience. Just a few things I would like to share. I would like to start by stating that like always I have these great opportunities to interact with our children, watch them learn, watch them in their element in the classrooms and I value that more than anything day after day, week after week. But the first thing I am going to start with, we have a holiday card contest every year that basically what we do is we select a winner of a Christmas holiday card concept that is actually sent out to all the local school districts that are part of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit which is the AIU, so all the school districts in Allegheny County as well as a card that is sent to the AIU as part of a bigger contest, so our student is here and I am going to embarrass this young lady, she's an eighth grader that is in Mrs. Bergman's class and Rasona Webb is the winner and I'm going to have her come up here and get a copy of her card and I'm going to pull it out of here and show everybody what it looks like. Congratulations! I want to share a few things with you that I had the fortune of experiencing a few things that have come up. Recently I had the opportunity to visit Twin Rivers, particularly Mr. Camic's room where they were pulling crabs that he ordered, live crabs out of a bag for science class that kids were trying to sneak and look into the door on his plan period because these crabs are so important to the culture of the school as well as the frogs that swim around. So I had a chance to go into the classroom and learn a little bit about why the male crab has a longer claw that distinguishes the males from the females and I had a chance to interact with the students and that was amazing. Today I had a pretty cool experience, I was at Francis McClure and I just interrupt classes, and I typically do, and do my best to not interrupt too much and they were working on some kind of ELA English language and I said to the class, to a young man in the back, what are you working on, he said cinnamons, I said

cinnamons, well Regular Board Meeting  
December 6, 2017

synonyms. I didn't make it too obvious that he was dead set that he was working on cinnamons. Maybe it was a little bit projected Christmas cookies, baking or something. It's a neat experience, I get called the super Nintendo at some of the elementary schools, so they get mixed up, they don't know what my role is. Am I a president, am I a mayor, am I whatever, so it's a lot of fun and I really enjoy those. A few upcoming activities. We've had a lot of activities that we have done, like the coats for kids activity. We had a pool party, Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup> grade have a splash which was interesting for winter time at the pool at the high school, I happened to attend that as well. We've had the children's play. We've had many things around the Thanksgiving holiday that we did, feasts and things. But, things that are coming up are our holiday concerts that are done by our music department that are outstanding. They are done in each of the buildings and they begin here in the second week of December. We also, one of the things I want to point out, because it is really an important thing, is actually a group of gentlemen in the community, that actually Mr. Donato happens to be a part of, the ROMEO Club sponsors scholarships for our students and they are hosting the Glenn Miller Orchestra on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. It's on the marquee outside. It's something that is strictly a fundraising kind of concept for our scholarship, so I want to plug that because it's a win win situation for our students as well as the organization. Outside of that, I will continue to interact with the elementary schools because I really enjoy those and I spend a lot of time with our secondary students and that's what I think is the most valuable and meaningful work that I do on a daily basis. (Discussion followed.)

**Treasurer's Report** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report for the month of October 2017. Seconded by Mrs. Keller.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

Abstain. Mr. Donato

**Hearing of Citizens** – None

**Minutes** – Mr. Hampton moved to approve the minutes of the Open Agenda Meeting of October 18, 2017 and Regular Meeting of October 25, 2017. Seconded by Mr. Poston.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

Abstain. Mr. Donato

**Bills** – Mrs. Kondrosky moved to approve the list of bills. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

Regular Board Meeting  
December 6, 2017

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

Abstain. Mr. Donato

**Refunds** – Mrs. Keller moved to approve property tax refunds. Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

Abstain. Mr. Donato

**Resolution** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve Resolution #1176 authorizing continued membership in the AIU Joint purchasing program. Seconded by Mrs. Sturgess.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Transfer** – Mr. Hampton moved to authorize the Business Manager to transfer \$475,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve account. Seconded by Mr. Poston.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Transfers** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve year-end budgetary transfers for the 2016/2017 fiscal year as per the auditor's recommendation. Seconded by Mr. Hampton.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Insurance** – Mrs. Keller moved to accept the proposal from Sun Life Financial for the District's life insurance coverage effective January 1, 2018. The rates are guaranteed for three (3) years. Seconded by Mr. Poston.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**CTC** – Mrs. Keller moved to approve the CTC book list. Seconded by Mr. Poston.

Regular Board Meeting  
December 6, 2017

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Policy** – First reading of the following Board policy:  
008 – Local Board Procedures – Organizational Chart

**Proposal** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the proposal from Ideal Integrations to upgrade wireless infrastructure to South Hall and Founders Hall. This project utilizes ERate Category 2 funding with an 85 percent of funding provided by USAC. The District is only responsible for 15 percent, with a total dollar amount of \$11,933.25. Seconded by Mrs. Keller.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Resolutions** – Mr. Hampton moved to approve Resolutions #1177, #1178 and #1179 – student discipline. Seconded by Mr. Poston.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Plan** – Mrs. Keller moved to approve the Superintendent's five-year plan as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Sturgess.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Green Sheets** – Mrs. Keller moved to approve the personnel recommendations (green sheets). Seconded by Mr. Poston.

**PROFESSIONAL:**  
RESIGNATIONS:

- |    |                  |   |
|----|------------------|---|
| 1. | Cory Kunicky     | Elementary Guidance Counselor, Twin Rivers Elementary School, effective 12/12/17. |
| 2. | Heather Obringer | Special Education Teacher, Twin Rivers Elementary School, effective 12/04/17.     |

TO BE HIRED: Long Term Substitute: Rate of pay will be \$125.00/day + benefits:

- |    |             |  |
|----|-------------|--|
| 1. | Marie Hayes | Elementary Teacher, Twin Rivers Elementary School, |
|----|-------------|--|

Regular Board Meeting  
December 6, 2017

- |    |               |  |
|----|---------------|--|
|    | (K. Welsh)    | effective 12/18/17.  |
| 2. | Erica Koelsch | Pre-K Teacher, Founder's Hall Elementary School, effective |
|    | (K. Cook)     | 01/02/18.  |

TO BE HIRED: Long Term Substitute: Rate of pay will be \$100.00/day + benefits and increase to \$125.00 on the 61<sup>st</sup> day:

- |    |                                    |  |
|----|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Emily Hardy<br>(A. Grata)          | Special Education Teacher, McClure Elementary School,<br>effective approximately 01/16/18. |
| 2. | Jamie Tatersall<br>(S. Fedorovich) | Elementary Teacher, McClure Elementary School, effective<br>11/15/17.                      |
| 3. | Nicole Schier<br>(New Position)    | Elementary Teacher, McClure Elementary School, effective<br>12/05/17.                      |

TO BE HIRED: Permanent Day-to-Day effective 11/08/17. Rate of pay will be \$100.00/day + individual benefits and increase to \$125.00 on the 61<sup>st</sup> day:

- |     |                              |   |
|-----|------------------------------|---|
| 1.* | Crystal Ross<br>(E. Koelsch) | McClure Elementary School, effective approximately<br>12/16/17. |
|-----|------------------------------|---|

BOARD ACTION TO CREATE THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL POSITION EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

- (1) Grade 5 at Francis McClure Elementary School

TO BE HIRED: Title I Facilitator: Rate of pay will be either \$100/day + individual benefits or \$110.00/day without benefits:

- |    |                                |   |
|----|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Trisha Pistella<br>(N. Schier) | Twin Rivers Elementary School, effective 12/07/17 |
|----|--------------------------------|---|

TO BE HIRED: EXTRA CURRICULAR ATHLETICS FOR THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR:

- |     |               |   |            |
|-----|---------------|---|------------|
| 1.  | Ron Kalup     | Assistant Wrestling Coach                   | \$4,229.27 |
| 2.* | Cameron Zuber | 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Wrestling Coach       | \$2,527.83 |
| 3.* | Chip Olinsky  | 7/8 Grade Wrestling Coach (shared)          | \$1,263.92 |
| 4.  | Zac Argyle    | 7/8 Grade Wrestling Coach (shared)          | \$1,263.92 |
| 5.  | John Harper   | 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Coach | \$2,446.29 |

CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST

ADDITIONS:

- |     |             |                   |
|-----|-------------|-------------------|
| 1.* | Amber Oakes | Special Education |
|-----|-------------|-------------------|

**SUPPORT STAFF:**

Regular Board Meeting  
December 6, 2017

**RETIREMENT:**

1. Dassie Macklin Security Guard, Twin Rivers Elementary School, effective 11/07/17.

**CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE LISTS:**

**ADDITIONS:**

- 1.\* Christopher Noll Custodian
- 2.\* Cheryl Claggett Food Service
- 3.\* Mary Swink Food Service
- 4.\* Kathy Taylor Food Service
- 5\* Angelique Fowler Food Service

**DELETIONS:**

1. Melia DiPasquale Food Service
2. JoAnn Sipkovich Food Service

**BOARD ACTION TO ELIMINATE THE FOLLOWING POSITION EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:**

- (1) District Security Guard

\* Pending receipt of Act 24, 34, 114 and 151 clearances, Act 168 Disclosure Release, T.B. Time and Drug Test results

**ADDENDUM**

**PROFESSIONAL:**

TO BE HIRED: Permanent Day-to-Day Substitute. Rate of pay will \$100.00/day + individual benefits and increase to \$125.00 on the 61<sup>st</sup> day:

1. Teresa Kulasa Twin Rivers Elementary School, effective immediately.  
(R. Johnson)

TO BE HIRED: Title I Facilitator: Rate of pay will be either \$100/day + individual benefits or \$110.00/day without benefits:

1. Maria Pamabaca Twin Rivers Elementary School, effective 01/18/18  
(E. Hardy)

**SUPPORT STAFF:**

RESIGNATION: Effective Immediately:

1. Teresa Kulasa Special Education Assistant, Twin Rivers Elementary School.

Regular Board Meeting  
December 6, 2017

TO BE HIRED: Effective immediately:

- |    |                                 |   |   |
|----|---------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. | Christina Strong<br>(T. Kulasa) | Instructional Assistant, Twin Rivers Elementary School.<br>Step 1 | Yearly salary will be \$15,657.00 (pro-rated) |
|----|---------------------------------|---|---|

\* Pending receipt of Act 24, 34, 114 and 151 clearances, Act 168 Disclosure Release, T.B. Tine and Drug Test results

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**ERI** – Mrs. Keller moved to adopt an Early Retirement Incentive (ERI) for MAEA Professional Staff. Seconded by Mr. Poston.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Committee Reports -**

**Athletic** –Mary Jane Keller/Jim Brown/Ivan Hampton – Mr. Hampton reported. We had no Athletic Committee meeting last month. Dr. Holtzman reported. I will say though that I did share with the Board maybe some of you are aware that the classifications were redrawn based on the numbers of students in our high school grade 9-11 which re-categorizes the athletic teams and where they compete and it is our discretion moving forward that we will continue to compete as a football program in the 5A category even though the media and the newspaper says we are 4A as well. Some of the other categories that have been changed I think we are going to continue to compete in those categories in which we qualify where nothing changes in any other sports. There are some changes, but they are not changes for us to decide to play up versus the category we fit in based on the enrollment.

**Buildings & Grounds** – Steve Kondrosky – Yes, Mr. President, thank you very much. We did have a meeting this morning, Ed Fagan and myself. There is a short list here of things he completed. First of all, he recognized that he had to make a one call for the demolition of GW school project. He serviced the compressors for the heat pumps at Twin Rivers. They are up and running ready to go for the winter season. He finally put the third light post at Founders Hall driveway. Winterized the stadium, changed the filters in the rooftop units at Twin Rivers also. Got all of the snow equipment ready for use, bulk salt and bags of calcium chloride are ordered and ready to go. The second phase of in-house project at Alt Ed program has been completed at substantial savings doing all of the work in-house. They removed all of the outdoor gas and electrical power sources at GW for the demolition. That concludes my report.



Regular Board Meeting  
December 6, 2017

Career & Technology – Nothing.

Community Relations/Cultural Diversity – Jim Brown/Ivan Hampton – Mr. Brown reported. We did not meet this month.

Education/Legislation/Policy – Mary Jane Keller/Mindy Sturgess – Mrs. Sturgess reported. The Education Committee met on 11/29/17. There were four items on our agenda. The first that we discussed was looking at our K-12 life skills curriculum and our multiple disability support curriculum. Those are typically low incident disabilities and supported in more of a self-contained supplemental classroom and we are really looking at strengthening our programming and looking at aligning the curriculum K-12. We are doing some work, looking at adopting some new programs and making sure that from grade level to grade level that they are having access to continual program throughout. The second item on our agenda was the adoption of the engineering booklets that Dr. Holtzman spoke to earlier and that was approved this evening to make sure that our students have the materials that they need for the upcoming school year. The third item that we discussed was something that Dr. Holtzman brought back as an idea for our incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders which would be credentials for graduation incentive. It would be at no cost to the district, but it would be a way to provide additional stamp or seal on the students' diplomas that would allow them to specialize in a craft. For example, one of the areas we discussed was an arts and humanity either academy or some kind of academic theme where they would be able to take a certain elective that would allow them to fulfill those requirements to have some kind of seal or something on their diploma that would indicate that they have met those requirements. Other things would be business and finance, human services. Those are some of the ideas that we discussed that the Board will be looking into further. The fourth item that was on our agenda was looking at access to our regular ed teachers for IEP writer. IEP writer is the data management system that the district uses to house our IEPs and in doing so we'll be able to provide our regular ed teachers with either access to the student's IEP for compliance and to cut down on the paper/pencils to defer costs in terms of copying and also help with our security and keeping things secure and confidential for our students. That concludes my report for today. We did not have a Legislation/Policy committee meeting this month.

Finance/Grants/Outside Funding – No report.

Personnel – Mindy Sturgess/Steve Kondrosky – Mrs. Sturgess reported. The Personnel Committee met on 11/23 this month to discuss the personnel items that you see on this evening's green sheets. That concludes my personnel report.

Safe Schools – No report.

Regular Board Meeting  
December 6, 2017

**Solicitor's Report** – No report.

**Correspondence** – None.

**Adjournment** – 8:15PM – Mr. Kondrosky moved for adjournment.

Voting aye. All Members present.

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
David M. Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary