

**McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**May 24, 2017**

**Presiding** Joe Lopretto, President

**Date, Time, Place** Wednesday, May 24, 2017, 7:30 PM, Board Room,  
Administration Building, 3590 O'Neil Boulevard,  
McKeesport, PA 15132.

**Opening Exercises** Mr. Lopretto called the meeting to order at 7:30 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.

**Present** Jim Brown  
Chris Halaszynski  
Ivan Hampton  
Mary Jane Keller  
Steve Kondrosky  
Joe Lopretto  
Patricia Maksin  
Scott Smith  
Mindy Sturgess

**Others Present** Dr. Rula S. Skezas, Superintendent  
Dr. Harry A. Bauman, Assistant Superintendent  
David M. Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary  
Steven Tropani, Solicitor

**Board President's Remarks** – I do have a few things to talk about this month. First one being the McKeesport 23, I'm just going to touch on it because I know Dr. Skezas is going to read more into it. That was something that if you weren't there, you missed something great. Chief Hoffman, I give him all the credit in the world for spearheading this and I'm not a real emotional person, but when I sat there and listened to some of the family members thinking about their family going over and most of these McKeesport 23 under the age of 19 got killed, it brought tears to my eyes and a good friend of mine that was sitting next to me in uniform when I said that to him outside, he said that's good because I was crying. Then to see the unveiling of it was phenomenal. We had a nice crowd there and again I would just like to say thank you chief. Another thing we had going on was up at Twin Rivers we had a special guest come up there and Dr. Skezas will speak of that too. I just asked everybody in the back room if they

knew what coding is. Does anybody out here know what coding is besides the teachers, because I had no clue until I went up there. That is something extra special that our kids are getting and they can come home and probably teach all the parents. Ms. Huwalt had done a heck of a job and I believe the AIU is the one that actually mentioned us for the special guest to come up there so then again, Dr. Skezas will touch on that. Here is the thing that I would like to bring up. I would like to bring all our fireman that are sitting and standing to come up here. We had Mr. Patterson, one of our firemen in the City of McKeesport, which we have a fabulous fire department, a cut above the rest, and a few years back they did a program called coats for kids and they raised a little bit of money got coats for kids and when Mr. Patterson approached me and asked me if I would be interested, by all means yes, anything for kids. They got the teachers involved and with everything that went on and this was put together within a 30-day period maybe even less and Mr. Patterson, I am proud to say and he told me the amount, we raised over \$10,000 for Coats for Kids. I asked them all to come here tonight because I wanted to recognize them because I think they do a fabulous job, it's not a job I would want to do. The McKeesport Area School District awards the certificate of recognition to the McKeesport Fire Department for their dedication to our students by raising funds for the Coats for Kids program. It is an honor to me to hand Mr. Patterson this certificate. I was glad that he involved me and I can't wait until next year. Thanks to these guys, a lot of kids are going to have warm coats this year. Thank you again. That's it for me.

**Superintendent's Report** – Good evening. Again, I want to say thank you so very much for our fire department. We are very fortunate because I know other communities do not have that kind of partnership and collaboration with their fire department or with their police department that we do, so I thank you very much. A couple of things that I just want to mention that have occurred throughout the last month since my last report. We, Dr. Bauman, Dr. Holtzman and myself were invited and visited Penn State Greater Allegheny for a student government day. Senator Brewster and many of the other politicians throughout the area were there. It was a wonderful experience for not just our children, but for children from other school districts to come and hear what goes on in government, whether it's state or local and I just want to give a shout out to say thank you so much and for continuing to do that and for involving our McKeesport Area High School. We had a magnificent Senior Project day on May 5<sup>th</sup> and I see some people that were actually there in the audience and some of us around the table as well were there. It's always an emotional day, especially for the elementary people to see our children presenting their senior project. It's almost like an exit ticket and without pointing somebody out, but I went into a classroom and was going to stay there for a minute. I went and saw some Allied Health students and saw some others. I went into a Life Skills classroom, Ms. Traeger, and the student said don't leave Dr. Skezas, you have to wait for mine. Therefore, the rest of the morning that's where I spent and it was wonderful to see those students and they were so proud and I am happy to see that and I know that those of us

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that were there can say the same. We had our kindergarten fun event. We had about 70 students participate in that. Those are our upcoming kindergarteners. They are going to be coming to our school district. There was a lottery and one person received an Ipad. We did have a special guest, President Lopretto, and that was Antonio Brown, and he visited Twin Rivers on May 17th. It was an awesome event and we were all, I think, educated on coding. Julianne Huwalt was the teacher there that was instrumental and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit was the entity that selected McKeesport Area School District and brought Antonio Brown to that school. I think, Mrs. Sturgess, you were there, the kids received hats. It was really a great event. It was a lot of positive publicity for our students in that intermediate school. We participated in Remake Learning day with robotics over here and they did some coding, 3-D printers, excellent with that. Our Tiger Tots graduation was yesterday and they were adorable. They had their little caps and gowns on and some of them are going to be coming to our kindergarten and some of them are going to go to second year of pre-school, but they all were able to participate yesterday. We also had and I spoke at the McKeesport Area Technology Center National Technical Honor Society and it was held at the Tiger Inn and thank goodness that Mr. Mike Locke and the building construction students are putting that deck or the porch or whatever you'd like to call it, because they ran out of room. There were over 70 students there with families and we definitely needed the outside space. It was really nice to be able to present those awards and of course, some of those kids I've known since they were ten-year old. Today we had an honors and awards assembly. It was great. We have our DARE graduation and I hope Mr. Lopretto that you can be there, it is on Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Pre-K graduation coming up, 8<sup>th</sup> grade recognition and tomorrow we have the prom so let's keep our fingers crossed that we do not have rain so that we can have our promenade tomorrow as planned at 5:30 PM at our high school. Of course, we have our commencement on Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at our high school stadium and that is weather permitting as well because if not, it will be held indoors. Two more special people that I want to recognize tonight, and that is Ms. Sara Traeger and I am not going to reiterate everything about the award that you did receive, so I would like you to come up and I think you have a couple of your students here and this happened two months ago. (Ms. Sara Traeger – first to receive an award for Cultural Diversity for the No One Is Alone club.) Also this evening and President Lopretto mentioned this, a special individual that is in the audience that I would like to recognize, Mr. Joe Hoffman and I know you have some things you would like to share with us and we just want to say that on behalf of the McKeesport Area School District your dedication to the McKeesport 23 monument/memorial held on May 13<sup>th</sup> was probably one of the most emotional days that we had in that auditorium in a long time. It was packed with people, we were very blessed, it was a beautiful day that we were able to go out to the courtyard and we just thank you for your dedication and getting that monument together. I know there were lots of text messages and phone calls and emails and meetings, but it was very worthwhile, so I thank you so much Joe.

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Joe Hoffman – I would really like to thank Dr. Skezas, the Board. I made a presentation to you in the fall, it was a very modest presentation about a plaque. As soon as that occurred, there is a group of men in the McKeesport area called McKeesport Romeo's and it's a group of guys in their 60's and 70's who all graduated from McKeesport, many veterans, we talked about it and it evolved into the monument. We raised \$6,400 in three weeks. That particular group provided one-third of the money. Thank Mr. Locke and Kristen James too for all the hard work they did. Just briefly I would like to say, your Junior ROTC, that group of students was very impressive and after seeing them in action, I was approached by several veterans who would like to propose the McKeesport 23 scholarship that we could fund. Whatever the procedures would be to do that we would like to approach the Board at any time. We would be able to fund it, as I have commitments already. So we would be able to fund it for the next school year and the recipient would be determined by whoever you determine.

Dr. Skezas – I guess I can make that announcement now that our Foundation, we have to have a Board, I know Joe, I don't think it was a weak moment, but you did say that you would be on the Board, correct, so the Board will be a part of using some of the monies and whatever direction you would like to do it and although I am not going to be here after June 30<sup>th</sup>, I volunteered to be on the Foundation board as well so we can work together with Mr. Kiss and Kristen and I think Mr. Humanic has decided to volunteer to be on the Board as well. We will be very excited to accept something like that and I know Dr. Bauman was instrumental in getting the pieces of the puzzle for the ROTC program to get off the ground this year because there were lots of phone calls, there were lots of meetings. We didn't know if we were going to get instructors. We have been very fortunate that that program, we wanted 40 students and started out with 75. That goes without saying that our children are relishing in being a part of this program and they want to grow and grow, because there are not that many seniors this year so obviously it is going to develop into quite a program and to see them at these events is just awesome and I know they are going to be at the White Oak parade and a McKeesport event this weekend. I just think we're very fortunate and I thank you for thinking of us.

Joe Hoffman – Lastly, there has been a lot of interest from people who were not able to see the monument. They would like to be able to see it, the general public. Just an idea of maybe sometime around Memorial Day and Veteran's Day if you have a brief time, like an hour or so, I know one difficulty is now getting the word out since we don't have a newspaper which was a lot easier when we had a Daily News, but I know there is a very large interest in seeing the monument and if that can be worked out and I could be of assistance in any way.

Dr. Skezas – You mentioned homecoming would be one way that people could see at the homecoming event which is at the end of September. We also have a wonderful event every

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year that our music department puts together for Veteran's Day so perhaps we can open up the courtyard on that very day and have people go to the courtyard and maybe have refreshments out there if the weather permits as opposed to having and that would be Dr. Wanzo and Dr. Holtzman take note that will be next November.

Mr. Hoffman – If there is anything that can be done before the end of the school year, like around Memorial Day if that's possible. Thank you.

Dr. Skezas - That concludes my report.

**Treasurer's Report** – Mr. Smith moved to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report for the month of April 2017. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Sturgess

**Hearing of Citizens –**

Walt Yager, 1919 Diane Merle Drive, N. Huntingdon, PA 15642.

Mr. Yager addressed the Board on the issue of reclaim McKeesport community service and commending Joe Hoffman for the monument for the McKeesport 23. Would like to set a committee to work with the JROTC at the Heritage Center.

**Minutes** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the minutes of the Open Agenda Meeting of April 19, 2017 and Regular Meeting of April 26, 2017. Seconded by Mrs. Keller.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Sturgess

**Bills** – Mr. Hampton moved to approve the list of bills. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Sturgess

**Refunds** – Mr. Smith moved to approve property tax refunds. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Sturgess

**Depositories** – Mr. Smith moved to designate the District's financial depositories for the

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2017/2018 fiscal year as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Maksin.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Sturgess

**Budget** – Mrs. Maksin moved to adopt the 2017/2018 Preliminary Budget in the amount of \$65,716,618 with a millage rate of 17.37 mills as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Keller. Mr. Seropian explained.

Voting aye. Mrs. Maksin

Voting no. Mr. Brown, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Sturgess

MOTION FAILED.

**Program** – Mr. Brown moved to approve the Student Assistance Program with Mon-Yough Community Services. Seconded by Mrs. Sturgess.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Sturgess

**Field Trip** – Mr. Smith moved to approve the following field trip:

- A. Mon River Fleet Leos, Future Nurses' Club and MATC/UPMC Healthcare Awareness Youth Apprenticeship Program (Allied Health Technology) to Shriners Hospitals for Children – Philadelphia on October 9-10, 2017.

Seconded by Mrs. Sturgess. Dr. Skezas explained.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Sturgess

**Insurance** – Mr. Brown moved to approve the proposal from American Management Advisors for student athletic insurance for the 2017/2018 school term in the amount of \$11,000. Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Sturgess

**Bid** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the Allegheny Intermediate Unit paper bid. Seconded

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by Mr. Hampton.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Sturgess

**Program** – Mr. Smith moved to approve the ELECT Teen Parenting Summer Program 2017. Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky. Dr. Skezas explained.

Voting aye. Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Sturgess

Abstaining. Mr. Brown

**Resolution** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve Resolution #1162 – Department of Education E-Signatures. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Dr. Skezas explained.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Sturgess

**Resolutions** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve Resolutions #1165 and #1166 – student discipline. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Sturgess

**Trustee** – Mr. Smith moved to support the nomination of Joshua J. Miller to serve as School Board Trustee for a period effective May 29, 2017 through March 2018 for the Eastern Region of the Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium. Seconded by Mrs. Sturgess.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Sturgess

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

Appointment: Effective 6/1/17:

Mark P. Holtzman, Ed.D.

Director of McKeesport Area Technology Center

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Act 93

Leave of Absence: Effective 7/1/17:

David Listorti Assistant High School Principal, sabbatical leave of  
Absence for the 17/18 school year.

Professional:

To Be Hired: Extra Curricular Athletics for the 2017/2018 school year:

Matt Miller	Football Coach	\$7,988.63
*Jamie Eckels	Assistant Football Coach	\$3,383.42
*Dennis Robinson	Assistant Football Coach	\$3,383.42
*Tom Smith	Assistant Football Coach	\$3,383.42
*Jared Miller	Assistant Football Coach	\$3,383.42
*Tim Mader	Assistant Football Coach	\$3,383.42
John Harper	Assistant Football Coach	\$3,383.42
*Dana Brown, Sr.	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Football Coach	\$2,609.38
Derek Pavlovic	7/8 Grade Football Coach	\$2,609.38
Steve Pambacas	Boys Soccer Coach	\$3,571.38
*Corey Winters	Assistant Boys Soccer Coach	\$1,879.67
*Haley Ekaitis	Volleyball Coach	\$2,819.52
*Joe Bower	Golf Coach	\$2,443.58
Vladimir Kovalchuk	Girls Tennis Coach	\$2,631.55
Mark Bacco	Cross Country Coach	\$2,067.64
Milan Kiska	Swimming Coach	\$5,169.11
Milan Kiska	7/8 Grade Swimming Coach	\$1,793.94
*Tiffinique Alston	Dance Coach	\$1,691.71
*Adam Alfer	Wrestling Coach	\$6,484.89
*Josh Klimko	7/8 Grade Wrestling Coach	\$2,527.83
*Gerald Grayson	Boys Basketball Coach	\$6,860.82
*Jamie Grayson	Assistant Boys Basketball Coach	\$4,323.26
Jared Thompson	JV Boys Basketball Coach	\$2,819.52
Eric Smith	Girls Basketball Coach	\$6,860.82
Troy Blackwell	Assistant Girls Basketball Coach	\$4,323.26
*Amy Gumbert	JV Girls Basketball Coach	\$2,819.52
*Jon Balogh	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Coach	\$2,446.29
*Amy Gumbert	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Coach	\$1,957.03
*Dana Gumbert	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Coach	\$1,957.03
*Jason Pavlecic	Weight Lifting Coach (shared)	\$1,440.73
*Garey Christian	Weight Lifting Coach (shared)	\$1,550.73



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Volunteers: Extra-Curricular Athletics for the 2017/2018 school year:

Troy Blackwell	Assistant Football Coach
*Ed Mantich	Assistant Football Coach
Habeeb Abdul Raab	Assistant Football Coach
*Ron Kalup	Assistant Football Coach
*Dale McCall, Sr.	Assistant Football Coach
Ivan Hampton	Assistant Football Coach
*Jason Pavlecic	Assistant Football Coach
*Jared Panek	Assistant Football Coach
*John Pry	Assistant Football Coach
*Scott Bishop	Assistant Football Coach
*Garey Christian	Assistant Football Coach
*Derek Benedict	Assistant Soccer Coach
*Richard Markovitz	Assistant Soccer Coach

Changes to the substitute teacher list:

Additions:

Jane McDermitt	School Nurse, Elementary
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Summer Testing Services: (Special Education Department) for the completion of psychological evaluations for referred students not to exceed 200 hours. Hourly rate of pay will be \$24.97.

Melissa Phelps

Dean Holtzman

Support Staff:

Retirement: Effective 6/30/17: Retirement is requested under the Retirement Incentive for Support Employees adopted 2/22/17:

Valerie Himich	Custodian at Twin Rivers Elementary School
Florence Moffett	Secretary, Category 6 Maintenance Department
Richard Navaroli	Maintenance, AV Technician/Locksmith
Diane Kolesar	Secretary, Category 3 – ½ High School and ½ Guidance
Julia Sawders	Secretary, Category 3 Food Service

Retirement: Effective 6/12/17:

Barbara Miller	Special Education Assistant
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Retirement: Effective 8/31/17:

Josh Campbell	Custodian at the High School
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Resignation: Effective 5/1/17:

Tammy Filotei                      General Worker, Food Service Department  
   McClure Elementary School

Changes to the substitute lists:

Additions:

\*Nancy Peebly                      Secretary, Custodian

Deletions:

Jacquelyn Ruffin	Instructional Assistant, Secretary, Food Service
Rick Bayer	Custodian
Melissa Creighton	Custodian
Timothy Elkins	Custodian
Gerard Grace	Custodian
Richard Martino	Custodian
Joseph Montedoro	Custodian
Lisa Mort	Custodian
Mark Pratt	Custodian
Janice Bishop	Secretary
Ashley Kitta	Secretary
Samantha McKnight	Secretary
Sondra Weakland	Secretary
Connie Gnehm	Secretary
Bernadine Campbell	Secretary
Susan Minnich	Secretary
Season Williams	Secretary

To Be Hired: Summer laborers in the maintenance department effective 5/1/17. Hourly rate of pay will be \$7.25:

Christopher Montalbano

\*Nancy Peebly

\*Domani Jackson

\*Jerrod Gregory

\*Zalamir Meador

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

Board action to eliminate the following Act t93 positions effective 6/30/17:

1 Custodial Supervisor

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Board action to eliminate the following professional staff positions effective 6/30/17:

2 Grade 2 at Twin Rivers Elementary School

1 Elementary Librarian Itinerant

1 Elementary Math Coordinator

1 ½ Guidance Counselor at the High School and ½ Guidance Counselor at East End Academy

Board action to create the following professional staff positions effective 7/1/17:

1 Grade 1 at Twin Rivers Elementary School

1 Grade 1 at Francis McClure Elementary School

1 Therapeutic Elementary Teacher (Dual Certified Elementary and Special Education)

1 ½ Guidance at East End Academy and ½ Special Education Teacher

1 Pre-K Teacher

Board action to eliminate the following support staff positions effective 6/30/17:

1 Data Center Technician/Secretary to the Technology Coordinator

1 Athletic/South Hall Office Secretary

1 Payroll Clerk

1 AV Technician/Locksmith

Board action to create the following support staff positions effective 7/1/17:

1 Data Center Technician/Secretary to the Technology Coordinator/Payroll Clerk, Category 6

1 Administrative Assistant for Student Affairs

1 Pre-K Instructional Assistant

**ADDENDUM:**

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Cory Kunicky                      Elementary Counselor, Twin Rivers Elementary School, professional  
leave of absence effective 8/9/17 through 12/11/17.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, \*Mr.  
Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Sturgess

\*Mr. Lopretto – abstaining on page 2, item 29 – Dana Gumbert

**Policies** – First reading of the following Board Policies:

800 – Operations – Records Management

810 – Operations – Transportation

**Exonerate Taxes** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the request from the Redevelopment  
Authority of the City of McKeesport to exonerate real estate taxes for 2015/2016 and

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2016/2017 for lot and block 461-A-161. Seconded by Mrs. Sturgess.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Sturgess

### **Committee Reports -**

Athletic –Mary Jane Keller/Jim Brown/Ivan Hampton – Mr. Hampton reported. On May 8<sup>th</sup> we held a meeting at 4:00 PM. What was discussed was personnel recommendations for hire for all and winter sports you can see on the green sheets. Mr. Kiss mentioned there will be a girls' youth basketball camp held Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 PM at the high school. Mr. Kiss went over the progress of Spring sports, baseball, softball and track and it was mentioned that on Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, the 1994 McKeesport football team will be inducted into the Hall of Fame, that will include the team, coaches and staff. That's all.

Buildings & Grounds – Steve Kondrosky – Thank you Mr. President. We met this morning, Mr. Fagan and myself, and there is a list of things they did and some repairs to some rooms and all that which is not important. The most important thing is we finally got all the grass cut at the schools, the ones being used and not used and that made a lot of people happy, especially in the communities. They installed a canopy over the playground equipment at Founders Hall. They did that in house and said it was a little bit of a difficult task, but they handled it. Boarded up a window at White Oak School because of vandalism. The prom is tomorrow, prepared and painted the ramps for the promenade and everything is ordered for graduation and they are going to prep inside if necessary. That's the end of my report.

Career & Technology – Pat Maksin – No meeting, no report.

Community Relations/Cultural Diversity – Jim Brown/Ivan Hampton – Mr. Brown reported. We did meet today at 5:30 PM. Very good discussion, nothing to report.

Education/Legislation/Policy – Mary Jane Keller/Mindy Sturgess – Mrs. Sturgess reported. We met on Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Legislation/Policy committee, we went over the 810 transportation policy as well as the 800 records management. There was some minor changes and updates to that through our first reading this evening. For the Education committee, the only item our agenda that day was the Dibels data review. For those of you that may not be familiar with Dibels, it is a general outcome measure that we use in our elementary schools that look at a variety of skills that are strong predictors of overall reading achievement. Look at it overall as a district, we have made some very modest gains from the beginning of the year to the end of the year. We still have a long way to go to get our students where they need to be in reading. One of the concerns looking at second grade and we're going to continue to look

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at that with the implementation of our foundations program. Ideally, foundations would not have been implemented in second grade at the K-2 program. We did try it this year with our second graders who will be moving on to third grade. We are hopeful that with the continued implementation K-2 we will see some very positive results coming through in our students' reading. That's my report.

Finance/Grants/Outside Funding – Scott Smith – I'm not going to reiterate what Mr. Seropian already spoke to in regards to the budget. I'm going to add a few things to it and I apologize if you already added these, but I'm going to concentrate on them. First of all, we did meet on May 17<sup>th</sup>, there were three factors that have driven an increase in the budget, one is debt service payments have increased over \$2 million, retirement contributions have increased over half a million dollars and just so everybody is aware, that's happening across the state just not here and charter schools have increased for us here by \$677,000. If you add those three numbers up, it totals a little bit over \$3.4 million. I will say I've got to give some kudos to the Administration because this is not fun, I know it's not fun, I know a lot of hard work is going into this and they were still able to bring it down than what it was and what it could be. I am fearful of the near future for the district. That is my report.

Mr. Seropian – Can I make a couple of comments about the budget just so you are aware of the process and the implications of not having a preliminary budget. This is all by school code, the final budget has to be passed by the school district by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Prior to that a preliminary budget has to be passed and made available for public inspection for at least 30 days, so not having a preliminary budget in place basically stops everything for the timelines going for the final budget. So if you don't have a preliminary budget by the end of May, then at the end of June you couldn't be complying with the school code to have a final budget. If you don't pass a final budget by June 30<sup>th</sup> then there are other implications as far as not being able to spend money, pay bills, etc. Just so you know. I'm not sure if I explained that well enough before that this is just a preliminary budget and keeps the process moving forward to a final budget.

Mr. Lopretto – So next month we would more or less be voting on a preliminary budget again that comes forward.

Mr. Seropian - If you didn't vote on a preliminary budget until the June Board Meeting, you wouldn't be able to have a final budget until July and you wouldn't be able to send out tax bills and receive revenues and run the school district and things like that.

Mr. Smith – Basically is what he is saying is that we need to approve this budget and have another meeting before the end of May to approve a preliminary budget.

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Mr. Seropian – I didn't say that.

Mr. Smith – No, you didn't.

Mr. Lopretto – More or less what it's coming down to.

Mr. Smith – It comes down to though, correct. Something has to be done before the end of May which either creates another meeting and it also pushes back when you meet potentially in June because we cannot vote on the final budget like Dave said until 30 calendar days?

Mr. Seropian – Yes.

Mr. Smith – After we approve the preliminary budget. Anybody have any ideas?

Mr. Lopretto – Well, I don't really see much changing on as far as what he has now from now until next couple days. So, I mean, I'm looking at my solicitor now to advise us as to what we could do or just leave it be.

Mr. Tropani – I think as Mr. Seropian indicated and consistent with the School Code, you should consider a Special Meeting within that time frame. I don't have a calendar in front of me, but that 30-day requirement is fixed.

Mr. Smith – Or, we could make a motion under new business that would solve the problem tonight if it were to be solved. Correct?

Mr. Tropani – That's the will of the Board, you can.

Mr. Hampton – I think that's the best idea. Solve it as quickly as possible.

Mr. Lopretto – I'm kind of in the same boat here, I don't want to see us not being able to pay the bills and again, it's only a preliminary budget. So, I guess I was ignorant on my part for saying no. So if somebody wants to open that under new business, we can talk about it then.

Personnel – Mindy Sturgess/Steve Kondrosky – Mrs. Sturgess reported. We met on May 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the personnel issues that were requested on this evening's green sheets and that concludes my report.

Safe Schools – Chris Halaszynski – We did not have a meeting this month.

Regular Board Meeting  
May 24, 2017

**Solicitor's Report** – No report tonight, Mr. President.

**Correspondence** – None

**New Business** – Mr. Smith moved to adopt the 2017/2018 Preliminary Budget in the amount of \$65,716,618 with a millage rate of 17.37 mills as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hampton. Discussion followed.

Voting aye. Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith

Voting no. Mr. Brown, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Kondrosky, Mrs. Sturgess

**Adjournment** – 8:30 PM – Mr. Kondrosky moved for adjournment. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

Voting aye. All Members present.

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