

McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
March 22, 2017

Presiding Joe Lopretto, President

Date, Time, Place Wednesday, March 22, 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
James G. Humanic, Director of Human Resources/
Assistant to the Business Manager
Gary Matta, Solicitor

Students in first grade read to the Board and Administration.
Members of the High School musical performed.

Board President's Remarks – I would like to thank everybody for that. Board President's Remarks, I don't know how to follow up after that. I was having a tough time following up after the kids reading. The youngsters did a fantastic job and the gals and guys that were just in here did a fantastic job and that's what makes me proud to be from McKeesport and be on the Board for the students of McKeesport Area School District. Thank you. Let's make sure everybody gets to that musical.

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Superintendent's Report – Good evening. Once again, I have to say for those that are still in the audience. That was excellent and it's just a preview. I remember and I see some people in the audience that perhaps were in the musicals when we were in high school way back when. Those are probably some of the best memories we ever had. Please try to go and support our students and I thank the adults that have been involved in this preparation because I know the extensive preparation that it takes to put on a fantastic show. A couple of announcements that I would like to make and I know that Ms. Gordon said about Dr. Seuss and we had our Pre-K Counts Dr. Seuss event that was well attended at the beginning of the month as well as Francis McClure Clifford's pirate party book fair. We thank our PTA for that. Twin Rivers once again we had our Book It parade and I always enjoy going there and hearing the music in the background as all of our students who have participated and reading books and getting their Pizza Hut coupon and they parade throughout the halls and Dr. Bauman and I truly enjoy visiting. Music in our schools concert, if anyone in the audience were able to attend, it was awesome. We had a full crowd. I was able to open up the program and once again very proud that we have been able to continue such a fantastic band, orchestra and music program beginning in fourth grade. I thank the School Board for always supporting that. We had our Founders Hall Alarm bingo last Wednesday. Last Saturday we had breakfast with the princesses and I have heard that it was sold out. What a wonderful fundraising event for our school musical and a good time was had by all. We had Pre-K Counts doing yoga tonight. We weren't able to attend because had all of our committee meetings. But, those of us that have done yoga, it would have been fun to do it with the Per-K. I think we would have had a lot of giggles and laughs with them. Upcoming, we have our PSSA's coming up the first week of April. Again, the High School musical and next month folks, we will be promoting the wonderful musical that they are putting together at Founders Hall Middle School, The King and I. Hope to have those students come and perform and show us a preview of what they are going to be doing April 27, 28 and 29. That concludes my report. Thank you.

Treasurer's Report – Mr. Smith moved to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report for the month of February 2017. Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

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

Hearing of Citizens –

Amber Webb, Take Action Mon Valley.

Ms. Webb addressed the Board on the issue of child safety.

Harold Allen, 1611 Library Street, McKeesport, PA 15132.

Mr. Allen addressed the Board on the issue of Superintendent hiring and hiring of staff.

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Keith Murphy, 907 Evans Avenue, McKeesport, PA 15132.
Mr. Murphy addressed the Board on the issue of student achievement.

Minutes – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the minutes of the Open Agenda Meeting of February 15, 2017 and Regular Meeting of February 22, 2017. Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski.

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

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

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

Electricity – Mr. Smith moved to authorize the continued participation in the Western Pennsylvania Electricity Consortium for the purchase of electricity from Direct Energy only if the price is at or below our current price. This extension will begin in January 2019 for a period of 24 months. Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski. Mr. Seropian explained.

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

Prom – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve funding in the amount of \$4,000 for chaperones and security for the 2017 prom. Seconded by Mrs. Keller.

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

Nutrition – Mr. Scott moved to accept the proposal from The Nutrition Group for food service management for the 2017/2018 school term with a guarantee of \$200,399.67. Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

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

Programs – Mrs. Maksin moved to approve the following:

- A. Extended School Year Program
- B. Summer School Program through the YMCA
- C. Summer Family Literacy Program

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- D. Camp Invention Program
Seconded by Mrs. Keller.

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

Program – Mrs. Keller moved to approve the Summer Music Program of 27 hours of brass, 27 hours of percussion, 26 hours of woodwinds, 40 hours of string and 60 hours for High School marching band and pre-band camp. Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski.

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

Field Trips – Mr. Smith moved to approve the following field trips:

- A. Members of the Music Department to New York City on March 30 – April 1, 2018.
- B. McKeesport Tiger Boys Varsity, JV team, coaches and chaperones to attend a Cleveland Cavaliers game on Sunday, April 2, 2017.
- C. PMEA All State Orchestra to be held at The Erie Bayfront Convention Center on April 19-22, 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

Calendar – Mrs. Maksin moved to approve calendar A-revised for the 2017/2018 school year. 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 personnel recommendations (green sheets). Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski.

ACT 93:

CHANGE IN STATUS: FROM ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL TO ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|--|
| 1. | Dale McCall | High School |
| 2. | Jamie Lusebrink | Twin Rivers Primary/Intermediate Schools |
| 3. | Lisa Miracle | McClure Primary/Intermediate Schools |

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PROFESSIONAL:

CHANGE IN STATUS: FROM ACTING DEAN OF STUDENTS TO DEAN OF STUDENTS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

1. Ryan Sturgess Dean of Students at Founders Hall

TO BE HIRED: Long Term Substitute. Rate of pay will be \$80.00/day + benefits and increase to \$125.00 on the 61st day:

1. Molly Peddicord Special Education Teacher, Founders Hall
(Rossi/Noonan) effective 03-06-17.
2. Rachel Campedel Health and Physical Education Teacher, Founders Hall
(Eckels) effective 03-06-17.
- 3.* Carissa Gans Elementary Counselor, McClure Intermediate School
(Bey) effective 04-03-17.

TO BE HIRED: Permanent Day-to-Day Substitutes for the 2016-2017 school year: Rate of pay will be \$80.00/day + individual benefits and increase to \$100.00 on the 61st day:

1. Adam Shaffer High School

TO BE HIRED: Extra Curricular Athletics for the **2016-2017** school year:

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|---|------------|
| 1. | Amy Gumbert | Assistant Softball Coach | \$2,161.63 |
| 2. | Ashley Griffiths | Assistant Softball Coach (shared) | \$1,080.81 |
| 3. | Paul Yester | Assistant Softball Coach (shared) | \$1,080.81 |
| 4. | Matt Miller | Off Season Conditioning Coach | \$2,587.00 |
| 5. | Troy Blackwell | Off Season Conditioning Assistant Coach | \$1,863.00 |
| 6. | John Harper | Off Season Conditioning Assistant Coach | \$1,863.00 |
| 7. | John Moninger | Off Season Conditioning Assistant Coach | \$1,863.00 |
| 8. | Jamie Eckels | Off Season Conditioning Assistant Coach | \$1,863.00 |
| 9. | Habeeb Abdul-Raab | Off Season Conditioning Assistant Coach | \$1,863.00 |
| 10. | Jared Miller | Off Season Conditioning Assistant Coach | \$1,863.00 |

SUPPORT STAFF:

RETIREMENT: Retirement is requested under the Retirement Incentive for Support Employees adopted 02-22-17:

1. Thomas Haliko Electrician, effective 06-30-17.

TO BE HIRED: Effective immediately:

1. Ana Orsini General Worker, Food Service Department, Founders Hall
Rate of pay will be \$8.25/hour.

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CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE LISTS:

ADDITIONS:

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| 1.* | Justin Brakeall | Custodian |
| 2.* | Robert Weiss | Custodian |

DELETIONS:

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| 1. | Darlene Potter | Secretary |
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TO BE HIRED: Summer laborers in the maintenance department effective 05-01-17. Hourly rate of pay will be \$7.25:

- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|----|-----------------|-----|-----------------|
| 1. | Kara Cella | 5. | Parthenia Green | 8. | Russell Matesig |
| 2.* | Krystal Cella | 6. | James Hays | 9. | Brian Miller |
| 3. | Irma Lewicki | 7. | Josh Wood | 10. | Alexis Kost |
| 4. | Rachel Marshall | | | | |

SUPPORT STAFF:

BOARD ACTION TO ELIMINATE THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT STAFF POSITIONS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

- (1) South Hall Athletic Director Secretary, Category 5
- (1) South Hall Office/Guidance Secretary, Category 3

BOARD ACTION TO CREATE THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT STAFF POSITIONS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

- (1) Athletic/South Hall Office Secretary, Category 5
- (1) South Hall Guidance Secretary, Category 4

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

ADDENDUM:

PROFESSIONAL:

RETIREMENT: Effective 6-12-17:

- | | | |
|----|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Jane McDermitt | School Nurse, effective 06-12-17 |
| 2. | Alice Saxon | Counselor, effective 06-22-17 |

SUPPORT STAFF:

RETIREMENT: Effective 06-30-17:

- | | | |
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| 1. | Wendy Wassel | Custodian |
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CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE LISTS:

ADDITIONS:

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1. Alexis Kost Special Education Assistant

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

*Mrs. Sturgess – abstaining on Professional – change in status from Acting Dean of Students to Dean of Students.

Committee Reports -

Athletic –Mary Jane Keller/Jim Brown/Ivan Hampton – Mr. Hampton reported. We held out Athletic Committee meeting on March 6th and what we discussed primarily was the achievement of some of our athletes over sports. We had two (2) WPIAL swimmers, Leilani Kunf and Emily Morrissey finished sixth place in the WPIAL qualifier. WPIAL gymnastics qualifier, Kayle McKelvey; WPIAL wrestling qualifier Alex Meadows, CJ Holloway and Carson Jones. Our boys' basketball team were section champs; won their first playoff game verses Armstrong, lost to Hampton in the second round. Our girls' basketball team finished second place in the conference. First playoff win verses Franklin Regional, lost to Hampton in the second round. They also discussed that we will be interviewing candidates for the cheerleading and dance team. Expectations will be addressed during the interview process. Mr. Brown – If I could just mention one thing. Coach Grayson was coach of the year in district five this year. First time ever.

Buildings & Grounds – Steve Kondrosky – Thank you very much Mr. President. We did meet this morning, Dr. Coughenour, Ed Fagan and myself at 7:30 AM. He gave us a list of things that were pretty substantial in making sure that the district runs smoothly. We replaced two gas modules and plungers at two of the four boilers at East End. I don't know why, we should get rid of that building. Sell that, do something with it. Repaired electrical ground fault at Twin Rivers. Level at the ground for no water retention in the vault. I am sure he logged that and Mr. Seropian, I'm sure you're going to add that to your list of items that were not completed properly under the contract and by the architect and the contractor for the building of the new school. Replaced bearing assembly in the uninvent in classroom 216 at Founders Hall. Rebuilt a motor and coil for uninvent in the child care at South Hall. They cleaned the water glycol coils on the boilers at Founders Hall. They did that in house and saved about \$600, kudos to them guys that know how to do this and really step up when we need them. Repaired right hand castable tile on the pool boiler at South Hall. I didn't know what they was, he explained it, it's lengthy and I forgot what he told me.

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So, I'm not going to say anything. Painted rooms 171 and 173 at Twin Rivers for the community and school-based health team. A soothing therapy color was selected, this is phenomenal. You have to visit that to see what it's about. I was encouraged to hear how positive it was and the students and staff that were in there making sure that everything (end of the tape). Completed the annual inspection of operation and understructure of the telescopic bleachers at McClure, Twin Rivers and South Hall. That concludes everything that we have in the district because the other two were inspected earlier. That's required by international building code and international code compliance standard. We are beginning to prep baseball and softball fields weather permitting. Took the plows off and I think some of the salt spreaders which means that there is not going to be any more snow in their future; but, unfortunately I think they're going to be putting it back on. I think we got one more snow fall coming and that concludes my report. Thank you.

Career & Technology – Pat Maksin – We did meet on March 16th. There were a couple of things to bring to the public's attention. The culinary deck is in progress, it's ongoing. That will be a deck outside of the Tiger Inn. Our construction students have begun working on this and they have put down the foundation and so forth and weather permitting, that should be finished in May. It is sorely needed because of the huge success of the Tiger Inn. From what I gather, there is no room at the inn. Sometimes people come and the place is full. Once we get the deck out there it will help to alleviate some of the overcrowding and that's a wonderful problem to have. The library is also ongoing and the book shelving made by our building construction students will be put up. We are also ordering some plaques that will have the graduation years for the students who participated in building those shelving units so whenever they come back or their children come back years from now they will be able to see those shelving units were built in that particular year that we graduated. There is going to be a Perkins review on April 26, 27 and 28. The district will be ready for the review. For the Cinderella production that you saw a preview of tonight, our cosmetology students are doing the hair for Cinderella. Finally, the McKeesport 23, I want to bring that up again, that we will be having that dedication on Saturday, May 13th. It is a dedication of the monument memorial. Our students have dug the foundation for that memorial for them to get that into place. I assume that will be happening within the next couple of weeks, they will get that in place. That is the fallen Vietnam veterans, there are 23 from McKeesport that we will be honoring their names and the date that they died will be on the plaque. We will have that at the High School on Saturday, May 13th, at noon. We invite the public to please come to the auditorium. There will be a program and then we will proceed to the courtyard. That's where the plaque will be dedicated with everybody's name on it. There will be some light refreshments, so we invite the public. Make sure you spread the word. We would like to have a nice crowd to recognize those fallen 23. Thank you.

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Community Relations/Cultural Diversity – Jim Brown/Ivan Hampton – Mr. Brown report. I met with our McKeesport African Coalition committee last week. There were some things that we discussed in our Cultural Diversity meeting today. One pretty much was how many applicants applied for the Superintendent's position, and that was told to us, 22. How many applicants will receive an interview, that was told to us 4. How many applicants applied for the position with no experience, that was one. How many applicants applied for the position of Superintendent that is holding Superintendent now, or Assistant Superintendent. I think it was two Superintendent and one Assistant Superintendent. Pretty much how many applicants are going to apply for the Assistant Superintendent and we have not yet discussed that as far as who is going to apply for Assistant. There was a person in the class today that said they had nine (9) years-experience and they were able to apply for the Superintendent job, but they just didn't feel like they were ready to apply. That's pretty much my report.

Education/Legislation/Policy – Mary Jane Keller/Mindy Sturgess – Mrs. Sturgess – on the Education Committee meeting, we met on March 15th. During that time, we discussed various course code revisions at the high school level for two main reasons. One, we want to offer our high school students more options in terms of course offerings and we also need to be cognizant of incoming students that are transitioning into the McKeesport Area School District. We want to make sure that when they enter they have the ability to match credit hours to fill the graduation requirements. I am happy to say that we will be adding I believe, five (5) new half credit courses at the high school. One will be reintroduction of college writing and composition. There will be an intro to music class being add, a lab, a business class as well as an intro to computer science. All of those will be one semester, half credit courses. During that meeting we also discussed the possibility of amending the science graduation requirements. We are looking at adding physical science, biology and chemistry as requirements for graduation. Right now many of our students don't take chemistry before they graduating high school here. So, that's something we are taking a look at. We also discussed the summer school which is the credit recovery for our high school students and that will be in conjunction with the YMCA like was done last year. There will be two sessions that will be running June 26 – July 17. Then again another session July 18 – August 3. That will enable students that need that credit recovery at a minimal cost to be able to achieve those credits. Mrs. Keller – the Legislation Committee met on March 15th. Dr. Coughenour explained that the level 100 policies were last reviewed in 2007. Her advice was to begin reviewing and revising policies in that level. The following policies were started, that it #100, #105, #105.1. That is reflected in item #11 on tonight's Board agenda. That's my report.

Finance/Grants/Outside Funding – Scott Smith – The scheduled meeting last Wednesday was cancelled in lieu of Execution Session brought forward to discuss an impending Superintendent opening as we have all heard. I can tell you though we are continuing to work on the budget

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for the 2017/2018 school year. There is still quite a bit, in my opinion, discrepancy between the revenues and the expenses unfortunately not in a good way. Naturally, the Administration will continue to work on that. That's my report.

Personnel – Mindy Sturgess/Steve Kondrosky – We met on Monday, March 6th. We actually moved our regularly scheduled personnel meeting to Monday so that more of our Board Members could attend with the discussion of the Superintendent vacancy and how we were going to proceed and move forward with the interview process. We also discussed the items and issues were requested on tonight's green sheets. That concludes my report.

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

Solicitor's Report – No report.

Correspondence – None.

Adjournment – 8:20 PM – Mr. Kondrosky moved for adjournment. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

Voting aye. All Members present.

ATTEST:

David M. Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary