

McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
February 22, 2017

Presiding Joe Lopretto, President

Date, Time, Place Wednesday, February 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.

Dr. Skezas – At this time I would like to ask everyone to pause for a moment of silence for someone who we lost in the last couple of weeks and that's Mrs. Toni Graham. Toni had almost 25 years with the McKeesport Area School District, 20 of them being in our Athletic office. She was a friend, she was a mentor, and anyone who ever walked into the Athletic office knows she was like a mom to many of our students, past and present. We are going to miss her very much. As this time, please pause for a moment of silence. Thank you.

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
Krisha Mackulin-Dimascio, Solicitor

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Board President's Remarks – I never have any remarks because we work with such a great group of people here, it's a well-oiled machine and as long as it keeps spinning that's all we got to worry about. Thank you.

Superintendent's Report – I always have something to say. Good evening. As some of you may have seen, we had the many activities that have taken place since we met last which was January 25th, but a few things that I would like to mention that Dr. Bauman and I and perhaps some of you in the audience and Board Members have attended. Something that we had this year at Francis McClure was the McClure Wall of Fame by Mr. Chris Clark, our gym teacher and he gave out medals to our students who had achieved a certain goal that they needed to achieve in their gym class and he has a wall of fame with their pictures. Parents were provided, he had a light breakfast provided and that was a wonderful event and it was his second annual and it gets better each year. On January 28th we had our semi-formal with over 400 students which was remarkable. A great time was had by all. We had been celebrating Black History month and I know that at some of the buildings we have second annual essay contests that is made available to all students and on February 28th, nine winners here at Founders Hall Middle School will be given gift cards for their essays. I know that we have great participation and I look forward to reading them each and every year. On February 7th we had our Book It parade and we had a great turn out for that and at Twin Rivers Primary School they play Eye of the Tiger so the kids have a parade holding up the books they had read and they are led by Lena Fitchwell, our librarian dressed up as a slice of pizza and the kids just love it. We had family game night at Twin Rivers with over 50 families. We celebrated the 100th day of school, it's unbelievable, we've already been here 100 days for the 2016/2017 school year. Last night I was able to attend the gallery walk at Francis McClure and it was a wonderful event and I know there were some pictures probably displayed. Some of the wonderful activities that teachers and staff had done throughout the building on display and many of the parents had little post-its and wrote little notes to their children's art work or whatever it was that they had on display saying what a fantastic job they had done. I just want to give a little update on the McKeesport 23. I know Mr. Joe Hoffman was here last month or perhaps the month before asking for donations that we are going to have that wonderful event on May 13th and I just want to make this announcement that they have hit the target goal, there are no more donations that are needed and this is a wonderful event that is going to begin approximately 12 noon in our High School auditorium and then conclude in our courtyard. We have our Barnes & Noble book fair coming up on April 10th at the Waterfront at Barnes & Noble from 5-7. (Kristen spoke about the anti-bullying hot line – unable to hear her as she was not at a microphone.) Mr. Halaszynski, I know that was part of your initiative when we were at our Safe Schools meeting. So, you know it is up and running. We have swim lessons beginning and we did this last year. There is information that is probably in all of the elementary buildings and we will probably have it here in our main lobby, they are Regular

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beginning at the beginning of April and we're excited about that. Finally, Jake I promised and Allison from our Nutrition department, we have menus that I think offer a variety of great choices for our students Pre K through 12, breakfast and lunch. Actually, Dr. Bauman and I were looking at it today, he is very easy to please when it comes to breakfast and lunch, but there are some great things to choose from and I just want to say thank you very much, it's very inviting and for those of you that don't know, all of our students in the McKeesport Area School District are able to eat breakfast and lunch for free. So, please promote that, take advantage of that and taste some delicious items. That concludes my report. Thank you.

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

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

Hearing of Citizens –

Angela Selembo – South Hall – update on Talent Search Program

Autumn Lusk – Founders Hall – update on Talent Search Program

Minutes – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the minutes of the Open Agenda Meeting of January 18, 2017 and Regular Meeting of January 25, 2017. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

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

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

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

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

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. High School students to the Annual Future Is Mine Student Leadership Conference on April 20-21, 2017 in Pittsburgh.
- B. PHSSL State Speech Tournament at Bloomsburg University, on March 16-18, 2017.

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Seconded by Mrs. Maksin.

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

MOU – Mr. Smith moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and Transportation Plan between Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) and McKeesport Area School District. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

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

Resolution – Mrs. Maksin moved to approve Resolution #1157 – 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

AIU – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the AIU Program of Services budget for the 2017/2018 school year. Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski.

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

Policy – Mrs. Keller moved for second reading and adoption of the following Board policy:
916.1 – Community – Booster Clubs and Support Groups
Seconded by Mrs. Sturgess.

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

Audit Report – Mr. Smith moved to acknowledge receipt of the audit report for the year ending June 30, 2016. Seconded by Mrs. Keller.

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

Redistricting – Mrs. Maksin moved to approve the redistricting of the Versailles Boro elementary/intermediate students from Twin Rivers to Francis McClure as presented.

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Seconded by Mr. Hampton.

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

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

RETIREMENT: Effective 06-30-17:

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|-----|---------------------|---|
| 1. | Dr. Rula S. Skezas | Superintendent |
| 2. | Dr. Harry A. Bauman | Assistant Superintendent |
| 3.* | James G. Humanic | Director of Human Resources/Assistant to the Business Manager |

* Retirement is requested under the Retirement Incentive for Professional Employees adopted 10-22-14

ACT 93:

RETIREMENT: Retirement is requested under the Retirement Incentive for Professional Employees adopted 10-22-14:

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| 1. | Corey Gadson | Student Attendance Coordinator, effective 06-19-17 |
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PROFESSIONAL:

RETIREMENT: Effective 06-12-17: Retirement is requested under the Retirement Incentive for Professional Employees adopted 10-22-14:

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| 1. | Jinx McCabe |
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BOARD ACTION TO CREATE THE FOLLOWING POSITION EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

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| (1) | Title I Facilitator at McClure Primary School |
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TO BE HIRED: Title I Facilitator: Rate of pay will be either \$95.00/day + individual benefits of \$105.00/day without benefits:

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|----|-----------------|---|
| 1. | Melissa Galehan | McClure Primary School, effective immediately |
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TO BE HIRED: Extra Curricular Activities/Athletics for the 2016-2017 school year:

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| 1. | Mark Bacco | Assistant Track Coach | \$2,067.64 |
| 2. | Dennis Robinson | Assistant Track Coach | \$2,067.64 |
| 3. | Mike Kisan | Assistant Track Coach (shared) | \$1,033.82 |
| 4. | Troy Blackwell | Assistant Track Coach (shared) | \$1,033.82 |

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5.*	Natasha Henderson	7/8 Grade Track Coach	\$1,793.94
6.	Christine Morissey	7/8 Grade Track Coach	\$1,793.94

PROFESSIONAL:

VOLUNTEER: Extra Curricular Athletics for the 2016-2017 school year:

1.	John Harper	Assistant Track Coach
2.	Tim Sweeney	Assistant Track Coach
3.	Ryan Smith	Assistant Track Coach

CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST:

ADDITIONS:

1.*	Jayne Halfhill	Emergency Day-to-Day Certification
2.*	Kevin Johnson	Emergency Day-to-Day Certification
3.*	Peter Madradjieff	Emergency Day-to-Day Certification
4.*	Kelly Royce	Emergency Day-to-Day Certification
5.*	Cynthia Taylor	Elementary K-6

SUPPORT STAFF:

RETIREMENT: Effective 04-03-17:

1.	Jess Shallenberger	Custodian, Twin Rivers Primary/Intermediate Schools
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RESIGNATION: Effective immediately:

1.	William Mellinger	Painter
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TO BE HIRED: Effective immediately:

1.	Bethany Trautman	Lunch Aide, Food Service Department, Twin Rivers Primary/Intermediate Schools. Rate of pay will be \$8.25/hour.
2.	Stacy Jenkins	General Worker, Food Service Department, High School. Rate of pay will be \$8.25/hour.

CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE LISTS:

ADDITIONS:

1.*	Craig Gretz	Custodian
2.*	Raymond Richard	Custodian
3.*	Edward Gooden	Crisis Intervention Specialist

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

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CONFERENCE REQUESTS:

1. Mary Ann LaFever Promising Practices – ELO Conference. Sponsored by the
Chris Kastronis Center for Schools and Communities in Harrisburg, PA
Brie Adams March 7, 2017 through March 9, 2017
Melissa Storch (Paid for by the 21st CCLC – Cohort 7)
\$750.87/each

ADDENDUM:

To be hired: Extra-curricular activities/athletics for the 2016/2017 school year:

*Ashley Griffiths	Assistant Softball Coach	\$2,161.63
Lynsey Szymarek	7/8 Grade Softball Coach	\$1,793.94
Dana Brown, Sr.	Assistant Baseball Coach	\$2,161.63

Volunteer: Extra-curricular athletics for the 2016/2017 school year:

“Don Strohm Assistant Baseball Coach

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

*Mr. Brown – abstaining on Dana Brown, Sr. – Assistant Baseball Coach

**Mr. Smith – abstaining on Lynsey Szymarek – 7/8 Grade Softball Coach

Dr. Skezas and Dr. Bauman read their resignation letters.

ERI –

Mrs. Maksin moved to approve the Early Retirement Incentive for the McKeesport Educational Support Personnel Association (May 10th deadline to submit request). 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. Coach Hampton is going to make a little announcement. They have announced one time and the dates for the playoff games for both the girls and boys basketball teams. The boys will play at North Allegheny High School. They will play Hampton High School at 8:30 PM Friday night. The girls will play on Saturday afternoon, also playing Hampton High School, but that time has yet to be announced. At our regular Athletic Committee on February 6, 2017 we had a

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presentation by Coach Gerald Grayson concerning two individuals who have contributed a lot to McKeesport's basketball team. The first was Billy Leonard who was the school's all-time leading scorer with over 700 points and ended up going to Towson State School and was a fine player that the players were watching in the early 80's and Coach Dan Pacella who won several conference championships for this district and also had a pleasing win/loss record. Mr. Grayson also mentioned the problem he is having with his weight program and the necessity of his players crossing campus in the wintertime to be able to lift weights. He asked for us to consider some change in that practices. (Dr. Holtzman responded from the audience, but is unable to be heard.)

Buildings & Grounds – Steve Kondrosky – Thank you Mr. President. We did meet this morning, Dr. Coughenour, Ed Fagan and myself and it took approximately two hours to discuss seven items and Dr. Skezas was wondering about the whereabouts of Dr. Coughenour. I understand why. We had some things that were very important and taken care of here. Up at McClure they had to replace a 185-gallon domestic hot water expansion tank, I guess this is mandatory when your hot water is not working. Completed a three-year testing for the elevators and wheelchair lift at South Hall. These tests are mandated by the Uniform Construction Code through the Department of Labor and Industry. Also completed the annual telescopic bleacher inspection at Twin Rivers and McClure which is required by International Building Code. This is the first time I heard about that. I guess the other schools that have the same type of bleachers will be done in the future. Replaced 12" VCT floor tile in room 225 at South Hall. Repaired the feed system for the boilers at Founders Hall which is very important and this is brand new, Ed began to use an electrostatic sprayer in certain areas of all the schools, especially the gyms and wrestling rooms. This machine sprays hospital grade disinfectant and kills a wide range of viruses and bacteria to prevent spores with up to seven-months residual effects. The Athletic Director and coaches were in-serviced with this product used and frequency and pleased with the procedure and how it is working out for any type of activity that we don't like to talk about when you sweat on the mats and you go other things like that. One more thing that they did, they had to replace a field float capacitor at boiler #1 at White Oak. It costs about \$600 to do it in house and would have been a \$1,200 job if they had people from the outside and I'm a little unhappy about still putting money in White Oak, I wish somebody would buy that. That about concludes my report. Mr. Seropian – The concrete company will be back out here starting on Monday to finish some of the concrete work around Founders Hall along Eden Park Boulevard. They ran out of weather, I guess you saw they did a lot of work, but they are coming back to finish that, so if you see them out there next week, you'll know why. Mr. Kondrosky – Mr. Fagan also brought up Dave, that there are a couple of cracked areas in front of the Administration Building that he is going to come to you about and see if they give us a price on that so we can fix that. Mr. Seropian – He called me late this morning about that so we're going to have them take a look at that and give

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us a price. Mr. Kondrosky – Very good, thank you.

Career & Technology – Pat Maksin – We met on February 16th. There are a few items that we want to bring to the attention of the Board and the public. One is the covered patio/deck, the culinary deck that will be outside of the Tiger Inn. I do believe that has been started. It will be approximately 40'x20' and hopefully will be finished by graduation at the latest. They are hoping that if the weather is nice that it will be finished in May and hopefully will be a nice addition to the Tiger Inn. The library is moving forward with hardwood flooring to be extended and shelving to be extended and much of that will be accomplished during the 2017/2018 school year. And just as a reminder that is being paid for by the McKeesport Alumni & Friends. The collision repair, that new piece of equipment is being is a laser measuring system being used. They are also involved in a world of wheels competition and that project has been completed I do believe and should be on display if not now, but soon in the high school lobby. There was a redo on the Bobcat that we bought last year that I call Brie's Bobcat and it is now in pristine condition. That is good news. We had Skills USA regional competition and we had ten winners, first, second and third place winners and they will move on to the next level of competition and February is CTE month and on February 13th cookies were distributed to all CTE staff and students. Thank you, that's the end of my report.

Community Relations/Cultural Diversity – Jim Brown/Ivan Hampton – Mr. Brown reported. We did meet today to discuss some of the activity that we addressed at our African Coalition meeting today and that was pretty much the achievement gaps trying to narrow that down to a better position than where it's at right now.

Education/Legislation/Policy – Mary Jane Keller/Mindy Sturgess – Mrs. Keller reported. We did not have an Education meeting or Legislation/Policy committee meeting this month.

Finance/Grants/Outside Funding – Scott Smith – We met of February 15th. Naturally, the school district is working on the 2017/2018 school year budget. As we spoke earlier, there was an audit presentation last week, just two small points out of that audit. One was that everything was all accounting practices were found in good standing and two that our fund balance is up to \$4.1 million. We also discussed the State budget proposal, currently the presentation for the budget that the Governor has put together would put approximately \$380,000 of additional funds into the school district. That is my report.

Personnel – Mindy Sturgess/Steve Kondrosky – Mrs. Sturgess reported. The Personnel committee met on February 8th to discuss the personnel items reflected on this evening's green sheets. That concludes my report.

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Safe Schools – Chris Halaszynski – Yes, we did have a meeting today, but I will refer to Dr. Skezas for the information. Dr. Skezas – I would like to share a couple of things that were discussed today and that was Twin Rivers and Francis McClure, both have been doing random searches and scans with buses and with car riders a couple of times a month. Mr. Wayne Wade said they were able to afford and perhaps can purchase a couple more wands. The problem is that they did not have enough staff to support that. So, we actually volunteered, Dr. Bauman, myself and anyone here from Central Administration that when they need extra people up there to scan or to search, we would be happy to go up there to help them. They feel that it's working out fine. At Founders Hall, the High School didn't have any concerns, but at Founders Hall we are going to revisit our guard schedule and police officer schedule to make sure they are where they need to be throughout the day. I know that there is a concern with the sixth-grade wing and perhaps adding an additional guard. We are taking a look at that, we actually are trying to see if we can tap into some of the Pre-K funding that we get a large amount of money with our Pre-K grant and perhaps to partially pay for a guard out of that for the 2017/2018 school year, especially having the little ones and the sixth-graders in the same wing. We will be revisiting the guard schedule and the police officer schedules so that the entire building is covered throughout the day. Thank you.

Solicitor's Report – no report

Correspondence – none

New Business – Mr. Smith moved to advertise and post the position of Superintendent at the McKeesport Area School District. Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

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

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

Voting aye. All Members present.

Mr. Lopretto – We are going to meet in Executive Session to talk about personnel positions. Now we'll be adjourned. Thank you.

ATTEST:

David M. Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary

