

McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
January 25, 2017

Presiding	Joe Lopretto, President
Date, Time, Place	Wednesday, January 25, 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.
Present	Jim Brown Chris Halaszynski Ivan Hampton Mary Jane Keller Steve Kondrosky Joe Lopretto Patricia Maksin Mindy Sturgess Excused. Scott Smith
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

Board President's Remarks – I really don't have much to say. I'm just happy everybody made it through the holidays good and safe and to see everybody here tonight. I love when we have a crowd. It makes it worth our while coming out.

Superintendent's Report – Good evening. I'm going to give very brief report this evening because we have some special guests with us that I would like to recognize. A couple of things that have transpired throughout the last several weeks. We had our Twin Rivers family night, a night of snow much reading. It was very well attended and I thank all of the participants for making it such a memorable event for our students and staff. Thank you so much for being

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there. Our Pre-K, early learning GPS presentation also went well here at Founders Hall. This coming Friday we do have Freddie Lewis' jersey being retired and I'm not going to say any more than that because I know Mr. Hampton is going to talk about that during his Athletic Committee report. February 7th through the 16th we are going to have a penny challenge for Twin Rivers and Francis McClure and that is to benefit our Carnegie Library. I see Ms. Gordon in the back and I'm going to put her on the spot a minute. Could you just give a brief synopsis of what we are doing with the penny drive. (Unable to hear Ms. Gordon as she was not at a microphone.) We are currently enrolling our Pre-K students as well as our kindergarten students so enrollment is now open and I saw this morning that our first name out in the foyer with the first person who has enrolled in our kindergarten, so we're real excited about starting a new and I think it's the class of 2030. We had a spelling bee at Twin Rivers, a fifth grader by the name of won that spelling bee and on February 7th we have financial aid night at the high school at 6:00 PM and that is sponsored by our Talent Search counselors. There is going to be a walk-through of students that need financial aid when they are leaving, graduating and going on to their post-secondary institution or whatever that would be. I see two people in the audience that I want to acknowledge and I know that I already shared this with our School Board in their update last Friday, I want to say thank you Ms. Miracle and Ms. Lusebrink for the wonderful elementary newsletter and all of the parents that are in the audience that are K-5 parents should have received this newsletter. Once again, I think it was the second edition and they come home with the report cards and I want to say that I understand the first time around it was difficult to get articles. This time they had to pick and choose the articles to put in there because there was so much information going on K-5. So, thank you ladies, wonderful job, and I think it's great for our parents to receive this information. (Board presentation by the students.) We thank all of our special guests and all of the statements and comments that were made to all of our Board Members. Again, we appreciate all that you do in volunteering your time and taking time away from your own families to help the families of the McKeesport Area School District and their children. Thank you. That concludes my report.

Treasurer's Report – Mr. Kondrosky moved to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report for the months of November and December 2016. Seconded by Mrs. Keller.

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

Excused. Mr. Smith

Hearing of Citizens –

Joe Hoffman, 118 Heatherlynn Court, White Oak, PA 15131.

Mr. Hoffman addressed the Board on the issue of McKeesport 23.

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TyMeer Brown, 1411 Freemont Street, McKeesport, PA 15132.
Mr. Brown addressed the Board on the issue of a job proposal.

Fred Haynes, Carmella Drive, White Oak, PA 15131.
Mr. Haynes addressed the Board on the issue of taxes.

Derek Price, Robotics Team
Mr. Price addressed the Board on the issue of the budget.

Minutes – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the minutes of the Open Agenda Meeting of November 30, 2016, Reorganization Meeting of December 7, 2016 and Regular Meeting of December 7, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

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

Excused. Mr. Smith

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

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

Excused. Mr. Smith

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, Mrs. Sturgess

Excused. Mr. Smith

Resolution – Mrs. Sturgess moved to approve Resolution #1156 – Taxpayer Relief Act. Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski.

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

Excused. Mr. Smith

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Compensation – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the tax collector compensation for district real estate collectors effective January 1, 2018. Seconded by Mrs. Sturgess.

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

Excused. Mr. Smith

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

PROFESSIONAL:

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

1. Christine Lieberum

RESIGNATION:

1. Angela Schifino Special Education Teacher, Founders Hall, effective 12-08-16

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

1. Amy Clark English Teacher, Founders Hall, sabbatical leave for the 2nd semester of the 2016-2017 school year effective 01-20-17.
2. Danielle Hocko Social Studies Teacher, Founders Hall, sabbatical leave for the 2nd semester of the 2016-2017 school year effective 01-20-17.

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

1. Josette Kurey English Teacher, Founders Hall, effective 01-20-17.
(A. Clark)
2. Maggie Long Social Studies Teacher, Founders Hall, effective 01-20-17.
(D. Hocko)
3. Jayme DeCarlo Special Education Teacher, Founder's Hall, effective
(Schifino) immediately.

RESIGNATION: Extra Curricular Activities for the 2016-2017 school year)

1. Cody Dishong Intramurals – High School (shared)

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

1.*	Jason Mols	Intramurals – High School (shared)	\$2,020.65
2.	Haley Ekaitis	7/8 Volleyball Coach	\$1,793.94
3.	Ron Harris	Assistant Baseball Coach	\$2,161.63
4.	Mike Obley	7/8 Grade Baseball Coach	\$1,793.94
5.	Paul Yester	Assistant Softball Coach	\$2,161.63

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

1.*	Tori Walker	7/8 Grade Volleyball Coach
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CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST:

ADDITIONS:

1.*	Nicole Novak	Art
2.*	Joseph Karnach	Biology
3.*	Dallan Cline	Social Studies

SUPPORT STAFF:

RESIGNATION:

1.	Nancy Sloan	Special Education Assistant, Founder's Hall, effective 01-13-17.
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LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

1.	Raena Bacon	Special Education Assistant, Twin Rivers Primary/Intermediate Schools, effective 1/3/17.
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CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE LISTS:

ADDITIONS:

1.*	Jocelyn Francis	Special Education Assistant
2.*	Justin Brakeall	Food Service
3.	Marsha Shivley	Food Service
4.	Nancy Sloan	Special Education Assistant
5.*	Patricia Capar	Special Education Assistant

DELETIONS:

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

CONFERENCE REQUESTS:

1.	Jill Hershey	Pennsylvania FBLA State Leadership Conference Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Future Business Leaders
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- of America in Hershey, PA
April 2, 2017 through April 5, 2017
(MATC Budget)
\$2,517.00
2. David Seropian 2017 PASBO Conference
Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Association of School
Business Officials in Pittsburgh, PA
March 21, 2017 through March 24, 2017
\$312.40

ADDENDUM:

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

1. Diane Retone

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

Excused. Mr. Smith

Policy – First reading of the following Board Policy:

916.1 – Community – Booster Clubs and Support Groups

Change Order – Mrs. Maksin moved to approve a change order for Founders Hall project shelving to R&B Mechanical Inc. in the amount of \$30,961.01 and authorize final payment to said company in the amount of \$32,800.94 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

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

Excused. Mr. Smith

Contract – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve a two (2) year contract with Keystone Collections Group for the collection of delinquent real estate taxes. Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski.

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

Excused. Mr. Smith

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Committee Reports -

Athletic –Mary Jane Keller/Jim Brown – Mr. Hampton reported. We met on Monday, January 9, 2017, at 4:00 PM. We discussed with Mr. Kiss personnel. We also discussed the retirement of Mr. Frederick “Freddie” Lewis’ jersey, #30. The ceremony will be held Friday night, January 27th, before tip-off of the Friday night game. I will give a brief reading of Mr. Lewis’ career.

Born: July 1, 1943

Graduated from McKeesport Area Senior High School in 1961.

Wore the number of 30 throughout his high school career.

Attended college at the Arizona State University.

Drafted to the NBA in 1966, during the tenth round to the Cincinnati Royals. He was the 4th pick in the round and 88th overall.

His NBA Debut was on October 18, 1966

His ABA Debut was on October 14, 1967

His career has taken him to many cities while a part of the NBA and ABA:

Cincinnati Royals (NBA) 1967, #19

Indiana Pacers (ABA) 1968-1974, #14

Memphis Sounds (ABA) 1974-1975, #6

Spirits of St. Louis (ABA) 1975-1976, #14

Indiana Pacers (NBA) 1977, #1

1971-1972, Playoff MVP

1975, All-Star Game MVP

Played in 4 ABA All-Star Games

1968, 1970, 1972, 1975

It is unfortunate that Mr. Lewis will be unable to attend the ceremony due to an illness in his family. We also had a presentation by Mr. TyMeer Brown similar to what he gave to the Board tonight.

Buildings & Grounds – Steve Kondrosky – Mr. President, Mr. Fagan was out, we did not have a meeting although Flo faxed me some information. I’ll just include that in next month’s report.

Career & Technology – Pat Maksin – Yes, we did meet on Thursday, January 19th, just a few items that the MATC teachers are participating in the curriculum writing that has been going on at the secondary level. They are part of that effort with Lois Richards who is distinguished educator from the State. With her input they have been breaking down the tasks by nine weeks, they have been adding tasks, especially to the third year students. There will be a couple of course selection updates for the course selection book that will be going out. One will be in business and one will be in allied health and they will be adding some things to those and as of last Thursday we are still waiting for test results for Skills USA. That’s my report, thank you.

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Community Relations/Cultural Diversity – Jim Brown/Ivan Hampton – Mr. Brown reported. We did meet yesterday for a meeting for Cultural Diversity. A couple of things that we discussed was having a town hall meeting with the parents and the students at Twin Rivers, Francis McClure, the High School and hopefully we can get one at Penn State. The meeting will pretty much just be to build a better understanding with the school district and the parents and the students. We also talked about the hiring of the Talent Search which we pretty much didn't have anything to do with the hiring for that, so that was pretty brief. We also discussed, if it is possible, if we can have them two girls come in quarterly to give a report to let us know where they are at as far. With that said, we also discussed maybe joining a coalition for us to go out into the community if we have to knock on doors and do whatever we have to do as far as getting the kids to get a better understanding on how serious school is. With that, that's pretty much my report.

Education/Legislation/Policy – Mary Jane Keller/Mindy Sturgess – Mrs. Sturgess reported. We met on Wednesday, January 18th, there were three items on our Education Committee agenda. The first item that we discussed was the possibility of boundary and redistricting for next year. We have some classrooms that aren't necessarily even across our schools, specifically looking at Twin Rivers and Francis McClure. That was just some initial conversation and those conversations will continue as we progress throughout the year. The second item on the agenda we received a summary of the Act 80 and professional development from the secondary level. Overall, the teams are moving along. I'll just read a view highlights or bullet points. Many of the teams at the secondary level, we're talking about 6-12 when I say teams, I am talking about content areas, math, science, social studies have identified three to four major units and have completed their first unit. Everybody is using the same template and the hope is that we will have it posted on the district website with the comprehensive curriculum. The teams are already thinking about next year and what work might need to be done to continue this development throughout and just overall the teams seem very impressed with the work as does the administration on the work that I've been doing. I would like to commend our teachers and administrators for taking that on. It's a very important task, it's not an easy task, but I am glad to see that is moving forward. The third item on the agenda was the elementary newsletter that Dr. Skezas had mentioned in her report that went out with the report cards. It just gave parents a really nice overview of all of the different things that are happening. Giving parents an update on PSSA testing dates, kindergarten registration, some of the building highlights and all of the upcoming events from January through March which there were quite a few. At Legislation/Policy we reviewed and discussed the policy that was a first reading tonight for our booster club. That concludes my report.

Finance/Grants/Outside Funding – Scott Smith – Mrs. Keller reported. The Finance Committee met on January 18th. Our discussion centered on the school district's budget Regular Board

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preparation for the 2017/2018 school year. Budget timelines and the index were presented. The following important facts and predictions were involved in our conversations. As of January the district has a \$4.6 million fund balance. There will be a \$600,000 increase in charter school funding for next year. Also to consider is a couple hundred-thousand-dollar increase in PSERS, which is our retirement fund. There are no budget increases coming from the State as of now. The new budget for 2017/2018 is \$5.3 million out of line. However, this is still a work in progress, it is not finalized. The Board must decide to either pass a resolution not to increase taxes above the index by tomorrow or pass a preliminary budget by February 15th and then file for exemptions to the index by March 2nd. The index for 2017/2018 is 3.8% which means a millage increase of .63 mills from 16.74 mills to 17.37 mills. That is my report. Mr. Seropian, would you like to add. Mr. Seropian – I think you covered it and the resolution that you covered was passed tonight, one day before the deadline and that index again is not setting your final millage, you won't do that until June, but that is setting the maximum that you can increase the millage if you so choose.

Personnel – Mindy Sturgess/Steve Kondrosky – Mrs. Sturgess reported. The team met on Wednesday, January 11th, to discuss the personnel items that were presented and passed on this evening's green sheets. That concludes my report.

Safe Schools – Chris Halaszynski – We met this afternoon at the district's administration. We talked about building reviews, each administrator from that building touched base on what's going on. More importantly we spoke of the ALICE training which is the active shooter training. We will put together a plan so that the students can get involved. There is a video that we can show the students and have them participate as well as in the actual tactical training part of it within the high school. The specifics haven't been settled yet, but the high school students will hopefully be participating in some training to see how the ALICE training goes down. That was pretty much the meeting.

Solicitor's Report – no report

Correspondence – none

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

Voting aye. All Members present.

ATTEST:

David M. Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary

