

McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
December 7, 2016

Presiding	Joe Lopretto, President
Date, Time, Place	Wednesday, December 7, 2016, 7:30 PM, Auditorium, McKeesport Area High School, 1960 Eden Park 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 Ivan Hampton Mary Jane Keller Steve Kondrosky Joe Lopretto Patricia Maksin Scott Smith Mindy Sturgess Excused. Chris Halaszynski
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 Jack Cambest, Solicitor

Board President's Remarks – The only thing I can say is I thought that was very special of us what we did for a bunch of very fine gentlemen tonight. I went to the game, I got to see them leave their hearts on the field. Even though we came out of there with an "L", they came out as winners. They proved it afterwards also. There was no sobbing, they were all smiling and happy and everything. That's Tiger pride and I was real happy for that. That's all I got to say.

Superintendent's Report – Good evening again. And I have to reiterate to say what a wonderful recognition it was for our football team this year. I am very proud that we had such a wonderful group of fine gentlemen representing us at Heinz Field as well as the coaching

Regular Board Meeting
December 7, 2016

staff. I know that they put their hearts and souls into the entire season, the eleven-month season, and I know unfortunately we didn't come out with the results that we wanted, but we know deep down what really should have happened, need I say any more. My Superintendent's Report this evening I would like to begin by saying what a wonderful event occurred last week at the Festival of Trees and Mr. Jim Brown, you sitting on the School Board as well as being involved with the City of McKeesport, I have to commend you, it was a wonderful event. I have heard it from many people throughout the community I was very happy that so many of our schools and organizations were able to participate in it. I think every year gets bigger and bigger and I have to say that our culinary students did an excellent job with the preparation of the food and Mr. Jeff Richardson being there with the students overseeing that so I want to say thanks Jim for a job well done. Last evening Dr. Bauman and I were able to go to Penn State Greater Allegheny to see the culminating activity from our Stemology students which are our middle school students that are affiliated with Blue Roof Technology. We were there and we saw them actually participate in a Jeopardy game. It was very enlightening to see the students working together, collaborating to come up with the correct answer and really having fun while learning at the same time. It was a great evening and I was happy that we both were able to attend. I'm not going to list all of the holiday concerts because they are on our website, but we do have our first one coming up Francis McClure Primary on December 9th, it's this Friday at 9:30 AM Francis McClure Primary will be having their holiday concert, but we will be having holiday concerts throughout the remainder of the month. We also have a very special event occurring this coming Friday. We are dedicating the red gym in honor and in memory of a fellow educator who passed away suddenly last year, Mr. Paul Sebelia. You are all invited to attend. We will be dedicating at approximately 7:15 PM at Founders Hall. That also should be a wonderful evening. We have an early dismissal for our secondary students grades 6-12 for professional development and you will see that tonight on agenda as well our Pre-K doing a gingerbread house building night which is always fun because I actually always remember Mr. Sebelia and I attending that last year and as our Pre-K students were making their gingerbread houses, Mr. Sebelia and I were going around tasting all of the wonderful candy they were putting on the gingerbread houses, so that is also happening on the 19th of December. In conclusion I would like to say that during this holiday season I encourage all of you to reflect on the things and people who are truly important in your lives. It is important for all of us to step back and put things into perspective and appreciate our blessings. At this special time of year, I would like to acknowledge my appreciation for our School Board of Directors, and MASD employees for their dedication and all they do to make our school district a better place. May you, your family and friends enjoy a blessed holiday and a happy healthy new year. Thank you.

Treasurer's Report – Mr. Kondrosky moved to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report for the month of October 2016. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

Regular Board Meeting
December 7, 2016

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

Excused. Mr. Halaszynski

Hearing of Citizens – none

Minutes – Mr. Smith moved to approve the minutes of the Open Agenda Meeting of October 19, 2016, and Regular Meeting of October 26, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

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

Excused. Mr. Halaszynski

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

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

Excused. Mr. Halaszynski

Refunds – Mr. Smith moved to approve property tax refunds. Seconded by Mrs. Maksin.

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

Excused. Mr. Halaszynski

Resolution – Mr. Smith moved to approve Resolution #1151 – AIU Joint Purchasing. Seconded by Mrs. Maksin.

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

Excused. Mr. Halaszynski

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

- A. High School students to New York City on April 28-30, 2017.

Regular Board Meeting
December 7, 2016

Seconded by Mr. Smith.

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

Excused. Mr. Halaszynski

MOU – Mr. Smith moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between McKeesport Area School District and County Children and Youth Agencies. Seconded by Mrs. Sturgess.

TABLE – Mrs. Keller moved to table. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

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

Excused. Mr. Halaszynski

Policies – Mrs. Keller moved for second reading and adoption of the following Board Policies:

#334 – Employees – Sick Leave

#710.1 – Property – School Mail Facilities

#715 – Property – Use of Fax Machines

Seconded by Mr. Brown.

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

Excused. Mr. Halaszynski

Resolutions – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve Resolutions #1152, #1153, #1154 and #1155 – student discipline. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

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

Excused. Mr. Halaszynski

Program – Mr. Smith moved to accept the services of Western Psychiatric Matilda Theiss Program to provide community and school based behavioral health services to the eligible students of Twin Rivers School. Seconded by Mrs. Keller.

Regular Board Meeting
December 7, 2016

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

Excused. Mr. Halaszynski

Textbooks – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the purchase of textbooks entitled “Collections” for English, Language Arts and Reading for grades 6-12 from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) in the amount of \$142,442.60. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

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

Excused. Mr. Halaszynski

Early Dismissals – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the early dismissal Act 80 dates for grades 6-12 for the purpose of teacher professional development:

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Monday, May 8, 2017

Seconded by Mr. Smith.

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

Excused. Mr. Halaszynski

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

PROFESSIONAL:

Resignation: Long Term Substitute:

Caelyn DiSanti Science Teacher, High School, effective 11/23/16:
(McArdle)

To be hired: effective 12/12/16:

Nicholas LoNigro Math Teacher, to be determined
Step 1B Salary \$41,778.00 (pro-rated)

Susan Lewandowski Science Teacher, to be determined

Regular Board Meeting
December 7, 2016

Step 1M+15 Salary \$42,478.00 (pro-rated)

Leave of Absence:

Kate Davis English Teacher, High School, leave of absence effective approximately 1/16/17 to an undetermined date. Unpaid leave will commence at the expiration of sick and personal days. FMLA

Kathleen Haselhoff Title I Facilitator, Twin Rivers Intermediate School, unpaid leave of absence effective 11/21/16 to an undetermined date. FMLA

To be hired: long term substitute: rate of pay will be \$80/day + benefits and increases to \$125/day on the 61st day:

Christina Goodlin English Teacher, High School, effective approximately 1/16/17

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

*Derek Price Intramurals – High School (shared) \$2,020.65

*Cody Dishong Intramurals – High School (shared) \$2,020.65

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

Haley Ekaitis Assistant Swimming Coach \$3,007.48

Changes to the substitute teacher list:

Additions:

*Audrey Mlynar Vocational – Cosmetology

*Jonna Flannery Family and Consumer Science

Deletions:

Kelly Fitterer

Amie Olasz Elementary

SUPPORT STAFF:

Resignation:

Kameron Townes Special Education Assistant, Twin Rivers Primary/Intermediate Schools, effective 11/21/16

To be hired: effective immediately:

Nancy Sloan Special Education Assistant, placement to be determined
Step 1 Salary \$16,800.00 (pro-rated)

Melissa Cooper Special Education Assistant, placement to be determined
Step 1 Salary \$16,800.00 (pro-rated)

Regular Board Meeting
December 7, 2016

Edie Barnett General Worker, Food Service Department, High School
Step 1 Salary \$8.25/hour

Changes to the substitute lists:

Additions:

*Jesse Henderson Custodian
*Ana Orsini-Class Food Service
*Cecilia Foreman Food Service
*Laura Przybyla Special Education Assistant
*Pending receipt of Act 24, 34, 114 and 151 clearances, Act 168 Disclosure Release, TB Tine and Drug test results

Conference Requests:

Jennifer Sikorski Adolescent Literacy Institute. Sponsored by the Allegheny
Intermediate Unit at the Waterfront Offices, Homestead, PA
Several dates throughout the school year \$600.00
Don Williams Certified Education Technology Leader Certified Program at
State College, PA November 30, 2016 and January 25, 2017
\$1,345.50

ADDENDUM:

Professional:

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:

Rachel Ochsenhirt Science Teacher, Founders Hall, effective 12/13/16.
(S. Bauman)

Leave of absence:

Jamie Rossi Special Education Teacher, Founders Hall, unpaid child care
leave of absence effective 12/15/16 to an undetermined date.

Resignation: extra-curricular athletics for the 2016/2017 school year:

Dallan Cline 7/8 Grade Wrestling Coach
Curt Nelson JV Boys Basketball Coach

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

*Zac Argyle	7/8 Grade Wrestling Coach (shared)	\$1,263.91
*Christian Bosco	7/8 Grade Wrestling Coach (shared)	\$1,263.91
*Jared Nelson	JV Boys Basketball Coach	\$2,819.52

Regular Board Meeting
December 7, 2016

Volunteer: extra-curricular athletics for the 2016/2017 school year:
Curt Nelson Assistant Boys Basketball Coach

Changes to the substitute teacher list:

Additions:

*Sam Benson Elementary

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

Excused. Mr. Halaszynski

Bid – Mr. Kondrosky moved to accept the bid for purchase of Centennial Elementary School from MSK Investment, LLC in the amount of \$30,000 and authorize the President, Business Manager and Solicitor to develop and finalize all needed transactional documentation to complete the sale from the McKeesport Area School District to MSK Investment, LLC. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

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

Excused. Mr. Halaszynski

Committee Reports -

Athletic –Mary Jane Keller/Jim Brown – Mr. Hampton reported. On November 21st we had our Athletic Committee Meeting. At the meeting of course we discussed the outcome of the WPIAL playoff game. Mrs. Maksin suggested that we have a recognition for the players and the coaches at this meeting tonight. Personally I would like to thank the School Board for allowing this to happen because I think the kids were well deserving. They accepted the outcome of the game with class and humility and they played well enough to win. We also discussed the date for the renaming of the Paul Sebelia gymnasium which will be Friday the 9th. We discussed the retirement of Mr. Fred Lewis' jersey which will be set for a date in January. Mr. Lewis will be given two dates to choose which suits him best. Mr. Kiss gave us a copy of the email that he sent to Mr. O'Malley concerning the rough reading of the WPIAL game. Mr. O'Malley's response basically were the referees' decisions in the game are final and the NHFS book states that once protests of the rules or decisions of the referees will not be recognized.

Regular Board Meeting
December 7, 2016

So, basically there was nothing we can do about what happened at the game. Again, I would like to thank the School Board for what they have done for the student athletes here. I deeply appreciate it and I know they do. Thank you.

Buildings & Grounds – Steve Kondrosky – Thanks Mr. President. Ed Fagan and myself met this morning and I'm sorry Mr. Halaszynski is going to miss this, but we replaced a lot of lightbulbs in this district recently. (Unable to transcribe this portion as it came to the end of the tape and time was needed to switch the tape.) The paint booth auto body today December 7th was meeting with Walter Clawson to have that done. The concrete replacement handicap ramps on campus is going very well. They are doing a fine job and scheduled completion should be in about two weeks. That concludes my report. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everybody.

Career & Technology – Pat Maksin – We did meet on December 1st. We discussed the Festival of Trees which was the first day for Festival of Trees for the culinary students and I would like to commend them on a job well done there. They will be getting started with their lunches again tomorrow from what I see on the website. So, we are back to a normal schedule with the culinary. There are budget meetings with the MATC staff ongoing. There will be a Perkins review which is the grant that we get in April. April 26, 27 and 28 Richard Steinmeyer from PDE will be here to do that. Lois Richards was supposed to meet with Dr. Holtzman yesterday and he has been implementing the review of the overhaul of the curriculum and she was going to be meeting with him on how to incorporate the CTC into that overhaul and give us some feedback on that. Hopefully, that was accomplished yesterday. The NOCTE pre-tests have been given to our completers. In the fall is the electronic pre-test, in the spring will be the hands on. That will be accomplished then.

Community Relations/Cultural Diversity – Jim Brown/Ivan Hampton – Mr. Brown reported. We did not meet this month Mr. President. We'll be back next month.

Education/Legislation/Policy – Mary Jane Keller/Mindy Sturgess – Mrs. Sturgess reported. The Education Committee met on November 23rd to discuss the Board action to accept the services from Western Psych, the Matilda Theiss. As Dr. Bauman had mentioned, Twin Rivers was awarded a phenomenal grant and opportunity to actually have five full-time mental health clinicians on site. They are eligible initially to work with MA eligible students. They also have the potential to eventually accept outside student insurance. The grant was awarded based on the PVAAS model and the support and services that Twin Rivers already had in place. They essentially have a three-tier system with a school-wide behavior support plan being at that primary tier that involves all students. Students that need a little bit more intensive support or service are addressed through the student assistance program. Now this is the addition of

Regular Board Meeting
December 7, 2016

a tier three intervention that is going to be even more intensive for those students who need it. In addition to working with individual students, we are also going to have on-site physician services available once a week. The five mental health based clinicians will be available to take students to appointments, work with families, do crisis with all students and also do staff development. As Dr. Bauman eluded, we would certainly like to have this extend and have this opportunity for our other buildings. Even enabling that to occur would be looking at a school-wide positive behavior support plan. That concludes my report. Mrs. Keller reported. The Legislation and Policy Committee met on November 23rd. We discussed and recommended for adoption at tonight's meeting the following policies: #334 – Employee – Sick Leave; #710.1 – Property – School Mail Facilities; #715 – Property – Use of Fax Machines. That's my report.

Finance/Grants/Outside Funding – Scott Smith – Grants and outside funding. We've got four newer grants that are currently underway. We've got the Talent Search Grant in the amount of \$1,375,000 which added two full time counselors for a period of five years. Grant will be used for the salaries and overhead costs to provide opportunities for students in the school district to visit colleges and to research. The second one is Safe Schools, SRO Grant in the amount of \$60,000 for the funds to be used for the school resource officer salary. We have the ADY grant in the amount of \$50,000 which will be used to enhance curriculum, books and technology within the district. And we received an equipment grant in the amount of \$14,725 which will be used to purchase equipment for auto collision and repair curriculum. In regards to finance, I'm going to go way back to the 2015/2016 budget, just to inform the public and rest of the Board that we showed an increase in the fund balance of approximately \$3.4 million, which is currently shown with that at approximately \$4.5 million. In regards to the current 2016/2017 budget, some other good news. For the past several years we've talked about PlanCon from the State not receiving any funds. We have received an initial payment of about \$300,000 in November for previous construction projects and we are approximating that the State still owes us about \$2 million in back PlanCon monies which I believe they intend to follow through with. In regards to the upcoming 2017/2018 budget, Mr. Seropian has started the process and I shouldn't use the word start, because it's kind of like when the previous year budget is approved I'm sure his mind is working towards setting up the next year's budget. We're starting to move the wheels on that in between his many other little jobs that he does. That's my report.

Personnel – Mindy Sturgess/Steve Kondrosky – Mrs. Sturgess reported. The Personnel Committee met on November 30th to discuss those issues and items that were presented on this evening's green sheet.

Safe Schools – Chris Halaszynski – Dr. Skezas reported. We had a Safe Schools meeting today

Regular Board Meeting
December 7, 2016

at 3:00 PM in the Administration Building. The first item of discussion was the ALICE training. We are still underway with making sure that all of our staff members are trained if the unfortunate situation would occur of an active shooter. Something that we talked about and Mr. Wayne Wade who is our director of security throughout the district, talked about perhaps showing a video for students in grades 9-12 and showing them a situation in which an active shooter if in fact that were to happen within our school. We are looking at dates as to when we can show that to our students. We are also looking at dates with staff and police officers to continue the active shooter training. High School cameras, 14 to 16 cameras are being installed outside and throughout the parking lots. This job should be complete within the next couple of weeks. We have moved security guards around for Founders Hall dismissal to adjust to new time schedules. We are also looking at Staley Communication and Westcom and looking at their service contracts with the walkie talkies. We are trying to get the best price so that we are getting the best bang for our buck. That concludes Mr. Halaszynski's report on safe schools.

Solicitor's Report – no report

Correspondence –

Adjournment – 8:00 PM – Mr. Kondrosky moved for adjournment. Seconded by Mr. Keller.

Voting aye. All Members present.

ATTEST:

David M. Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary