

McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
May 25, 2016

Presiding	Joe Lopretto, Board President
Date, Time, Place	Wednesday, May 25, 2016, 7:30 PM, Board Room, Administration Building, 3590 O'Neil Boulevard, McKeesport, PA 15132.
Opening Exercises	Mr. Lopretto called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM, followed by the Pledge to the Flag. We did meet in Executive Session prior to the Regular Meeting to discuss personnel and potential litigation items and issues.
Present	Jim Brown Trisha Gadson Chris Halaszynski 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

Board President's Remarks – I never really have anything to say. I would just like to say that we have a lot of good things going on in the school district and summer time is coming. I want everybody to be safe and have a good summer. I also got to attend the Allied Health awards luncheon yesterday and I was very proud to say my granddaughter was involved in it and it was really nice and I just want our students to keep striving and moving forward.

Superintendent's Report – Good evening. A couple of things that I would like to make mention of that I was very happy to participate and attend over the past several weeks. One was our kindergarten fun event that we always have the Monday after Mother's Day and we had over 120 registered kindergarteners that came to Founders Hall with the opportunity to

Regular Board Meeting
May 25, 2016

have a golden ticket if all of their forms were complete, an opportunity to win an iPad. We had over 120 people attend with their families, we served food, they had the bouncy house, and a great time was had by all, but I am going to ask all of you in the audience to please spread the word, kindergarten sign-ups are needed. We want to have as many students registered for kindergarten as soon as possible so we know who will be attending and what it is they will need to complete their packets. I also attended the National Technical Honor Society which I am proud to be the Director of the McKeesport Area Technology Center and what a wonderful ceremony. It was held in the Tiger Inn on May 10th. Our Remake Learning day, we had our students visit South Fayette and then we had South Fayette students visit Twin Rivers and I think a great day and a great learning experience was had by all. The choir senior recognition concert happened on May 10th and once again we did receive the National Music Award, if you all remember last year they brought their trailer here and our students got to record some songs and this year we won the award again and that is a National recognition for our Music Department. So, kudos to our music teachers and our musicians in the district. Our Remake Learning luncheon was great and that is something that happened on May 12th and our Tiger Inn, we had our Robotics students involved, we had our culinary students involved, and we also had elementary students from both Twin Rivers and Francis McClure participate. It was very well done and I know we received many positive comments. McKeesport Area School District participated in the community banking day last week, last Thursday where we set up a table in Harrison Village and in Crawford Village and we tried to continue that with our McKeesport Area School District On the Move. It was a great way to meet some future parents, for me to see some of my former students, and to catch up and share with them what it is we are doing in our school district and would like them to get more involved with their children and with our schools. I am happy to say at this point in time, and I see some people in the audience that may have been affected, Dr. Bauman and I had to visit, unfortunately, in the last several weeks, probably two months, over 25 teachers and staff members letting them know that there is a possibility of their job being eliminated or that they may have to move into various positions. Through the checker boarding process and for those of you that don't know what that is, that is when we have to use a teacher's alternate certification in order to save another teacher's position within the McKeesport Area Education Association. With that being done and with some people moving and going onto other positions, I am proud to say that we are not going to have any furloughs in the McKeesport Area School District. I know that I have colleagues in neighboring school district that unfortunately are going to have to have that difficult process and are going through a horrible situation and many people are going to be without jobs. I do have to say and I thank God that we are able to make sure that everyone is working for the 16/17 school year. Without further adieu, I would like to introduce some students that are here this evening. They are coached by Chris and Amy Kastronis, students from Founders Hall are here tonight who participated in the FabSlam grant competition. They received a free 3D printer and money to cover supplies for the project. The team competed against nine other

Regular Board Meeting
May 25, 2016

schools in the region at the Carnegie Science Center on May 12th, and I welcome you. (Presentation by the students.) Something that I may suggest to Dr. Holtzman is perhaps next year you will be moving on to 9th grade, perhaps you could be mentors and come and talk with the 8th graders and 7th graders and other middle school students so that we can have a nice feeder program and you can show them what you have learned. Thank you so much and Mr. Kastronis, thank you very much. Ms. Adams for getting that grant out there and starting the whole process going. I just want to say thank you very much and we're very fortunate to have great students like you within our district. That concludes my report. One more thing I do want to mention is that tomorrow night is our prom, so let's pray for nice weather. The promenade is happening tomorrow, it begins at 5:30 PM, we know it's such a big deal in our community, so let's just pray for nice weather so we can watch our children dressed up and participate in that great event. Thank you.

Mr. Lopretto – One more thing. On behalf of the Board any myself, I would like to thank Dr. Skezas and Dr. Bauman and everybody who worked on saving all the employees because since I've been here, this is my ninth year on the Board, I haven't seen one employee furloughed and that makes me proud to work with such a great staff.

Treasurer's Report – Mr. Kondrosky moved to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report for the month of April 2016. Seconded by Mrs. Sturgess.

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

Hearing of Citizens – None

Minutes – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the minutes of the Open Agenda Meeting of April 20, 2016 and Regular Meeting of April 27, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

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

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

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

Refunds – Mr. Brown moved to approve property tax refunds as presented. Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

Regular Board Meeting
May 25, 2016

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

Depositories – Mrs. Keller moved to designate the District's financial depositories for the 2016/2017 fiscal year as presented. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

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

Budget – Mr. Brown moved to adopt the 2016/2017 Preliminary Budget in the amount of \$64,631,615 with a millage rate of 16.74 mills as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Maksin. Discussion followed.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mrs. Gadson, Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith, *Mrs. Sturgess

Voting no. Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto

*NOTE: Mrs. Sturgess voted yes with the expectation that some of the expenditures that we have noted already would be shown within the numbers if that's possible.

Mr. Seropian – For the final budget, yea.

Mrs. Sturgess – I was able to identify some areas that I think we could make potential cuts. Upwards of \$50,000 so I would like to see those adjusted accordingly and then take a closer look at it by item. So, if we have \$50,000 for equipment we need to look at what is that equipment that was allotted and make decisions whether or not this is the time and place to make those purchases.

Note that Mr. Kondrosky and Mr. Lopretto agreed with the comments made by Mrs. Sturgess.

Program – Mrs. Keller moved to approve the Elect Teen Parenting Program for Summer 2016. Seconded by Mrs. Sturgess.

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

Contract – Mr. Scott moved to approve a contract with Associated Occupational Therapists, Inc. for physical and occupational therapy services for the 2016/2017 school year at the following hourly rates - \$61.50/OTR/L; \$51.25/COTA/L; \$65.00/PT; and \$55.00/PTA. Seconded by Mr.

Regular Board Meeting
May 25, 2016

Kondrosky.

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

Resolutions – Mr. Halaszynski moved to approve resolutions #1142, #1143, #1144 and #1145 – student discipline. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

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

Policies – First reading of the following Board policies:

626 – Finances – Federal Fiscal Compliance

626.1 – Finances – Travel Reimbursement – Federal Programs

808 – Operations – Food Services

827 – Operations – Conflict of Interest

Green Sheets – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve personnel recommendations. Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski.

Act 93 – To be hired: effective 7/1/16:

Dale McCall	Acting Assistant High School Principal. Yearly stipend to be determined.
-------------	--

Jamie Lusebrink	Acting Assistant Elementary Principal at Twin Rivers Primary/ Intermediate Schools. Yearly stipend to be determined.
-----------------	--

Lisa Miracle	Acting Assistant Elementary Principal at Francis McClure Primary/ Intermediate Schools. Yearly stipend to be determined.
--------------	--

Timothy Brown	School Environment Coordinator. Salary to be determined pending the Act 93 Agreement
---------------	--

Professional:

Retirement: Effective 6/14/16: Retirement is requested under the Retirement Incentive for the Professional Employees adopted 10/22/14: (Retirement is pending approval of the School Board to waive the deadline date):

Ralph Brinkman	Computer Usage Teacher, Founders Hall
----------------	---------------------------------------

Retirement: Effective 6/13/16:

Karen Cole	Music Teacher (Band) at the High School
------------	---

Regular Board Meeting
May 25, 2016

Resignation: Effective 6/13/16:

Staci Roddy	Health and Physical Education Teacher at the High School
Joan Smith	Science Teacher at the High School

To be hired: Effective for the 2016/2017 school year: (Stipend will be \$2,500):

Ryan Sturgess	Dean of Students at Founders Hall
---------------	-----------------------------------

To be hired: Long Term Substitute: Rate of pay will be \$125/day + benefits effective 5/9/16:

Christine Snyder (J. Huwalt)	Elementary Teacher, Twin Rivers Primary/Intermediate Schools
---------------------------------	---

TO BE HIRED: Summer Music Program: Hourly rate of pay will be \$24.13.

1.	Mark DeCarlo	27 hours	Brass
2.*	Steve Flory	27 hours	Percussion
3.*	Jesse Bush	26 hours	Woodwinds
4.	Sarah Persin	40 hours	Strings
5.	Mark DeCarlo	60 hours	Marching Band Instruction

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

1.*	Jamie Eckels	Assistant Football Coach	\$3,269.00
2.*	Ivan Hampton	Assistant Football Coach	\$3,269.00
3.*	Tom Smith	Assistant Football Coach	\$3,269.00
4.*	Jared Miller	Assistant Football Coach	\$3,269.00
5.*	Tim Mader	Assistant Football Coach	\$3,269.00
6.	John Harper	Assistant Football Coach	\$3,269.00
7.*	Troy Brown	9 th Grade Football Coach (shared)	\$1,260.57
8.*	John Moninger	9 th Grade Football Coach (shared)	\$1,260.57
9.*	John Grabowsky	7/8 Grade Football Coach (shared)	\$1,260.57
10.*	Sam Bostic	7/8 Grade Football Coach (shared)	\$1,260.57
11.*	Kenny Brown	7/8 Grade Football Coach (shared)	\$1,260.57
12.*	Ryan Smith	7/8 Grade Football Coach (shared)	\$1,260.57
13.	Josh Volpe	7/8 Grade Football Coach (shared)	\$1,260.57
14.*	Tim Sweeney	7/8 Grade Football Coach (shared)	\$1,260.57
15.*	Gerald Grayson	Boys Basketball Coach	\$6,628.81
16.*	Jamie Grayson	Assistant Boys Basketball Coach	\$4,177.06
17.*	Curtis Nelson	JV Boys Basketball Coach	\$2,724.17
18.	John Harper	9 th Grade Boys Basketball Coach	\$2,363.57
19.*	Jared Thompson	8 th Grade Boys Basketball Coach	\$1,890.85
20.	Eric Smith	Girls Basketball Coach	\$6,628.81

Regular Board Meeting
May 25, 2016

21.	Troy Blackwell	Assistant Girls Basketball Coach	\$4,177.06
22.*	Amy Gumbert	JV Girls Basketball Coach	\$2,724.17
23.*	Adam Alfer	Wrestling Coach	\$6,265.59
24.	Matt Miller	Off Season Conditioning Coach	\$2,500.00
25.*	Jamie Eckels	Assistant Off Season Conditioning Coach	\$1,800.00
26.*	Ivan Hampton	Assistant Off Season Conditioning Coach	\$1,800.00
27.*	John Moninger	Assistant Off Season Conditioning Coach	\$1,800.00
28.	John Harper	Assistant Off Season Conditioning Coach	\$1,800.00
29.*	Tim Mader	Assistant Off Season Conditioning Coach (shared)	\$ 900.00
30.	Troy Blackwell	Assistant Off Season Conditioning Coach (shared)	\$ 900.00
31.*	Ron Kalup	Assistant Off Season Conditioning Coach (shared)	\$ 900.00
32.*	Habeeb Abdul-Raab	Assistant Off Season Conditioning Coach (shared)	\$ 900.00
33.	Milan Kiska	Swimming Coach	\$4,994.31
34.*	Corey Winters	Assistant Boys Soccer Coach	\$1,816.11
35.*	Matt Domiano	7/8 Grade Boys Soccer Coach	\$1,733.28
36.*	Chris Coldinger	Assistant Girls Soccer Coach	\$1,816.11
37.*	Anthony Jacobs	7/8 Grade Girls Soccer Coach	\$1,733.28
38.*	Garey Christian	Weightlifting Coach (shared)	\$1,498.29
39.*	John Pavlecic	Weightlifting Coach (shared)	\$1,498.29

SUPPORT STAFF:

RETIREMENT: Effective 06-13-16:

1. Jackie Slinski Special Education Assistant at the High School

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

1. Eileen Morgan General Worker, Food Service Department, at the High School, effective 05-02-16 (not to exceed 1 year)
2. Elizabeth Ball General Worker, Food Service Department, at the High School, effective 05-16-16 (not to exceed 1 year)

CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE LISTS:

ADDITIONS:

1. Justin Smith Custodian
- 2.* Joshua Wood Custodian

TO BE HIRED: Summer laborers in the maintenance department effective 05-01-16. Hourly rate of pay will be \$7.25:

- 1.* Joshua Wood
- 2.* Dante Vaniel

Regular Board Meeting
May 25, 2016

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

CONFERENCE REQUESTS:

1. Pamela Gordon PA Educational Leadership Summit at Penn State University. Sponsored by Pennsylvania Principals Association. July 24, 2016 through July 26, 2016 (Paid for by Title I)
\$720.88

Elimination of Professional Positions

- (2) Grade 1 Twin Rivers Primary School
- (2) Grade 1 Francis McClure Primary School
- (1) Grade 2 Francis McClure Primary School
- (1) Grade 5 Francis McClure Intermediate School
- (1) Classroom of the Future Coach at the High School
- (1) Art Teacher at the High School
- (2) Music Teachers at Founders' Hall
- (1) School Nurse

Creation of Professional Positions

- (1) Special Education Teacher at the High School
- (1) Special Education Teacher at Founders Hall Middle School
- (1) Dean of Students at Founders Hall Middle School

Create the following Act 93 positions

- (1) School Environment Coordinator at the High School
- (1) Twin Rivers Primary/Intermediate School Assistant Principal
- (1) Francis McClure Primary/Intermediate School Assistant Principal
- (1) Director of Elementary Education/Curriculum and Instruction

Rename the following Act 93 positions

Twin Rivers Primary/Intermediate School Principal **to** Twin Rivers Principal
Francis McClure Primary/Intermediate School Principal **to** Francis McClure Principal
Special Education Supervisor **to** Special Education Supervisor/Assistant Coordinator of Alt. Ed.
Director of District Security/Assistant Coordinator of Alt. Ed. Services **to** Assistant High School Principal/District Security Coordinator

Regular Board Meeting
May 25, 2016

ADDENDUM:

Support Staff:

Retirement: Effective 6/13/15:

Ken Bobuk Computer Lab Technician at the High School

To be hired: Summer laborers in the maintenance department effective 5/1/16. Hourly rate of pay will be \$7.25:

1. Russell Matesig
2. Mustafa Musa
3. *Zalamir Meadow
4. *Elijah McBride
5. *Kahleel Bryant
6. *Duane Tymous
7. *Cheyenne Perez
8. *Davonte Doty

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

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

*Mr. Lopretto – abstaining on page 3 item 1

**Mr. Brown - abstaining on page 1 item 4

***Mrs. Sturgess – abstaining on page 1 section 5 item 1

Act 93 – Mrs. Sturgess moved to approve the addendum to the Act 93 agreement effective July 1, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Brown. Mrs. Sturgess explained.

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

Abstaining. Mrs. Gadson

Realignment – Mrs. Maksin moved to approve the Administrative realignment for the 2016/2017 school year. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

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

Committee Reports -

Athletic –Mary Jane Keller/Jim Brown – Mrs. Keller reported. The Athletic Committee met on Monday, May 9th, we reviewed and recommended for approval the following positions and salaries which are on your green sheets. In addition, the off season football coaches and all volunteer coaches were listed and recommended for approval and a reminder about the triathlon that's going to take place in June. That's my report.

Buildings & Grounds – Steve Kondrosky – Yes, Mr. President, we did meet this morning, it was Mr. Fagan, Dr. Coughenour, Ms. Adams, Mr. Williams and myself at about 7:30 this morning, coffee and donuts were provided and that concludes my report – only kidding you. They did a couple of things here that needs to be brought to everybody's attention. They replaced a door in the guidance entrance room, band room, for about the third or fourth time. I don't know why that keeps getting broken, but it does. Fortunately, we were, through Mr. Seropian's approval, I guess, permitted to purchase a new washer and dryer for in-house laundry and they had to do some mechanical hook-up and electrical hook-up which was done in-house which is really nice. Ms. Adams now is a little of a pain in the butt when it comes to some things at this school library that is being funded by the Alumni Project and we had the opportunity to connect three one-ton Mitsubishi heating and cooling units in that area and they put up a new garage door and they're tearing up the carpet and remodeling the room and it looks really good. She's really on it, she's aggravating the heck out of Mr. Fagan and I don't know how he does it with her, but she does a nice job too. They continue to secure the windows and the doors at the old GW school due to the break-ins. They're cutting all the grass at the empty schools and the lots that the school district owns. The elevator inspector was here which is a three-year routine test, just to make them up to standard under the Uniform Construction Code of the PA Labor and Industry. The grounds are all being completed with cutting grass and putting some mulch in and beautifying it for tomorrow night's prom. It looks pretty good out there and that concludes my report.

Career & Technology – Pat Maksin – We did meet on May 19th, the 339 Review final report has been submitted. We also talked about the library project that Mr. Kondrosky just talked about, converting that library into a true media center. The Alumni Association made donations for the materials, so that is supposedly going to be a beautiful project when it's done. Also, our building construction people were responsible for digging up the playground that will be for our Pre-K that's next to Founders Hall. The Tiger Inn has also been involved in a lot of catering events, some of these events that we have been having that you have been made aware of, our Tiger Inn has been doing some catering to those events. It's a wonderful add-on that we have in our district that we have that ability. For next year we're hoping to have a sign for the Tiger Inn that will designate it so that people will be able to see that Tiger Inn. Specifically I want to congratulate the MATC on their NOCTI scores. We had 90% of our

Regular Board Meeting
May 25, 2016

students that took the NOCTI were at competent or advanced and that is very significant. Two last things I want to talk about is that Lois Richards, who is a distinguished educator who has been working in our district made note of Mr. Locke's teach-a-matic, his white board on the back and she found that such a wonderful practice that she's now taking that to the State and sharing it with the State so that can be something that is done throughout the State. The last thing is that the grant we have to get a bobcat, and we call it Brie's bobcat now and we will be able to get bobcat certification at the high school now. Thank you, that's my report.

Community Relations/Cultural Diversity –Trisha Gadson – Mr. President, we actually had a meeting today. We only discussed one agenda item on there and that was the teacher perception survey that was rolled out in April and concluded in May. The purpose of the perception survey was to begin to generate conversation and to gather information about perceptions that exist within educators about our evolving community especially with the increasing numbers around students of African American decent and from lower socio-economic areas. The purpose is to be able to, the idea was to get quantitative and qualitative information in terms of looking at the numbers of how many people responded. There were 114 educators who responded and then there were some antidotal information and teachers gave their anonymous comments about what they thought is existing here, what they thought about the survey, what they thought were strengths and deficits about the district, the Board, the needs of the community, the needs of support for teachers. The purpose of that is for that to be a spring board. Dr. Skezas has agreed to have a two-day training that will be held on June 28th and June 29th from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM here at Founders Hall. It will be for the Administrative team and invitation is extended to all Board members as well as anyone in the community who wants to attend. The Diversity Committee has also been invited as well as the McKeesport Coalition. The date is June 28th and 29th and it is being facilitated by Dr. Virginia Hill of Pittsburgh Public Schools and she was trained by the Equity Team of the Pittsburgh Public School System, actually the school district obtained the referral from Mrs. Sturgess.

Mrs. Sturgess – I myself have participated in that training and also have listened to presentations that Dr. Hill has done and the training itself was very eye-opening and started a lot of dialogue about race and diversity. Conversations that most people aren't comfortable having that brings it to the forefront and your commitment is then to carry that on moving forward going back. Dr. Hill is a tremendous speaker, very motivational. I think you would find it to be a very worthwhile training.

Mrs. Gadson – To conclude with Mrs. Sturgess' comments, conversations in the Diversity Committee have been really been focusing, we're trying to move it more about data, the performance and also having more conversations about race and poverty. It is sometimes

Regular Board Meeting
May 25, 2016

uncomfortable, the conversations, but the people that are in the room are committed to the process and committed to the conversation and one of the things that we try and a recommendation that I always say is that race is something that you acknowledge, not saying that it has to be the driving force, but it is acknowledged. So, we have been having those conversations in the meeting.

Education/Legislation/Policy – Mary Jane Keller/Mindy Sturgess – Mrs. Sturgess reported. The Education/Legislation/Policy Committee met on May 18th. We had a pretty packed agenda that day. One of the first things that we asked for as Board Members is to take a look at our Dibels data for our K-5 students. They broke it down for us which was very nice by grade level, looking at our beginning year, mid-year and end of year scores. I'm not going to lie, there are some alarming results. Anybody that may have talked to me prior to the election, my whole purpose for running is to look at early literacy, that's what I do in my job and I'm very committed to making all students readers, especially by third grade, so this data tells me that we have a lot of work to do, but I am happy to say that there is a plan in place right now for our K-2 students, a Wilson Reading Program which is an Orton-Gillingham based program. It's the Cadillac of reading programs if you ask anybody. It will be in place for our students next year, K-2. From my experiences, one of the difficulties that we have had in Pittsburgh with it, because it was a program that we use, one of the reasons it was not effective is because we did not allot additional time for those students who need what they call a double dose. I am happy to say that McKeesport is going to have that in place next year and I'm very excited about the prospects of really changing some of our Dibels scores around. The next thing we talked about was the ACE and AIMS updates. You may not be aware, but the ACE program has been at Francis McClure for the past two years, my daughter is one of the students in the ACE program. When we signed them up in fourth grade, we were told that it was going to go on to eighth grade. Our students would stay together with the emphasis on culture and looking at different countries and the teachers have done a really nice job with that. I am happy to say that through some tweaks in the scheduling for next year, the ACE program will be able to continue, as will the AIMS next year as well. Right now, that's only in the elementary schools. But the ACE program will continue with our first round of sixth graders coming in to Founders next year. We are also doing work, specifically I would like to thank Pam Gordon for the work that she's done so far this year with the books from the IU. She's working with Dr. Moschetta and Dr. Rose on looking at our reading and science curricula and getting that aligned. I know Jane has done some work with that as well, and I know it's getting everybody across the district on the same page in terms of our scopes and sequences, what activities and things that we're going to be focusing on, which materials are we going to use and making sure we are in alignment with the PA common core. So, that's some exciting work. On June 7th, Ms. Gordon, Dr. Skezas and Dr. Coughenour will be testifying before the PA joint House and Senate Committee in Harrisburg. There will be about a 15-20 minute presentation and what

Regular Board Meeting
May 25, 2016

they will be talking about will be the great strides that Francis McClure has made in the their SPP scores over the last several years. That is very exciting and positive for McKeesport Area School District. We also look at the first reading of the policies that we talked about today, those are Federal Fiscal Compliance, Travel Reimbursement for Federal Programs, Conflict of Interest and Food Services. That concludes my report.

Mrs. Gadson – Can I ask a question? Is it possible that maybe, I’m hearing some synergy between what is happening within the Education sub-committee especially with your look at the Dibbles scores and the Diversity Committee, there has been some conversation because community members want to have a better understanding about PVAAS as a tool and if maybe we could have a conversation about how to educate the community more about that because what I am hearing through the Coalition members, they just want to have a better understanding so they can have a more informed conversation, and it sounds like there could be some synergy there.

Mrs. Sturgess – That concludes my report.

Finance/Grants/Outside Funding – Mary Jane Keller – That was also part of the report too, and one more thing that Mrs. Sturgess had not spoken about was the Book Stops that are going to be on June 30th and August 4th. There will be five stops in the district and children will be able to choose a book.

Dr. Skezas – I just want to make mention with your report Mrs. Keller that, and I don’t mean to put her on the spot out there, but Brie Adams once again has some good news to share with our audience and the public on a grant that we received last Friday and I think it definitely needs to be noted.

Ms. Adams – Explained the grant. (Unfortunately, she was not at a microphone and was unable to be heard.)

Dr. Skezas - \$175,000 is a lot of money. Thanks for all your hard work Brie.

Mrs. Gadson – Speaking of grants, did we ever hear back about the grant with Penn State University? That’s the grant to help first generation college students.

Personnel – Mindy Sturgess/Steve Kondrosky – Mrs. Sturgess reported. We met on May 25th to go over and to take a look at the items you will see on the green sheet. I would like to comment that it has been a very painful few weeks to say the least. We certainly realize that the shifting and realignment of staff through the checker boarding is not ideal, but we wanted

Regular Board Meeting
May 25, 2016

to make sure we provide support for our teachers that may be teaching in a different content area, going back to special education, maybe going into a science class that they haven't taught for a few years and we understand that things change, so I know the district has committed to providing some summer training for those teachers and giving them the opportunity to come in early and maybe for special ed getting caught up on the changes in the paperwork, the law, best practices, maybe those kind of things that they have not been involved in in the past several years. I am happy that the district will be taking that initiative to make this transition as smooth as possible. I also want to recognize the wonderful applicants that we had yesterday. I was able to participate in the interviews for our Assistant Principal positions that are open and there is definitely a lot of talent within our district, but I certainly would like to congratulate Dale, Jamie and Lisa who are with us tonight. I'm very excited for all of you to be able to embark on that journey. I did want to recognize again Rula, Dave and Harry with the work that they have done to be able to save all of the jobs because it's been a cloud looming over all of us not to see anybody losing their positions this year. That concludes my report.

Mr. Lopretto – I just want to mention also, I'm proud of the district also for not having to get rid of any teachers and also not cutting any programs.

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

Solicitor's Report – none

Correspondence – none

New Business – none

Adjournment – 8:50 PM – Mr. Kondrosky for adjournment. Seconded by Mrs. Gadson.

Voting aye. All Members present.

ATTEST:

David M. Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary