

**McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 27, 2016**

<b>Presiding</b>	Joe Lopretto, Board President
<b>Date, Time, Place</b>	Wednesday, April 27, 2016, 7:30 PM, Board Room, Administration Building, 3590 O'Neil Boulevard, McKeesport, PA 15132.
<b>Opening Exercises</b>	Mr. Lopretto called the meeting to order at 7:45 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.
<b>Present</b>	Jim Brown Trisha Gadson – by telephone Chris Halaszynski Mary Jane Keller Steve Kondrosky Joe Lopretto Patricia Maksin Scott Smith Mindy Sturgess
<b>Others Present</b>	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** – We've got all these young students here and I'm sure they're not here just to see my smiling face. I don't really have anything written down. I just want to say that the warm weather is here now, we want to keep everybody safe out there. We've had a lot of good things going on in the school district lately. I got to attend the National Honor Society last night and see the seniors going through and seeing the juniors moving up so that was special. We'll move over to the Superintendent's Report.

**Superintendent's Report** – Good evening. Let me say by beginning by saying that I am so excited and anxious to see Guys & Dolls because I know that there are quite a few guys and dolls here so how about if we begin by the performance of our wonderful middle school

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presentation of Guys & Dolls. Take it away. At this point I do see some staff members in the audience and perhaps Ms. Gallo you can give us some information on the dates and times, I know it's taking place at McClure and I know it begins, if I'm not mistaken, next Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. It's a wonderful preview of a production, I am so looking forward to it. Boys and girls, ladies and gentlemen, fantastic job, thank you. As we have our musical students file out of our Board room, I just want to take the opportunity, I see Mrs. Boyle here, fantastic job and please let them know tomorrow on the announcements. Also, something I would like to mention as part of my Superintendent's Report, is that there were so many things happening in the last month throughout our school district, a couple I would like to mention was the Shrek the Musical for those of you that did see the musical at the high school, it was awesome, they did a really nice job and I know that they had wonderful attendance at the high school for that showing of Shrek. Something very special that has occurred in the last month were our senior projects and I had a sub-committee meeting this afternoon at 4:00 PM, our Cultural Diversity Committee meeting and I announced it and I'm going to announce it to the public that we really have an outstanding group of seniors this year that did a magnificent job with senior projects and for those of you that don't know what our senior projects are, each one of our 12<sup>th</sup> graders begin working on something around 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade and almost like a portfolio on ideas and perhaps career paths that they would like to research or they would consider perhaps when they graduate and as part of their exit ticket, we have a day set aside in the spring and I think this is the third year that we did it, that we just have seniors come in and our elementary staff, our middle school staff and of course our high school staff are a part of observers or they get to see our kids show off what it is that they have researched or what they would perhaps like to do in the next chapter of their lives when they leave us. We already have it scheduled for next year, it's May 5, 2017. Anyone that's in the audience that has a junior in high school, they can know that it's happening next year when they are seniors. It is like an exit ticket that it was such a wonderful experience. It's probably one of my favorite days of the whole school year. As someone mentioned, we had our National Honor Society induction last night, it was a wonderful ceremony as it always is and we also had our Junior National Honor Society that is going to be taking place over here at the middle school next month and I'm not quite sure of the date. That can be found on our website. National Technical Honor Society will be taking place on May 10<sup>th</sup>. I want everyone to really take note of these pictures of the house that was given away this past week and we had wonderful positive publicity on the news stations with our building construction students and actually there was a picture of the parade that was happening that we really have to be very proud of our community, of our students and as I said to Mike Locke today, and I told him I was going to make mention of him this evening, we are very fortunate to have a such a dedicated instructor that does such a fantastic job with our students. We are very appreciative and thankful to all of the organizations that participated in that. Lastly, please read our website and note all of the wonderful things that are going to be happening. The

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month of May is always busy with choir concerts and orchestra concerts and different happenings that are happening throughout kindergarten through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Please as much as you can, come and support our students and our staff because they work very hard to get these events done. That concludes my report.

**Treasurer's Report** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2016. Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski.

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

**Hearing of Citizens –**

Donalle Schley, 500 Washington Street, McKeesport, PA 15132.

Ms. Schley addressed the Board on the issue of Administration disciplinary inconsistency and education.

**Minutes** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the minutes of the Open Agenda Meeting of March 16, 2016 and Regular Meeting of March 22, 2016. Seconded by Mrs. Keller.

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 Mrs. Sturgess. Discussion followed regarding district cell phones.

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

Voting no. Mr. Halaszynski

**Calendar** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the Board Meeting calendar for the 2016/2017 school year. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

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

**Summer Camp** – Mrs. Maksin moved to approve the PAWS Summer Camp for grades 6-8 at Founders Hall. Seconded by Mr. Brown. Ms. Adams explained the camp.

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

**Plan** – Mrs. Maksin moved to approve the Corrective Action Plan as a result of the 339 Evaluation. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

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

**Agreement** – Mrs. Sturgess moved to approve an agreement with American Staffing Services, Inc. to provide individual nursing services within the district. Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski.

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

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

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

**Agreement** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve a 12-month renewal agreement with the Western Pennsylvania Natural Gas Consortium with a start date of September 1, 2016 and a Basis price of minus \$.43 cents per dth. Seconded by Mrs. Maksin. Mr. Seropian explained.

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

**Insurance** – Mrs. Maksin moved to accept the proposal from American Management Advisors, Inc. for student athletic insurance for the 2016/2017 school term in the amount of \$11,000. Seconded by Mr. Brown. Same price as last year.

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

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**Field Trip** – Mrs. Maksin moved to approve the following field trip:

- A. Founders Hall students to Baltimore and Hershey Park on May 20-21, 2016.  
Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.  
Dr. Bauman explained.

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

**Green Sheets** – Mr. Halaszynski moved to approve personnel recommendations (green sheets).  
Seconded by Mrs. Sturgess. Discussion followed.

**PROFESSIONAL:**

To be hired: Effective July 1, 2016. Salary established under the terms of agreement between MASD and the United States Air Force. The United States Air Force will reimburse the school district for ½ of the prescribed Minimal Instructor's Pay (MIP). Conditions of employment have been established in their contract agreement.

SFSft Jason N. DeFelice	AFJROTC Teacher (Non-Commissioned Officer)
	10-month employee
	Salary: \$42,130.00

**RETIREMENT:** Effective 6/13/16:

Stephanie Worrall	Elementary Teacher, Twin Rivers Primary School
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**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Julianne Huwalt	Elementary Teacher, Twin Rivers Primary/Intermediate Schools, leave of absence effective 5/6/16 to an undetermined date. Unpaid leave will commence at the expiration of sick and personal days.
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**TO BE HIRED:** Extended School Year Program – Summer of 2016:

Carolyn Will	Special Education Teacher 6.5 hours/day - \$24.13/hour for 20 days
Marian Cronin	Special Education Teacher 6.5 hours/day - \$24.13/hour for 20 days
Erika Muraca	Special Education Teacher 6.5 hours/day - \$24.13/hour for 20 days

Substitutes:  
Heather Obringer  
Sherri Geyer  
Jessica Gerber  
Dawn Shelly  
Shelby Devey

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TO BE HIRED: Permanent Day-to-Day Substitute for the 2015/2016 school year. Rate of pay will be \$80/day + individual benefits and increase to \$100 on the 61<sup>st</sup> day:  
Cassidy Kravec High School

TO BE HIRED: Summer Family Literacy Camp. Rate of pay will be \$24.13/hour (Salaries paid from the KtO Grant):

Amy O’Grady  
Lisa Miracle  
Betsy Bacon  
Susan Williamson  
Krystal Reid Smith

TO BE HIRED: Camp Invention Summer School. Rate of pay will be \$24.14/hour (Salaries paid from School Improvement Grant):

Ed Camic  
Jill Lape  
Sherry Sillings  
James Lusebrink  
Kathy Kenny

## Substitutes:

Dana Ruffing  
Shelby Devey

CHANGE OF POSITION: Extra-Curricular Athletics effective for the 2015/2016 school year:  
Amy Gumbert From: 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Softball Coach  
To: Assistant Softball Coach  
Salary: \$2,088.50

TO BE HIRED: Extra-Curricular Athletics effective 2015/2016 school year:  
Nicole Long 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Softball Coach \$1,733.28

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

Dana Brown, Sr.	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Football Coach	\$2,609.38
Derek Pavlovic	7/8 Grade Football Coach	\$2,609.38
Amy Gumbert	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Coach	\$1,957.03
Dana Gumbert	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Coach	\$1,957.03
Milan Kiska	7/8 Grade Swimming Coach	\$1,793.04
Haley Ekaitis	Volleyball Coach	\$2,819.52
Joe Bower	Golf	\$2,443.58
Mark Bacco	Cross Country	\$2,067.64
Vladimir Kovalchuk	Girls Tennis Coach	\$2,631.55
Steven Pambacas	Boys Soccer Coach	\$3,571.38
Paul Yester	Girls Soccer Coach	\$3,571.38
Kristen Davis	Cheerleading Coach	\$1,691.74

CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST:

*Tonya Andrews	Emergency Day-to-Day Certification
*Nicole Jackson	Emergency Day-to-Day Certification
*Alanna Angotti	Elementary Pre K-4, Special Education Pre K-8
*Maria Adams	Social Studies
*Amie Olasz	Elementary Pre K-4, Special Education Pre K-8
*Molly Peddicord	Elementary Pre K-4, Special Education Pre K-8
*Hannas Bonville	Biology

SUPPORT STAFF:

TO BE HIRED: Extended School Year Program – 2016:

Holly Gallagher	Instructional Assistant 6 hours/day - \$11.50/hour for 15 days
Sarah Forsythe	Instructional Assistant 6 hours/day - \$11.50/hour for 15 days
Danielle Bacon	Instructional Assistant 6 hours/day - \$11.50/hour for 15 days
Rachel Haberberger	Nurse Assistant 6 hours/day - \$13.29/hour for 15 days

Substitutes:

Jennifer Etchison

RESIGNATION: Effective 4/11/16:

Rosemary Martin                      General Worker, Food Service Department

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TO BE HIRED: Effective immediately:

Wanda Siberio	General Worker, Food Service Department, Twin Rivers Step 1 \$8.00/hour
Nina Johnson	General Worker, Food Service Department, Twin Rivers Step 1 \$8.00/hour
Michelle Rusinko	General Worker, Food Service Department, Founders Hall Step 1 \$8.00/hour
Steve Cmar	Carpenter/Painter-Plasterer/Maintenance Helper, District Step 1 \$33,857.00

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Sheila Martin	General Worker, Food Service Department, High School, unpaid leave of absence effective 3/31/16 to an undetermined date (not to exceed 1 year)
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Clara Miller	General Worker, Food Service Department, Twin Rivers, unpaid leave of absence effective 3/21/16 to an undetermined date (not to exceed 1 year)
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CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE LISTS:

Additions:

*Kathleen Stoupis	Special Education Assistant
*Natasha Henderson	Special Education Assistant
*Samantha Scott	Special Education Assistant
*Mechella Garner	Crisis Intervention Specialist
*Kara Cella	Custodian

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

Kara Cella  
Parthenia Greene  
C.J. Montalbano  
\*Ronald Harris Jr.  
\*Justin Smith  
Casey Carreiro (Docu Tech)

TERMINATION: Employee No. 5747 effective immediately.

\*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:

Dr. Mark Holtzman  
M'Halla Sanders

ELECT Conference. Sponsored by ELECT  
in Harrisburg, PA  
May 4, 2016 through May 5, 2016  
(Paid for by ELECT) \$632.32/each

Ashlee Boyle

PKC/HSSAP New Grantee Orientation. Sponsored by  
OCEL at State College, PA  
May 2, 2016 through May 3, 2016  
(Paid for by the Pre K Counts Grant)  
\$400.80

Amy Dellapenna  
Kelly Ridinger  
Mary Zosack

Literacy is for Life Conference. Sponsored by  
PDE/KtO in Hershey, PA  
June 21, 2016 through June 23, 2016  
(Paid for by the KtO Grant) \$1,157.22/each

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

Abstaining.

\*Mr. Brown – page 3

\*\*Mr. Halaszynski – page 3

\*\*\*Mr. Lopretto – pages 2 and 3

\*\*\*\*Mr. Smith – page 5 – items 5 and 6

**Agreement** – Mrs. Maksin moved to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release for the George Washington Elementary School as presented. Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

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

**Agreement** – Mrs. Maksin moved to approve the settlement agreement with employee #555 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

**Committee Reports -**

**Athletic** –Mary Jane Keller/Jim Brown – Mr. Brown reported. Athletic Committee met Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. We discussed as far as fall sports coaching. We had our first intent signing not just for the football players, but all athletes, I thought that was great. I think we need to keep doing that for the athletes that don't get recognized as much as they should. Our second scrimmage for this upcoming football season will be against Obama Academy and that will be our second scrimmage for this upcoming season. The spring sports update, we have the softball who is holding a conference play 1 in 3 and their overall is 2 and 4. Our baseball team our conference play was 1 and 0 and overall was 3 and 2. We were on a 3 game winning streak going into that, I don't know what we did as far since then. Our track and field is upcoming meet they hosted Penn Hills and that was the 13<sup>th</sup> of April and they said our 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball team is super super strong. That is my report.

**Buildings & Grounds** – Steve Kondrosky – We met this morning, Mr. Fagan and Dr. Coughnour. He gave me a list of things he had accomplished since last month and I guess one of the most important things was that all of the boilers in each building were inspected for their annual inspection with new certificates until June 2017. I think that lacked the previous couple years. Someone brought it to his attention and he hit on it and did a nice job. They repaired the diving blocks for the pool, they repaired the boiler and booster pumps at McClure and installed new seal gaskets and fittings, new lights were put in the new main gym at South Hall. He replaced a 1.5 horsepower motor on a rooftop handler for South Hall gym. The uninvent filters were changed at McClure and Founders and one uninvent and two outside ground units at South Hall library were removed and it was necessary because of the overhead garage door leading out into the courtyard that is going to be installed through the McKeesport Area School Alumni Association. They are doing a nice job out there. It's being done in house and I think a lot of the money is donated. We continue to work real close with the desk tickets. I guess is pretty much every complaint from any teacher, administrator in the school goes through Ed and he addresses them. The buildings and grounds continue to do the outside maintenance and in a few weeks will be checking all of the equipment that is used for the prom which is May 26<sup>th</sup>. That concludes my report. Discussion regarding the gas line at Founders Hall.

**Career & Technology** – Pat Maksin – We did meet on April 21<sup>st</sup>. As was mentioned by Dr. Skezas, we did go over the 339 review, the corrective action report and we talked about the National Technical Honor Society, the ceremony and reception that will be held at the high school, Tiger Inn on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. We talked about the current enrollment. Our current MATC enrollment is 263 students. We talked a little bit about how to make the Tiger Inn a little bit more cost effective. We are a little bit in the red right now and we talked a few ways about how we can make that a little bit more break even. Lois Richards will be here on May 10<sup>th</sup> to do best practices with our MATC teachers and program approval is due by May 27,

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2016. Thank you, that is my report.

Community Relations/Cultural Diversity –Trisha Gadson – I am going to start it and I’m going to ask Dr. Bauman to finish it for me. We had our monthly committee meeting today, but due to a work meeting, I was not able to get back to McKeesport in time. However, we have been working on some activities under the cover of the Diversity Committee that I can report on. I just want to reiterate to the Board Members that you are all invited to the two day Beyond Diversity training that is scheduled for June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> with the Administrative team as well as members of the McKeesport Educational Coalition. The facilitator will be Dr. Virginia Hill, actually we were able to get the recommendation from Mrs. Sturgess. I was able to meet with Dr. Hill and actually she comes very highly recommended by Mrs. Sturgess as well as some of the educational facilitators with the University of Pittsburgh. In addition, the Diversity Committee has been looking at working on educational partnership with community members in the district to complete a teacher protection survey to understand the need of the teachers with regard to educating in an urban community and making sure resources are available to educate around cultural constructs. There has been a committee of community members partnering with members of the Administration team to create a survey that will be rolled out to the staff of the district, I believe, sometime this month. (Tomorrow) In addition to that, Dr. Bauman had presented a presentation on PVAAS testing from last month and it was a really good presentation and some community members took off from work to come in and hear the presentation that was presented again today, so I yield to you Dr. Bauman to cover that and anything else you feel I did not cover. Dr. Bauman – I will be real brief. I did present to the committee today the use of the PVAAS tool, Pennsylvania Value Added Assessment System. It’s the idea of how teachers grade their students’ achievement is tied directly to them and in these meetings over the last year or so we’ve had a couple of times where we have recognized teachers who have had a whole lot or a high percentage of their students achieve at high rates. We are now turning to use that data within this committee to maybe analyze some things that we can do to strengthen our teaching staff specific to how they instruct both the high level kids and the low level kids as well as the overall grouping of kids as well as sub-groups of kids including black and multi-raced identifying kids. It’s early discussions, but we think there may be some value in exploring this tool so that we can strengthen our teaching staff to interact very well with our students. Last thing, we showed a video that we produced in house called “Did You Know”. Dr. Skezas – Trish, we’re going to show the video, but I will also send it in the update so you as Board Members can have it at your disposal if you want to share it as well. Dr. Bauman – with that video, so thank you Brie, Jane and Kristen for the hard work, thanks Ricky for always being always on the ball appreciate that and Mrs. Gadson, that concludes our report.

Education/Legislation/Policy – Mary Jane Keller/Mindy Sturgess – Mrs. Keller reported. The

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Legislation and Policy Committee met on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, all School Board Policies are now computerized and can be accessed through our MASD website. Our Board of Directors certainly and staff and residents give a very special thanks to Ms. Decker, Dr. Jane Coughenour and Ms. Kristen Davis for their dedication to this task. The Education Committee met also on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. First a presentation to the committee was made by representatives from kindergarten through fifth teachers on the new report cards. The program will be given to all K-5 teachers. The Board must then approve each of those report cards for use next year. Second, discussions with administrators and staff are ongoing concerning the start times for the primary and the intermediate buildings. Dr. Holtzman has recommended a transition in-service day for 5<sup>th</sup> graders that would be moving to 6<sup>th</sup> and to continue step up day for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders transitioning to 9<sup>th</sup> grade. For the chapter 339 review suggested that a guidance plan would be put in place for the vocational department. We were reminded of a very special event coming up which is called Electricity, Robots and Lunch on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM and that's my report.

Mrs. Sturgess – I wanted to put a thank you out there I know that Pam Gordon has been working across both elementary buildings and was instrumental in taking a look at our grading system and trying to establish some consistency across classrooms across the district so that one teacher is not weighting homework assignments as 50% of the grade and another teacher is weighting it as 20% of the grade. It was really nice to see teachers from both schools and work together and work as grade level teams to make that happen. I am happy of a previous parent of a primary and intermediate age student and still currently with my stepson I think it is great that the district is looking at those proposed time changes based on the recommendations and concerns that parents have expressed over the years through the survey system. I am happy to see that is occurring.

Finance/Grants/Outside Funding – Mary Jane Keller – The Finance Committee met on April 20<sup>th</sup> also, the committee reviewed the preliminary budget for the 2016/2017 school year. Ms. Brie Adams gave us an update on the grant news, first a grant with G-Tech Strategies is still in the writing phase and it would be a fund that would be used for a green house at Twin Rivers School. A steam grant with Carnegie Mellon University was applied for and it was for engaging entrepreneurs. We applied for a Remake Learning grant in the amount of \$1,000 and it is to achieve more African-American students in our AP classes. Some of the students will then present a workshop for us on May 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The district received the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant which will fund our summer school at Founders Hall grades 6-8 for approximately 90-100 students in the PAWS program. One of our art teachers, Ms. Nicole Givens wrote a grant also for art and she received it for \$500. That's my report.

Personnel – Mindy Sturgess/Steve Kondrosky – Mrs. Sturgess reported. The Personnel

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Committee met on April 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the items that were listed on the green sheets. An item that was certainly exciting for me and I'm sure for many of the Board Members and community members, is that we made our first hire for the NJROTC program that will begin at the high school in the fall. We still need to hire a commissioned officer. I would like to thank our Administrators for working very hard to make sure they are securing the most qualified and experienced person that we will have in our high school next year. So, that was very exciting. For those of you that don't know, we had to pull it from the green sheet last month because of the budget and the monies not being released. Of course, we got notification the next day that those monies were released. So, we're happy to get that approved this year. Another positive note is that we are able to continue our summer literacy camp this summer for our students and that has taken place for the last several summers at various locations where students in our elementary grades their parents can sign them up and they can come each week for a literacy session where they read with their parents often times the students leave with a book and we're also able to extend the Camp Invention summer school program that will be held at Twin Rivers this year. Last year we were only able to offer an AM session because of some of the grant funding that we weren't able to spend the beginning of the year. We were then able to extend that program this summer for both an AM and PM session. I know my niece participated in that last year, volunteered to get up at 8:00 AM on her summer break and absolutely loved it and is looking forward to participating again.

Safe Schools – Chris Halaszynski – Dr. Skezas reported. We had our meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of this month, this past Monday. There were quite a few items on the agenda, but two items that I would like to mention tonight, one is I just have to make a comment that our school probation county representative actually came to our safe schools meeting on Monday just to talk to us a little bit about communicating and collaborating with them. We have had a wonderful working relationship with our school probation officers that we've had here in the district and we have one full time and we share a half time probation officer with Steel Valley. Some ideas and changes that have occurred within the state of Pennsylvania with school probation, he came and shared with our entire administrative team which I thought was a good thing to do this past Monday. As well as we are continuing on with our Alice Training. Everyone should have gotten a log in to log in and give the information for the online training that's going to be June 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. I know the Administration is going to be trained on May 27<sup>th</sup> which is a clerical day for staff. So, we have those two initiatives happening, the online training and then of course the training in person that I know that we're doing something with the McKeesport Police Department as well as the White Oak Police Department. That concludes our report.

Mrs. Sturgess – If I could add one more thing to Personnel. I wanted to thank Dr. Skezas and Mr. Seropian. We have been working over the past several months to look at our hiring practices for our Act 93, our Administrators, and some preliminary information we shared with

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the Board this evening during Executive Session and we're hoping to move that forward next month, but they've done a lot of research and I'm hopeful that we'll have a system in place so our hiring practices are transparent and there is not that second guessing or trying to come up with starting salaries, it's all based on data and research that these folks have done. So, I would like to thank you for that and I'm looking forward to next month.

Mr. Lopretto – Well, Mrs. Sturgess, not only do they deserve thanks, so do you. I thought it was wonderful what you put together and I'm sure the whole Board in the back was impressed with everything. One last thing I want to talk about the mock.

Mrs. Gadson – Before you go off on another topic Mr. Lopretto, I just wanted to add as well in regards to the work that Mrs. Sturgess did, that when she was first appointed as the committee chair for Personnel, there was discussion around this work and she was new to the Board but she accepted the challenge and as you stated, I too was extremely impressed with the depth of research and detail that she gave to taking a look at it. I recognize that we have quite a bit of work to do to make adjustments across the board that she took the task much strategically. I appreciate it and as the chair of the Diversity Committee I appreciate her efforts to bring about equity to all employees across the board, so I do appreciate and support the work of Mrs. Sturgess.

Mrs. Sturgess – Thank you Mrs. Gadson.

Mr. Lopretto – One last thing, the mock DUI accident that we have every year before the prom. It will be held on Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, I believe around 9:00 AM. Any Board Members or anybody from the public that wants to come out and see this, it's really impressive and it really hits home especially once you see the way the first responders come in and our students play the parts in the vehicle accidents out there and it will give you the chills watching it. I have been on some real scenes and they make it look as real as real can be. I talked to Lt. Olinsky and he said that was going to be the day he had met with Ms. Barry, so that is when it's planned for so, unfortunately, it's Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Solicitor's Report** – none

**Correspondence** – none

**New Business** – none

**Adjournment**—9:00 PM – Mr. Kondrosky for adjournment. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

Regular Board Meeting  
April 27, 2016

Voting aye. All Members present.

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
David M. Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary