

McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Special Board Meeting
December 9, 2015

Presiding	Joe Lopretto, President
Opening Exercises	Mr. Lopretto called the meeting to order at 8:10 PM, followed by the Pledge to the Flag. We did meet in Executive Session to discuss personnel and potential litigation.
Date, Time, Place	The following legal ad appeared in THE DAILY NEWS on Friday, December 4, 2015: The Board of Directors of McKeesport Area School District will hold a Special Meeting following the Reorganization Meeting in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 3590 O'Neil Boulevard, McKeesport, PA 15132. The purpose of the meeting is for general school business.
Roll Call	Jim Brown Trisha Gadson Chris Halaszynski Mary Jane Keller Steve Kondrosky – by phone Joe Lopretto Pat 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 Humanic, Director of Human Resources/Assistant to the Business Manager Joseph Shaulus, Solicitor

Board President – Before we get started, I also do want to mention that we have attachments over there if anybody wants them to follow along with the meeting. I see there are no President's Remarks, thank goodness because I didn't think of any. We'll turn it over to the Superintendent and let her give some remarks.

Superintendent – I would like to, although that's not listed either on our agenda, but this evening I have some individuals that I would like to recognize in the audience. Each one of them are representing their department as well as the former principal of our High School, Dr. Mark Holtzman, who some of you heard speak a couple of weeks ago or maybe it was last month on the wonderful improvement in test scores that we had at the High School with our Keystones and just making progress and we're very proud. At this time I would like Mrs.

Special Board Meeting
December 9, 2015

Marla Hayes to come forward and she is here representing our Science Department as Science Chair. I want to take this opportunity to say, job well done, keep up the good work. Thank you Marla. I also would like to acknowledge and thank all of the hard work, she goes above and beyond her call of duty with our Department Chair in the English Department, I also see Mrs. Butler here as well. I want to just say, Erica Guadalupe, as the Department Chair I would like to recognize you for the wonderful strides we have made in our English Department this past year, so thank you. Finally, last but not least, Dr. Mark Holtzman. Last month at the end of the month we recognized Mr. Tom Bauman as the current Principal of the building and Mark at this time I would like to acknowledge your dedication to the students and to our School District for putting some wonderful things in place last year and you continue to do a wonderful job this year as Director of Secondary Instruction on this whole campus, so Mark, thank you. I also would like to announce we are doing our second MASD On The Move this coming Friday for those of you that are able to attend, this coming Friday, December 11th, at the Beulah Park United Methodist Church on Grandview Avenue at 9:00 AM. The information is on our website as well as social media. Right after the children get on the bus we are asking parents and community members to come and have informal discussion with myself and my leadership team on some things that they would like to see happening in the district that perhaps aren't at this point or some suggestions and positive/negatives. We really would like to meet the people in the community so this is our second MASD On The Move and again it's this coming Friday at 9:00 AM at the Beulah Park United Methodist Church in Grandview and I welcome you to attend. That concludes my report. I just want to wish everyone a very happy holiday, Merry Christmas and happy, healthy New Year as well. (Also wished in Greek.)

Mr. Lopretto – I would like to recognize somebody in the audience also, Ms. Brie Adams. I saw something posted, I don't know what school it was at, it was one of our schools where we had a bunch of little kids holding a banner that said, the only colors that should be separated are in the laundry. The way society is today I think we need to unite as one. Don't look at somebody's skin color, let's keep it real. When I saw that it actually brought tears to my eyes because it meant so much. If little kids can see that, then I think us as adults should also follow suit. I want to give you a hand.

Hearing of Citizens None

Treasurer's Report – Mr. Maksin moved to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of November 2015. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

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

Minutes – Mrs. Maksin moved to approve the minutes of the Open Agenda and Regular Board Meeting of November 24, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mrs. Gadson, Mr. Halaszynski, Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Special

Board Meeting
December 9, 2015

Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Sturgess

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

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

Plan – Mrs. Keller moved to approve the Comprehensive Plan effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

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

Resolution – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve Resolution #1134 – Taxpayer Relief Act. Seconded by Mr. Brown. Discussion followed.

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

Resolution – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve Resolution #1135 – Authorizing the issuance of a tax and revenue anticipation draw-down note, series 2015-2016 with PNC Bank. Seconded by Mrs. Maksin. Discussion followed.

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

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

008 – Local Board Procedures – Organizational Chart

824 – Operations – Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries

Seconded by Mr. Smith. Discussion followed.

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

Agreement – Mr. Smith moved to approve a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of the Air Force for the establishment of an Air Force Junior ROTC Unit at the McKeesport Area High School Career and Technology Center for the 2016/2017 school year. Seconded by Mrs. Keller. Discussion followed.

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

Special Board Meeting
December 9, 2015

Green Sheets – Mr. Smith moved to approve personnel recommendations (green sheets).
Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski.

Professional:

Leave of Absence:

Jamie Rossi	Special Education Teacher, Founders Hall, unpaid maternity leave of absence effective 1/4/15 to an undetermined date.
Amber Watson	Speech-Language Teacher, maternity leave of absence effective approximately 3/15/16 to an undetermined date. Unpaid leave will commence at the expiration of sick and personal days.

To be hired: Long Term Substitute: Rate of pay will be \$80/day + benefits and increase to \$125 on the 61st day:

Dawn Shelly (Rossi)	Special Education Teacher, Founders Hall, effective 1/4/15.
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Changes to the substitute teacher list:

Additions:

Barbara Williams	English, Secondary Counselor
*Sarah Filson	Elementary
*Shelby Devey	Elementary K-6, Mid-Science

Support Staff:

Changes to the substitute lists:

Additions:

*Ellen Dougherty	Food Service
*Michele Green	Food Service
*Julie Schuster	Instructional Assistant
*Mary Eversole	Food Service
*Dorothy Kosa	Food Service
*Eileen Morgan	Food Service

Deletions:

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

Addendum:

Professional:

Changes to the substitute teacher list:

Additions:

*Alexia Dull Elementary, PK – 4, Special Education PK – 8

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

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

Voting no. Mrs. Gadson

Resolution – Mr. Brown moved to approve Resolution #1136 – student discipline. Seconded by Mrs. Maksin.

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

Correspondence -

Mr. Halaszynski moved to terminate the services of Ira Weiss and the firm of Weiss Burkardt Kramer as solicitor and appoint the firm of Dodaro, Matta & Cambest as solicitor effective immediately. Rates and fees to be negotiated and agreed upon between this Board and this firm. Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky. Discussion followed. (Special Counsel will continue with the firm of Weiss Burkardt and Kramer.) Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

Voting aye. Mr. Halaszynski, *Mrs. Keller, Mr. Kondrosky, *Mr. Lopretto, *Mrs. Sturgess

Voting no. Mr. Brown, Mrs. Gadson, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith

*With the understanding that we have a retainer fee plus hourly fee in firmed.

Mrs. Maksin – I do have one other item I would like this on record please Alberta. I am making a special request. I am not on social media and I am not one to frequent public places, like bars and so forth on a regular basis, but I have a lot of friends and family members who do that. I am making a request of the Board to refrain from using my name in social media and in these public places, especially bars. If you have something that you need to talk to me about, I would appreciate it if you would call me as opposed to going into bars or going on social media and stating your opinions and partial or half-truths. If you need to speak to me, I would appreciate it if you would do that rather than doing the other. It just is something that I need to say. Thank you.

Special Board Meeting
December 9, 2015

Mr. Lopretto – Before we make the adjournment, I did want to welcome my old friend, Mr. Jim Brown, back on the Board and Mrs. Sturgess, it's going to be a pleasure serving four (4) years with you and the rest of the Board Members. I want to wish everybody a happy holiday and be safe out there and we'll see you in January.

Adjournment – 8:45 PM – Mr. Kondrosky moved for adjournment. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

Voting aye. All Members present.

ATTEST:

David M. Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary