

McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
November 24, 2015

Presiding	Patricia Maksin, Board President
Date, Time, Place	Tuesday, November 24, 2015, 7:30 PM, Board Room, Administration Building, 3590 O'Neil Boulevard, McKeesport, PA 15132.
Opening Exercises	Mrs. Maksin called the meeting to order at 8:10 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	Trisha Gadson Chris Halaszynski Mary Jane Keller Terri Kisan Steve Kondrosky Joe Lopretto Patricia Maksin Soleil Meade Scott Smith
Others Present	Dr. Rula S. Skezas, Superintendent Dr. Harry A. Bauman, Assistant Superintendent David M. Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary James G. Humanic, Director of Human Resources/ Assistant to the Business Manager Joseph Shaulus, Solicitor

Board President's Remarks – (The beginning of the report is blank on the tape.) Certainly I want to say that giving thanks to the gifts that we have been given is important always, but especially this week. We need to be thankful for our families, our friends, our community, for our students, our staff, our parents and all those who touch our lives in a positive way. Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Superintendent's Report – Good evening. A couple of announcements that I would like to make this evening during my Superintendent's Report. One is a couple of months ago we talked about the John Lennon bus visiting the school district and it produced a NAMM music video which was the National Association of Music merchants. It is now located on our web

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site. So, please when you get a minute, please take a look at that video, it's great. Our kids did an excellent job and I'm so proud that the John Lennon bus was able to come to our district. For those of you that enjoyed and I would like to congratulate the children's play, staff and students because they did such a fabulous job, Pinocchio was great this year. We had show time for the Oscars at Founders Hall, part of the Drama Club which was a tremendous success. Today Dr. Bauman and I have the wonderful opportunity to have pie with Pre-K and Thanksgiving feast at Twin Rivers Primary school. It was wonderful to see so many pilgrims and Indians participating in this event. We were all so very pleased to see how many Pre-K parents attended with their students today, grandparents as well. On our web site we have the schedule and listing of all of the December holiday concerts, please if you have an opportunity, attend, they are always wonderful and it gives us the feeling of Christmas and puts us in the Christmas spirit. Today we had our first rendition of the Port Report. Those of you that do not know what that is, we have our students from our high school that do a news cast and I was so proud to see them do the Port Report today. Again, that is found on our website. We have an early dismissal tomorrow, you should have gotten my automated call I sent out this afternoon letting everyone know we do have an early dismissal K-12 tomorrow as well as no school on Thursday, Friday, Monday and we will be returning next Tuesday. As part of my commitment of getting out into the community, we began our McKeesport Area School District On The Move campaign. I have a flyer here that I will have some extras of. We are going to continue on the next bus stop in Grandview at the Beulah Church on the corner of Grandview Avenue on December the 11th at 9:00 AM and we really would love to see parents, once they put their students on their school buses that they can come and meet with Dr. Bauman, myself, other area leaders and Administrators and just talk about and have a good conversation about what they would like to see in our school district and any kinds of questions and concerns they may have. So, our next McKeesport Area School District On The Move will happen Friday, December 11th. As I reflect on the many things for which I am thankful, I want to take this opportunity to share just a few of them with you. I am very thankful for our students who come to school every day ready to learn. I am thankful for the support of the parents in creating a partnership with our students and for our students. I am thankful for our teachers, our support staff and Administrators who really truly care about student achievement and have the very best interest of our students at heart. I am also thankful for our volunteers who contribute so much to our schools and I am thankful for our Board of School Directors, they care about our children and they support our staff and students. I feel grateful to work with them and I am appreciative of their service. I wish all of the McKeesport Area School District staff and families a very safe and happy Thanksgiving. At this time we have a couple of presentations. First, I would like to introduce our Title I Reading Coordinator for K-5, Mrs. Amy DellaPenna and Mary Lynn Zoscak one of our KTO teachers that are going to present some of the information that we promised you last month. You are going to hear about with our reading and our literacy projects and programs in our kindergarten through the 5th grade

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elementary schools. Two meetings ago we had Dr. Holtzman, last meeting we had Mrs. Jennifer Knight talking about our math curriculum and today we have Amy, welcome.

Dr. Skezas – I just want to say that when I heard about the Book Mobile I got so excited because I don't know how many of you in the audience participated in the Book Mobiles when we were younger when they used to come to the different places, we used to beg to be taken to the Book Mobiles because we didn't have books in the homes, so that was really great to hear. Thank you both very much for all of your hard work. (Discussion regarding Barnes & Noble.)

Dr. Bauman – If I could just commend these two ladies. We talk about teacher leaders. I am always talking in this venue about how well our teachers throughout this district are trained in the skills of teaching and a whole lot of that is attributed to the teacher leaders like these two ladies who really reach out. They make themselves experts and then they share that knowledge so that everybody grows stronger and stronger in the ability to impact kids. So, thanks so much for that.

Dr. Skezas – Thank you both very much. Next I would like to ask our Robotics team to come forward. I see them here front and center. I know that they were going to come last month and we had to reschedule some things. I see some of their advisors in the back, former students, so welcome. (Robotics presentation by Rebecca Ross, Avery Goldinger, Amani Blakney) I have two students I would like to acknowledge tonight. Recently at Rotary Interact Club District Conference our very own Shane Grayson, Shane if you could please come forward, a junior at McKeesport Area High School was elected Interact District Governor for the 2016/2017 school year by his peers. Interact is Rotary International Service Club for school students ages 12-18. Interact Clubs are sponsored by individual Rotary Clubs which provide support and guidance, but they are self-governing and self-supporting nearly 200,000 young people are involved in Interact Clubs around the world. Rotary District 7300 encompasses much of Allegheny County, includes a large number of High School Interact Clubs from the Greater Pittsburgh area. So, at this time I really would like to congratulate Shane Grayson, which I remember once upon a time he was at Francis McClure not so long ago. Last year when I saw you on the Port Report I was very proud to see you on there. I want to say congratulations Shane and I wish you all the best and I hope your leg gets better soon. Also tonight as we have a tradition every year, we ask our teachers to ask students to come up with a greeting card and at this time I would like Madison Obusek to come forward. I would like to say that Madison, your holiday card will be the card that we send out to many many school districts throughout Allegheny County and Westmoreland County and will also be on display at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, so congratulations. That concludes my report.

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Treasurer's Report – Mr. Kondrosky moved to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report for the month of October 2015. Seconded by Mr. Lopretto.

Voting aye. Mrs. Gadson, Mr. Halaszynski, Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Kisan, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Ms. Meade, Mr. Smith

Hearing of Citizens –

Mark Holtzman, Cleveland Street, McKeesport, PA 15132.

Mr. Holtzman left the meeting at the beginning of Hearing of Citizens to pick up his daughter. He deferred to the next speaker.

Harold Allen, Carnegie Street, McKeesport, PA 15132.

Mr. Allen addressed the Board on the issue of Keystone tests and policy.

Fred Haynes, Carmella Drive, White Oak, PA 15131.

Mr. Haynes addressed the Board on the issue of

Minutes – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the minutes of the Open Agenda Meeting of October 21, 2015 and Regular Meeting of October 28, 2015. Seconded by Mrs. Keller.

Voting aye. Mrs. Gadson, Mr. Halaszynski, Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Kisan, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Ms. Meade, Mr. Smith

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

Voting aye. Mrs. Gadson, Mr. Halaszynski, Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Kisan, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Ms. Meade, Mr. Smith

Refunds – Mr. Smith moved to approve property tax refunds as presented. Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski.

Voting aye. Mrs. Gadson, Mr. Halaszynski, Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Kisan, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Ms. Meade, Mr. Smith

Recommendations – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the McKeesport Area Technology Center 2015/2016 Occupational Advisory Committee Recommendations. Seconded by Mr. Lopretto.

Voting aye. Mrs. Gadson, Mr. Halaszynski, Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Kisan, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Regular

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Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Ms. Meade, Mr. Smith

Resolution – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve Resolution #1132 – AIU Joint Purchasing. Seconded by Mrs. Keller. Discussion followed.

Voting aye. Mrs. Gadson, Mr. Halaszynski, Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Kisan, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Ms. Meade, Mr. Smith

Policies – First reading of the following Board policies:

008 – Local Board Procedures – Organizational Chart

824 – Operations – Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries

Discussion followed.

Policies – Mr. Lopretto moved for second reading and adoption of the following Board policies:

901 – Community – Public Relations Objectives

902 – Community – Publications Program

906 – Community – Public Complaints

917 – Community – Parental/Family Involvement

918 – Community – Title I Parental Involvement

Seconded by Mrs. Keller.

Voting aye. Mrs. Gadson, Mr. Halaszynski, Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Kisan, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Ms. Meade, Mr. Smith

Resolution – Mr. Smith moved to approve a Resolution #1133 authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$8,825,000 for the purpose of refunding all or a portion of the School District's outstanding General Obligation Bonds, Series A of 2005, as presented by Bond Counsel. Seconded by Mrs. Gadson. Discussion followed.

Voting aye. Mrs. Gadson, Mr. Halaszynski, Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Kisan, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Ms. Meade, Mr. Smith

Reappointment – Mr. Lopretto moved to reappoint Ed Fagan as Director of Buildings & Grounds for one (1) year effective July 1, 2016 with a salary increase to be determined in the Act 93 agreement. Seconded by Mrs. Keller.

Voting aye. Mrs. Gadson, Mr. Halaszynski, Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Kisan, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Ms. Meade, Mr. Smith

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Reappointment – Mr. Lopretto moved to reappoint James Humanic as Director of Human Resources/Assistant to the Business Manager for one (1) year effective July 1, 2016 with a salary increase to be the same as Act 93 employees. Seconded by Mrs. Gadson.

Voting aye. Mrs. Gadson, Mr. Halaszynski, Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Kisan, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Ms. Meade, Mr. Smith

Reappointment – Mr. Lopretto moved to reappoint Charley Kiss as Athletic Director for one (1) year effective July 1, 2016 with a salary increase to be determined in the Act 93 agreement. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

Voting aye. Mrs. Gadson, Mr. Halaszynski, Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Kisan, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Ms. Meade, Mr. Smith

Reappointment – Mr. Lopretto moved to reappoint David Seropian as Business Manager/Board Secretary for one (1) year effective July 1, 2016 with a salary increase to be the same as Act 93 employees. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

Voting aye. Mrs. Gadson, Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Kisan, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Ms. Meade, Mr. Smith

Voting no. Mr. Halaszynski

Green Sheets – Mr. Lopretto moved to approve the personnel recommendations. Seconded by Mrs. Kisan.

Professional:

Leave of Absence:

Jessica Kopchinski

Elementary Teacher, Francis McClure Primary School, maternity leave of absence effective approximately 1/8/16. Unpaid leave will commence at the expiration of sick days.

To be hired: Long Term Substitute – Rate of pay will be \$80.00/day + benefits and increase to \$125.00 on the 61st day:

Dana Ruffing
(McBride)

Elementary Teacher, Twin Rivers Primary School, effective approximately 12/1/15.

Erica Koelsch
(Kopchinski)

Elementary Teacher, Francis McClure Primary School, effective approximately 1/8/16.

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Temporary placement:

Kate Monezis (Ruffing)	Title I Facilitator, Twin Rivers Primary School, effective approximately 12/1/15, Rate of pay will be either \$95.00/day + individual benefits or \$105.00/day without benefits.
Krystal Naples (Koelsch)	Permanent day to day substitute. Francis McClure Primary School, effective approximately 1/8/16. Rate of pay will be \$80.00/day + individual benefits and increase to \$100.00 on the 61 st day.

Changes to the substitute teacher list:

Additions:

*Christine French	Elementary and Special Education Teacher
*Desiree Jefferson	School Nurse

Support Staff:

Retirement:

Billie Jean Bartifay	Head Cook, Food Service Department, High School Effective 11/9/15.
Patricia Linn	Manager, Food Service Department, High School, Effective 11/20/15.
Candida Tom	Personal Care Assistant, Francis McClure Primary School, Effective at the end of the 2015/2016 school year.

Leave of Absence:

Kenneth Bobuk	Computer Lab Technician, High School, unpaid leave of absence Effective 10/9/15 to an undetermined date (not to exceed 1 year) FMLA
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To be hired: Effective immediately:

Rachel Haberberger	Nurse Assistant – part time. Rate of pay will be \$13.20/hour.
Alyssa Gottheld	General Worker, Food Service Department, Founders Hall Rate of pay will be \$8.00/hour.
Sally Cornell	Instructional Assistant, placement to be determined. Yearly salary will be \$12,611.00 (pro-rated)

Changes to the substitute lists:

Additions:

Lana Urbansky	Secretary
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Deletions:

Marla Harrison Secretary and Food Service

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

ADDENDUM:

Support Staff:

Retirement:

David Horvatin Carpenter, Maintenance Department, effective 1/4/16.

Changes to the substitute lists:

Additions:

Kathleen Caparelli Food Service

*Wanda Siberio Food Service

*Karen Kelly Food Service

*Brandi Good Food Service

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

Voting aye. Mr. Halaszynski, Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Kisan, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Ms. Meade, Mr. Smith

Voting no. Mrs. Gadson

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. Budget update
- B. Reorganization Meeting
- C. Performance Audit
- D. School Performance Profile

Committee Reports -

Athletic –Mary Jane Keller/Terri Kisan – Mrs. Keller reported. The Athletic Committee met on Tuesday, November 17th, all of our winter sports coaches of course were filled and the seasons of course are beginning. Postings for the spring and the fall positions went out last Friday, November 20th, and the applications must be received by Thursday, December 3. One other thing, we all saw a copy of the letter that was written by the Penn Trafford head coach for football complementing McKeesport School District, the students, the athletes and the coaches

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and if you would like me to read that I would be more than pleased to do that.

Coach Smith, Charley and Mark,

I wanted to contact you all regarding Friday's football game. I know that we were fortunate to steal the win in a hard fought game. But I am actually writing to tell you what outstanding representatives for McKeesport your football players are. It speaks volumes of Coach Smith that those young men handled themselves with all class after such a tough game. Each of them congratulated my players and wished them luck. This continued onto social media, as I am sure you have seen, where players from both teams were expressing respect for each other after an emotional game – initiated by McKeesport players. I believe it was Tymar Sutton who came into our locker room afterwards and congratulated out players and coaches. I cannot begin to tell you how impressed I was by this. Coach Smith – if I could wish for one thing, it would be for my players to speak about me one day the way yours speak about you. I've talked to a lot of former players from a lot of places, none have more positive, respectful things to say about their former coach than McKeesport players. I hope you know how much my staff and players respect the way you coach and the way your team plays. You guys are awesome to watch on firm each week, and the games we play are incredibly competitive and played the right way. Your kids have every reason to boast and celebrate, yet are humble, classy and just come out and play. Just wanted you to know how highly I think of you and your program. Sincerely, John Ruane, Penn Trafford.

Buildings & Grounds – Scott Smith – I'm going to keep it real short. I would like to thank David Horvation for all the years of service that he has given us as a great maintenance employee who is as you read the green sheets, will be retiring in January and it will absolutely be a position that will be very tough to fill.

Career & Technology – Terri Kisan – Thank you Madame President. We did meet on November 19th. The items we discussed. First we had a discussion and I wanted to let the public know that our website will be updated and we will be adding the shops and examples of items of things you can do after you go through one of our technical programs. That will be good to see on an update on our website. We continue on preparing for the 339 review. Ms. Lois Richards did visit our buildings again and she did enjoy a lunch at The Tiger Inn. The Tiger Inn lunches continue. At the beginning of the year they were serving about 40 Tiger Inn lunches, now they are up to about 90 and we had discussions about possible etiquette classes and manners classes and dinner eating classes. So that will be exciting to see that grow. Our culinary students are also participating in the Festival of Trees which will be December 4, 5, 6 and 7. Mr. Richardson will have our students there. The Diversified Occupations enrollment is growing and we're also considering a landscape architecture shop program. The Cosmetology students did visit Kane Hospital for November 20th and they're also scheduled for

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December 18th. They are building relationships with the patients and it's always nice to see complements from our Administration on them caring for the needs of those patients. Dr. Bauman mentioned the ROTC and we had that discussion. Madame President, this is my last meeting and report for the last four (4) years and with each year I face challenges along with my colleagues who help me grow as a public servant. Over the years I have learned to appreciate the professionals who make the day to day operations of the business of education work effectively. I developed a deeper appreciation for our teachers who are on the front lines of education and guide and inspire and most importantly protect our children. Most of all I was and am still inspired by the thousands of parents who partner with their children's schools to make learning a life-long process and not just a school project. Thank you Madame President.

Community Relations/Cultural Diversity –Trisha Gadson – We did not have a meeting within the school district this month. We did yield to the Comprehensive Plan meeting that was held on the 17th, however, the Diversity Committee will not meet again until January during the designated school time, but the community meetings and the work within the community is ongoing, so there is a community meeting in early December at which time the community representation will have more information to present to the district in January.

Education/Legislation/Policy – Mary Jane Keller – We met on Thursday, November 19th, for the first reading of policy #824 which is Operations and it is Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries. The other is policy #008 which is the Local Board Procedures and the new Organizational Chart which we talked about earlier. A Junior ROTC program at the High School was reviewed and discussed again tonight. We have what we call Tiger Community Connection workshops which are coming really really soon and they are a way of reaching out to students and adults in the community. For most of the courses, they are free. Thank you.

Finance/Grants/Outside Funding– Trisha Gadson – We had a meeting earlier this evening. Some of the agenda items have already been discussed here tonight in terms of the performance audit, the debt service refunding Mr. Ditka went over. We eluded to the issue that there continues to be the State budget impasse. There will likely need to be an additional draw down from our line of credit. If the budget impasse is not resolved by the end of December, there are several options being considered by the district. One of the most serious options being considered is to delay of opening of school in January following the Christmas break. However, as I stated, there are several options being considered but that one is also on the table. As a result, community members and everyone are encouraged to go to the school district's website find out the phone number of your legislature and to lobby to get this budget resolved. That concludes my report.

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Personnel –Joe Lopretto – We did have a meeting and the green sheets reflect that. I just say everyone month that I appreciate everything that Administration does to get the green sheets in order and my hat is off to them.

Safe Schools – Joe Lopretto – We had a meeting at 10:00 this morning. We talked about the intersection improvements and it's really going good. We've got the four-way stop, we have the railings up to the marquis which is great. Mr. Fagan said we've got about another six (6) foot to go before it's over which is really looking fantastic out there. We're trying to deter those students from crossing. We're going to put some signs up also so the kids don't cross. We talked about the crossing guards. We've got two crossing guards out there. One at the intersection and one out here that are doing a fantastic job. Mr. Allen is out there also in the morning out there with them and we greatly appreciate that. We also talked about outside metal detectors for the football games. These are metal detectors that can be left outside in inclement weather. It won't harm them in any way. They are roughly about \$6,000 a piece. We're looking to get that through the safe schools grant and we're looking that we need two (2) of them. That's something Mr. Wade is going to be looking into. The last thing is about a tip line. We've got a tip line that Don Williams and Dr. Coughenour are getting drawn up for us. It's 948-8477, it's going to be a tip line for parents to phone in and leave a message if they hear of a potential hazard or threat, something going to take place, they can call, leave a message. It will be checked into. Dr. Holtzman I believe had offered his phone to be used for all the messages to go to and he'll work on whether there is a potential threat and he'll notify the Administration and authorities if need be. That's it. I want to thank Mrs. Kisan and Ms. Meade for the service you gave us.

Solicitor's Report – My only report Madame President, is that the Solicitor's office has consulted with Administration regarding a number of personnel matter throughout the month.

Correspondence – None

New Business –

Ms. Meade – This is my last time in this seat for this term. I cannot leave here tonight without thanking all of you for allowing me to sit here with you all and welcoming me with open arms. I was only here for a couple meetings, but I promise you all that it did not take long for me to see what hard work and dedication that you all put in. I gained a whole newfound respect for what you all do as Administration and School Board members. I will continue to keep that with me, but also carry it out into the community as well. I will continue to do my service to the community and through this experience I have even branched out to seeing beyond McKeesport. I am McKeesport born and bred, but I have met so many wonderful people in White Oak and Versailles through my time sitting here that we really do all need to rally Regular

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together, so I will continue to serve the community as well as our young people and if I could ever lend a helping hand or any other experience or expertise that I have with communicating with the younger generation, I am only a phone call away. You guys still have my number, so thank you again for allowing me to serve and this won't be the last time you see me, I'll be sitting out in the crowd waving to you guys, so thank you.

Adjournment – 9:35 PM – Mr. Lopretto moved for adjournment. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

Voting aye. All Members present.

ATTEST:

David M. Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary