

McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
October 28, 2015

Presiding	Patricia Maksin, Board President
Date, Time, Place	Wednesday, October 28, 2015, 7:35 PM, Board Room, Administration Building, 3590 O'Neil Boulevard, McKeesport, PA 15132.
Opening Exercises	Mrs. Maksin called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 Ira Weiss, Solicitor Joseph Shaulus, Solicitor

Board President's Remarks – We want to formally welcome Soleil Meade to her first voting meeting. We are glad to have her here. I apologize, I should have probably welcomed you to last week's meeting and when I left I thought I forgot to welcome her. So, I wanted to make sure that I did that this evening. Make you feel as welcome as we possibly can make you. As we come to the end of October there are a few things to remind our students, parents and community members to put on their calendars. Harvest celebrations or Halloween activities, depending on what your preference is, will be happening on Friday in our Twin Rivers and Francis McClure buildings and certainly to a lesser extent in our secondary facilities. Fun, safety and security are the aims of that day and also trick or treating on Saturday.

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Be aware of our young ones and please be vigilant to ensure a safe evening for them. On November 10th at 9:30 AM at our high school auditorium, students will present their annual Veterans' Day program saluting the armed forces. I encourage all who can attend to do so. It is both moving and awe inspiring. As more and more of our World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans leave us each year, it is imperative that we remember and honor their sacrifices. Service and patriotism must not be lost by our young people. It is vital to our future to teach our children about our history. It is free of charge and open to all community members. Of course, we have one more home football game before we start the playoffs and we celebrate all of our student athletes who represent us each and every day and we thank you for making us proud. One scheduling reminder for November, on Tuesday, November 24th, we will have both an Open Agenda Meeting and a Regular voting meeting that evening starting at 7:30 PM. That ends my report.

Superintendent's Report – Good evening. I would like to begin by sharing with you something that I had the honor and privilege to do today. Last Friday Senator Jim Brewster invited me to go to a public hearing and testify on the impact of the budget challenges on public education in Pennsylvania. So this morning at approximately 5:00 AM I drove to Harrisburg and I testified in front of Senator Boscola, Senator Brewster and honorable members of the committee and I talked to them about the impact of the State budget impasse as well as the financial challenges that we've had over the past several years regarding the school funding. A couple of the statistics that I would like to share with you that I shared with them this morning. We have approximately

- 3,668 students, 53% of which are minority students
- 73% Poverty Rate, high enough that all students are eligible for free meals
- Median Value of a home is \$56,500
- Median household income is approximately \$34,000

We are not a wealthy school district to say the least and as a result we rely heavily on state (and federal) funding to support our budget (which is \$59.4 million dollars) and our educational programs. Seventy three (73%) percent of our revenues are from state and federal sources with 66% being from the state. Needless to say, the budget impasse impacts our ability to fund our schools and affects us in ways that many districts do not feel. Those of you that have attending these School Board meetings, I shared with them that we are going to be running out of funds much earlier than many districts, in fact, we already accessing a \$5 million line of credit that we have had to secure to keep our schools open. This line of credit is only projected to last until the beginning of December at which time we are going to have to borrow additional money if this budget soon doesn't get passed. We are currently considering all options, including discontinuing after school programs, pre-school programming, athletic and extra-curricular programs and other services provided through state and federal funds. We've increased class sizes and eliminated some programs. We've put off many expenditures

including technology purchases, other supplies and equipment, field trips and we've delayed paying for some other costs of operation. As I said to them this morning and I'm saying to all of you this evening, this budget impasse has hit the McKeesport Area School District very hard! I did share with them what has happened over the past five (5) years and I don't know whether my Board wants me to share what I shared with the committee today and I'm seeing some nods. I went back in time to give them a perspective of what is happening in the McKeesport Area School District over the past few years as far as our budget and State and Federal funding. In 2010/11 the McKeesport Area School District received \$24.1 million in Basic Ed funding, over \$1 in the Accountability Block Grant, over \$300,000 in the Educational Assistance Grant and over \$800,000 in Charter School Reimbursement. Of course these are not all the state revenues but these are the main revenues affected by the cuts that occurred at that time. These four state revenue sources totaled \$26.3 million. Then in 2011-12, revenues from these four sources were cut to \$21.9 million....all in Basic Ed Funding. The McKeesport Area School District lost over \$4.4 in revenue due to these cuts! There was no more ABG, Educational Assistance or Charter School funding. Some say that the loss of stimulus monies was the reason for these cuts but at MASD we received \$23.5 million dollars in these revenue categories before stimulus monies were used to provide state revenue. The most recent (14-15) budget, three (3) budget years after the cuts, has only restored about half the funding cut in 2011-12. Even the current state budget proposal, which provides \$25.6 million dollars in Basic Ed Funding, would not bring the McKeesport Area School District back to the level of funding we received in 2010-11. Five years ago we received more funds! Let me just mention briefly a few points about charter school funding. In 2010-11 the district sent \$2.8 to charter schools, and as I stated earlier we received over \$800,000 in charter school reimbursement. The net cost therefore was approximately \$2 million dollars. Fast forward to 2015-16 and we've had to budget nearly \$5 million dollars for charter schools with no reimbursement from the state. The effect of this is a \$3 million dollar difference which of course must be funded locally by our taxpayers. What have we done over the past five (5) years to survive financially? We've eliminated 68 teaching positions which is nearly 20% of the staff, along with nearly a quarter of our administrative staff and 15% of our support staff. One hundred and ten (110) positions in all! As I said to them, I'm here this evening and I said to them, I'm here this morning, not to ask you to turn back the clock. But in your deliberations and discussions, conversations and compromise, please keep in mind the hardship this has placed on our students and taxpayers. I wished them the best of luck, best wishes, I appreciate all their efforts, and I hope that they soon will come up with a budget that is much needed for funding to our schools and our number one priority our children. That's what I shared this morning. I shared this evening a copy of it with our Board. On a lighter note, let me talk about some wonderful things that are happening in the McKeesport Area School District and I have to say I'm so very proud as I shared with some of the Superintendents that I met from Philadelphia, Bethlehem, Erie, all of the wonderful things we continue to provide our students here in this district. We have an

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excellent staff that I am very very proud to be a part of. Our Robotics team will be presenting next month, but I am pleased to inform you that our school district was one of two (2) districts selected in Allegheny County as a recipient of the Crystal Apple Award for Excellence in Child Nutrition. We are one of only several selected regionally for this and here to talk more about this is Patrick Dowd, Executive Director and Chris West, Child Nutrition Outreach Coordinator with Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, welcome. (Presentation of the Crystal Apple to Dr. Skezas.) A couple of other announcements I would like to make, then we have another presentation this evening, but I am pleased to let everyone know that we had a seamless transition of our East End Academy students moving to the high school this past week. Their first day at our new alternative education site was this past Tuesday and Mr. Wayne Wade and Mrs. Angie Cale did an excellent job as well as our maintenance department with the move and the staff their at East End Academy so they are up and running and I know that it's a wonderful space and it was seamless so we're happy about that. I do want to share that we had our Community Expo who now I am the Director of Vocational Education here. We had 84 post-secondary and community service resources at this expo this year and I think this is the most we have ever had. It was a wonderful event. We had colleges, we had the military, we had community services, resources for our parents, it was packed. I just want to say for those of you that helped with that, thank you so very much and we look forward to next year. We had lots of businesses and agencies and so on. We have our Harvest parades this week which is a big week at the elementary level and I was an elementary principal. This coming Friday beginning at 9:45 at Francis McClure and 10:00 for Twin Rivers are the Harvest parades. As Mrs. Maksin said, our Senior Recognition football game this Friday and we also have, I'm happy to announce that our district will be hosting the Mucho Macho Music Festival on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 and this festival is in its 12th year and it's the first year that McKeesport Area High School is hosting the event. The festival is designed for changing male voices and it includes male students in grades 7-9. We will welcome in 18 various school districts from all over the county from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM where there will be an informal concert at the high school. That's first ever that Mucho Macho is coming to McKeesport. I want to acknowledge at this time Ms. Brie Adams for bringing 412 food distribution to our community. Brie, I want to take this opportunity to say thank you, I was not a part of the distribution this Monday, but I was during the first week of distribution. (Brie Adams explained.) It occurs at McKeesport Presbyterian Church on the corner of Union and Versailles. The next time they are going to be dropping off, and again it's called 412 food distribution, November 16th at 2:30. She said that she did make it sound like the food was great. Let me tell you, they had wonderful food there that our community members were able to take and it made us all feel very good as you do with the food bank and again, we're not in competition with you, it's just an extra. Mark your calendars as Mrs. Maksin said for November 10th at 9:30 for our annual Veterans' Day program at the high school and also mark your calendars for November 11th, we do not have school. School will not be in session Wednesday, November 11th, is a no school

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day in honor of Veterans' Day. That concludes my report. Presentation by Jennifer Knight - elementary math program.

Treasurer's Report –Mr. Kondrosky moved to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report for the month of September 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 –

Cheryl Cotter, 1216 Pirl Street, McKeesport, PA 15132.

Ms. Cotter addressed the Board on the issue of bus #7 from McClure Primary.

Mindy Moody, 700 Summit Street, McKeesport, PA 15132.

Ms. Moody addressed the Board on the issue of PD opportunities.

Minutes –Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the minutes of the Open Agenda Meeting of September 16, 2015 and Regular Meeting of September 23, 2015. Seconded by Mrs. Gadson.

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 Mrs. Keller.

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

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

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

Members – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the McKeesport Area Technology Center 2015/2016 Occupational Advisory Meeting Committee members in accordance with Chapter 339 regulations. Seconded by Mrs. Kisan.

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

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Resolutions – Mr. Smith moved to approve Resolutions #1130 and #1131 – student discipline.
Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

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

Policies – Mrs. Keller moved for second reading and adoption of the following Board Policies:
805 – Operations – Emergency Preparedness
810.1 – Operations – Drug/Alcohol Testing
348 – Employees – Unlawful Harassment
348.1 – Employees – Unlawful Sexual Harassment
Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

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:
901 – Community – Public Relations Objectives
902 – Community – Publications Program
906 – Community – Public Complaints
917 – Community – Parental/Family Involvement
918 – Community – Title I Parental Involvement

Bonds – Mr. Smith moved to authorize the School District Administration to work with Janney Montgomery Scott, as Investment Banker, Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP as Bond Counsel and Weiss, Burkardt, Kramer, District Counsel, in connection with the financing of General Obligations Bonds, Series of 2016 for the purpose of refunding its currently outstanding General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2005A. Seconded by Mrs. Gadson.

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

Voting no. Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Kondrosky

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

PROFESSIONAL:

RESIGNATION: Effective 09-24-15:

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1. Allison Peters Math Teacher, Founders Hall.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

1. Amber McBride Kindergarten Teacher, Twin Rivers Primary School, maternity leave of absence effective approximately 12-01-15 to an undetermined date. Unpaid leave will commence at the expiration of sick and personal days. FMLA

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

1. Andrew Lewis (Moody) Math Teacher, Founders Hall, effective 10-05-15.

TO BE HIRED: EXTRA CURRICULAR ATHLETICS FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR:

1.	Troy Blackwell	Assistant Boys Basketball Coach	\$4,177.06
2.	Jamie Grayson	JV Boys Basketball Coach	\$2,724.17
3.	John Harper	9 th Grade Boys Basketball Coach	\$2,363.57
4.*	Jared Thompson	8 th Grade Boys Basketball Coach	\$1,890.85
5.	Jon Balogh	Assistant Girls Basketball Coach	\$4,177.06
6.	Chelsea Butler	JV Girls Basketball Coach	\$2,724.17
7.*	Joan Wehner	9 th Grade Girls Basketball Coach	\$2,363.57
8.	Justin Liptak	Assistant Wrestling Coach	\$4,086.27
9.	Jerome Halaszynski	9 th Grade Wrestling Coach	\$2,442.35
10.	Josh Klimko	7/8 Grade Wrestling Coach	\$2,442.35
11.	Dallan Klein	7/8 Grade Wrestling Coach	\$2,442.35
12.	Chelsea Butler	Softball Coach	\$4,177.06
13.	Paul Yester	Assistant Softball Coach	\$2,088.53
14.	Ron Bishop	Baseball Coach	\$4,177.06
15.	Ron Harris	Assistant Baseball Coach	\$2,088.53
16.	Dana Williams	Assistant Baseball Coach	\$2,088.53
17.	Mike Obley	7/8 Grade Baseball Coach	\$1,733.28
18.	Tom Smith	Track Coach	\$4,177.06

VOLUNTEER: EXTRA CURRICULAR ATHLETICS FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR:

- | | | |
|-----|-------------|------------------------|
| 1. | Rob Pupich | Girls Basketball Coach |
| 2. | Mike McCabe | Girls Basketball Coach |
| 3.* | Ryah Gadson | Girls Basketball Coach |

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SUPPORT STAFF:

CHANGE OF RETIREMENT DATE:

- | | | |
|----|------------|---|
| 1. | Joan Midlo | Special Education Assistant, McClure
Primary/Intermediate Schools.
FROM: 12-31-15
TO: 06-12-16 |
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RETIREMENT:

- | | | |
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| 1. | Julia Pratt | General Worker, Food Service Department, Twin Rivers
Primary/Intermediate Schools, effective immediately. |
| 2. | Judy Johnson | Nurse Assistant, effective 11-30-15 |

RESIGNATION:

- | | | |
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| 1. | Justine McWilliams | General Worker, Food Service Department, Founders Hall,
effective 10-23-15 |
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LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

- | | | |
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| 1. | William Mellinger | Painter, Maintenance Department, unpaid leave of
absence effective 10-28-15. FMLA |
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SUPPORT STAFF:

CHANGE OF SALARY: (per MESPA Contract): Effective 08-26-15:

- | | | |
|----|---------------|---|
| 1. | Carol Johnson | Instructional Assistant, Pre-K Counts, Founder's Hall Annex
FROM: \$15,900.00 (pro-rated)
TO: \$16,100.00 (pro-rated) |
|----|---------------|---|

TO BE HIRED: Effective immediately:

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|----|--|--|
| 1. | Lorri Mockabee
(J. Lopretto) | Custodian, South Hall
Step 1 \$32,500.00 (pro-rated) |
| 2. | Tracy Weiss
(Vacant Position) | Instructional Assistant, Francis McClure Primary School
Step 1 \$12,611.00 (pro-rated) |
| 3. | Stephanie Murray | Instructional Assistant, Francis McClure Intermediate
School (Vacant Position) Step 1 \$12,611.00 (pro-rated) |
| 4. | Habeeb Abdul-Raab
(Vacant Position) | Crisis Intervention Specialist, East End Academy
Rate of pay will be \$14.00/hour. |

CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE LISTS:

ADDITIONS:

- | | | |
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| 1.* | Kathleen Caparelli | Secretary |
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- | | | |
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| 2.* | Alina Bivins | Food Service |
| 3.* | Kristeen Ballas | Secretary, Instructional Assistant |
| 4.* | Edward Dudley | Custodian |
| 5. | Patty Harper | Food Service |

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

CONFERENCE REQUESTS:

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Angela Cale | Keeping Our Children Safe: Strategies for Schools
Sponsored by the Center for Safe Schools
in Harrisburg, PA
October 29, 2015 through October 30, 2015
(Paid for by Safe Schools)
\$804.04 |
| 2. | Wayne Wade | Keeping Our Children Safe: Strategies for Schools
Sponsored by the Center for Safe Schools
in Harrisburg, PA
October 29, 2015 through October 30, 2015
(Paid for by Safe Schools)
\$534.69 |
| 3. | Jennifer Sikorski
Carrie Barnes
Melissa Capozzoli | 65 th Annual PASCD Conference
Sponsored by PASCD
in Monroeville, PA
November 16, 2015 through November 17, 2015
(Paid for by Title I)
\$430.00/each |

ADDENDUM

PROFESSIONAL:

TO BE HIRED: EXTRA CURRICULAR ATHLETICS FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR:

- | | | | |
|----|-----------|---|------------|
| 1. | Deon Webb | 7 th Grade Boys Basketball Coach | \$1,890.85 |
|----|-----------|---|------------|

CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST:

ADDITIONS:

- | | | |
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| 1.* | Athaliah Israel | Emergency Day-to-Day Certification |
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SUPPORT STAFF:

RESIGNATION:

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1. Christine Shank General Worker, Food Service Department, High School
Effective immediately.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

1. Joan Grabowsky General Worker, Food Service Department, Francis
McClure Primary/Intermediate Schools, unpaid leave of
absence effective 10-21-15. (Not to exceed one year)

CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE LISTS:

ADDITIONS:

- 1.* Michelle Rydzak Food Service Department
- 2.* Sally Cornell Instructional Assistant

*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

Abstaining. *Mr. Halaszynski – Page 1 - item 9 – 9th grade wrestling coach.

Committee Reports -

Athletic –Mary Jane Keller/Terri Kisan –Mrs. Keller reported. Our committee met on Tuesday,
October 20th, there were four (4) items that were our focus –

1. Winter and Spring coaching positions were recommended for hiring and this is reflected
in the green sheets tonight.
2. We reviewed the 13-page draft of the Athletic Training Services Agreement with UPMC
Center for Sports Medicine.
3. Our committee approved the installation of sound systems in the pool area. These
were donated by the McKeesport Area School District's theater department because
they got new ones and the pool got the old ones.
4. Director Kisan reminded us of the produce to people program sponsored by the Greater
Pittsburgh Community Food Bank which is held once a month on the third Saturday.

That's my report for Athletics.

Buildings & Grounds – Scott Smith – All snow equipment has been serviced ready for the
upcoming season. Phase one of the railing installation along Eden Park Boulevard has been
completed as well as concrete sidewalk repairs along that same stretch. Boilers have been

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started up in the High School, Founders Hall, Twin Rivers and McClure buildings. The next set of boilers that will be started very soon are White Oak, the old East End and the Stadium. For the last time, I know I have said this a lot, I know we talked about the Alt Ed center and all the hard work that the maintenance staff put in again to congratulate them for such a great job. Again, I do this for a living, I'm going to tell you that we would have spent easily close to \$75,000-\$85,000 at least doing this work and I'm understanding that we came in materials only somewhere around \$35,000. Congratulations!

Career & Technology – Terri Kisan – Thank you Madame President, we did meet on October 22nd, we discussed Ms. Lois Richards, the distinguished educator, who came into our buildings and did have a tour of the vocational shops and the vocational instructors and as part of our 339 review and she will return in a few weeks to share some helpful follow up information. In Auto Body they continue to work on the Corvette. Building Construction, the first house is almost complete, it's one of the two houses they are working on and very soon there will be some advertising out for the bids. In Commercial Art, Ms. Lindsey Brown has one more day of training on the new fabric embroiderer and after that the students will have time to practice with that, but they continue to work on the engraving machine and hopefully they will have some things ready for the holiday. The Tiger Inn is averaging 55-60 lunches per Wednesday and per Thursday. Tomorrow on the menu is chicken romano with carrots and blueberry pie. Our distinguished educator, Ms. Lois Richards, did have lunch there so she enjoyed her time. Dr. Skezas mentioned the career expo was a success. Our cosmetology students are back on their monthly visit to Kane Hospital. They continue to serve and build relationships with those that reside and they did make an impression on the Administrator that chaperoned the last trip, he was very impressed with how our cosmetology students are interacting with the residents at Kane. So, it was nice to have a good positive follow up. Under the Diversified Occupations, Ms. Jill Hershey has started with four (4) of the Building Construction students had interviews with Henley Packaging Company and she received a phone call after the interviews on the following day that all four (4) of them were hired, so that was good news for Diversified Occupations. Finally, we had the Occupational Advisory general meeting prior to the Career Expo and it was well attended with many of the representatives that we approved on item 4 of today's agenda.

Community Relations/Cultural Diversity –Trisha Gadson – Good evening. We had a committee meeting today, October 28th, at 4:00. This is part of the continuous conversation between the Administration and the community, particularly members of the African American community focusing around the discussion of academic gaps in students. It was I think one of the more enriching conversations that we have had in quite a long time. Last month the community met outside of the district to identify strengths, needs and promising practices, combined it into a report and submitted it to Administration. Administration then took the report and

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began to think it through. The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Bauman, what I told Dr. Bauman I would communicate at the community meeting that is scheduled this week is that I would quote him directly. He began the meeting with, we hear you. So, that then set the tone for meaningful conversation about how do we come together. We acknowledge that we don't always speak the same language, but we want the same things for the kids in the community, and so the report that was given to the community was focusing on how to move beyond the growth and to really focus on achievement, but how does the community and the school staff do it in an integrated way? The way that we left the meeting was that we would take the information that the Administration presented, we would discuss it in a community meeting this weekend and we would come back and our next conversations would be about what can we do together. What are some short term goals we can achieve, what are some long term goals so that we can make a difference. The last thing that we agreed on in that meeting is that as a community, we're healthy when we're all healthy, so our focus is going to be how to make sure that we continue to move in the right direction. Thank you.

Education/Legislation/Policy – Mary Jane Keller –Our Education Committee met on October 20th, and there were two items for consideration. We reviewed a proposal by Hasaan Allen for the possibility for weekly open dance classes at the high school and also at Founders Hall. In the discussion we brought to concern insurance coverage which has to be discussed again and the start dates and costs. Of course, the State budget impasse was brought again to the committee and Dr. Skezas sent a letter to President Obama and also asking for his help and we stress that you contact your senators and your legislators about it. The Legislation/Policy met on October 20th first was preparation for the second readings and our vote tonight on policies 805, 810.1, 348 and 348.1. The committee then discussed the first reading of the policies 901, 901, 906, 917 and 918 which went to a first reading today. That's what we had covered.

Finance/Grants/Outside Funding– Trisha Gadson –We had a meeting on October 21st and as it is the finance committee, the primary conversation was and remains the budget impasse. As Dr. Skezas reported earlier, the district has taken out a \$5 million line of credit in order to survive the budget impasse; however, I was negligent in saying I acknowledge the hard work of Mr. Seropian as he pulls all of this together and keeps us afloat. What Mr. Seropian began to explain in the committee is that when the line of credit was secured we as the district were anticipating a refund from gaming refunds. Due to some issues with that, 312 school districts did not receive the funds that they anticipated and our district was one of them. Consequently, we anticipate having funding that will through the line of credit, will keep us afloat until the beginning of December. As Dr. Skezas pointed out to you when she eloquently reported about her meeting in Harrisburg today, that if the budget is not passed then it could result in us having to obtain additional loans to continue to operate but most disturbingly we will have to look at discontinuing some services in the district and some of those may include

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after school programming, pre-school programming, athletic and extra-curricular programming. It is alarming and scary to all of us and so we keep saying the same thing, but please reach out to your senators and legislators and let them know that a district that has over 70% of its population in need, needs a budget passed. Basically that was the predominant discussion in our finance committee. (Discussion followed)

Personnel –Joe Lopretto – We did have a meeting and the green sheets reflect all that. Again, I tip my hat to Dr. Skezas, Dr. Bauman and Mr. Humanic on getting this all worked out and put together.

Safe Schools – Joe Lopretto – Yes, there was a meeting and I unfortunately was not able to attend. I will read what Mr. Wayne Wade had sent me. They had discussed the walking patterns for the high school and Founders Hall kids. Consequences for the kids not following the rules will take place. An announcement was made for ten (10) consecutive days about how the kids should walk to and from school and they will continue to monitor it. Grant was submitted for the SRO, \$60,000 as well as for locked gates at McClure and they talked about the crossing guard duties and the walkie-talkies are all working and it was in my opinion to see that first part of that railing out there really makes it hit home. We got to make it as safe as possible. On our school grounds we make sure it's safe. Once they leave the school property, we still have to make sure those students are safe. We're going to take every means possible.

Solicitor's Report – Thank you. I would like to Board to know and those that are here that Senator Brewster and Representative Gergely urge the district to become involved in a law suit that was filed last week concerning the actions of the Department of Education in diverting gaming funds that have been talked about here this evening to charter schools because charter schools are not getting their basic subsidy just as school districts are not. As Director Smith said, this hurts the district twice, tax revenue with the Homestead/Farmstead program and budgets to get it back through gaming funds. So, the Pennsylvania School Boards Association and two other districts, East Lancaster and I believe Phoenixville, which is located in the Eastern part of the State, filed a lawsuit against the Department of Education claiming that the diversion of those funds was illegal, that the gaming funds were a trust fund for tax relief, they were not part of the pool of money that charters have been getting over the past number of years. We're not getting a lot of detail. The gaming law was passed almost ten (10) years after the charter school law. The argument is that when they passed the charter school law no one had any notion of the gaming funds playing any role in this. In my view, as the PSBA view, this action was clearly unlawful. It is an indication of the very strong bias that exists in the Department of Education for charter schools. It was bad with our previous administration and I'm not making any political speeches, it's just a fact. The danger was that once that

money went to the charter schools, we would never get it back. Fortunately, through the intercession of a Democratic Senator, between Senator Brewster and Senator Costa, I was in touch with Senator Costa, the State Treasurer has refused to issue those funds to the charters. So at least the money is in the bank and it hasn't gone out. This lawsuit hopefully will resolve this issue and the school district did intervene in that case that was filed today. So, McKeesport Area School District for all the reasons that Dr. Skezas mentioned before and some of the other things that have been said here is now a party to that. We hope that if the budget passes a lot of this will become moot. But, there is a larger issue here and that is getting equity for school districts in funding. The problem has existed in the twenty (20) years since the charter school law passed nearly, it continues today and we hope that this intervention, this lawsuit will be successful. (Discussion followed)

Correspondence – Mrs. Maksin – I did have some correspondence, this is to all of the Board Members, George and I would like to graciously thank all MASD Board Members who were instrumental in naming the field in Coach Smith's honor. Without the votes and support this could not have come to fruition. Thanks for making that day a great success and a cherished memory. It was signed by Coach and Michelle Smith. I just wanted to make sure I shared that.

New Business – Mr. Smith – Last month's meeting we terminated the position of the current solicitor and we brought on Mr. Weiss' firm in the interim until we could follow through with the replacement of that position. I would like to make a motion to authorize the Administration to solicit proposals for the school solicitor's position. Before anybody seconds it, I want to make sure it is my opinion if we start the proposal process now that we should be at a point once the new Board is brought on in December to allow that new Board who will be working with that position to have the say in that. That would be my goal to position those proposals to be received in such a time where they could be reviewed and possibly voted on at the December meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Gadson. (Mrs. Gadson seconded because I made the motion to secure new representation. I made my position clear about that, but I am also one that I believe that there should be due process. So, I believe that whenever we accept services that is received from the Board that there is a due process where there should be a bid process and you review the process then the Administration identifies a service provider that they believe that can best meet their needs then the Board votes on it. So, I am seconding it because I believe that we should go through a process.

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

Voting no. Mr. Kondrosky

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Mr. Halaszynski – I have new business and part of it is as Mr. Smith touched base on. I wanted to if I could have my comments and question that I have on record. Not to continue to beat a dead horse or beat it to the ground, I have a question and I will get to that question for the solicitor, everything is pretty much directed for him so everybody knows. As we know September 13th last month I was nominated by the Democratic party to be on the ballot for the two-year term to fill in for Mr. Maglicco's seat that he vacated. I was cleared and I understood that there are different opinions and agendas and movements and I have no problem with that and I still don't. Everybody is entitle to perceive as best for them and their views. We had a meeting here last month at the end I think it was the 22nd, I'm not sure, the voting meeting and everything hit the fan. Initially I was really upset with the removal of our solicitor, but you get over it. I have been a part of moving solicitors, personnel has changed, it happens. A few days later on October 15th as a lot of people here may know, I was served a petition, there was a petition filed at 8:00 at night or something to my house that there is a petition to remove me from the ballot for the election on November 3rd. With that being said, the petition was filed by a Board Member who is also obviously a citizen, a resident, taxpayer, voter in this community and this conversation is not about that. We will get to my point here. The petition was filed on behalf of Ms. Gadson by our current solicitor who was hired, voted in September and October 29th a petition was filed at 9:26 AM that he filed. My concern is that I'm a sitting Board Member right now. My concern is whatever solicitor is supposed to have the best interest of every single one of us here, of nine (9), not one (1), not six (6), not four (4), not who voted him on, but all of us. So, when there is a petition filed, whether it's by someone right off the street or someone sitting on this Board, there is one filed by our current solicitor that was filed to put me off the ballot, which then put me in a situation that I had to defend myself, get an attorney, go to court and all these other things, stress, the whole nine (9) yards, so be it. Obviously, the judge involved in this hearing decided that whatever points he made he was not going to remove me from the ballot. So goes the election and whoever wins so be it. I have no issue with that. My concern thought, Mr. Weiss and I want it to be on record and I want it to be in the public, not in the back where no one can hear it. I feel there is a major conflict of interest, I feel that there is, I don't know if there is some type of violation or not, do you see that the conflict of interest in here and what is your thought process in filing a petition against a seated a Board Member for another Board Member.

Mr. Weiss – There is a long history to this matter. The issue involves that when a vacancy occurs the School Code says that when a vacancy occurs it is within so many days of an election the Board of School Directors has the ability to appoint someone to fill that vacancy for the remainder of the term. This district was given advice earlier that Mr. Maglicco's vacancy did not become effective, the resignation did not become effective until the Board accepted it. Following the events that Director Halaszynski has described, the committee selecting him, the former solicitor issued a second opinion which was different from the first opinion. This case

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is not about a sitting Board Member, it's about the actions of the Elections Department of Allegheny County and placing a candidate on a ballot in a manner that I felt and Ms. Gadson felt was contrary to law. The judges made a decision, in my view the matter is closed...

Mr. Halaszynski – So, were you representing the district or her as an individual?

Mr. Weiss – Ms. Gadson.

Mrs. Gadson – Let me speak because I filed the petition, so since we are going to have this conversation out front in public let's have it out front in public. And so, I sought representation by Mr. Weiss. I, as a resident, filed a petition to have Mr. Halaszynski's name removed from the ballot. What I find ironic as a resident and a member of the Board that there is concern that Mr. Weiss represented me as a member of the Board, yet when Mr. Halaszynski was appointed by the Democratic Committee and that process was ongoing, Mr. Halaszynski is a member of this body and this body as a whole we've never had that conversation. So, when I filed a petition in court I was transparent as possible. When the petition was filed I sent an email to Administration and to the rest of my colleagues on the Board as a member of this team saying that I, Trisha Gadson, in standing on principle, I filed a petition to have Mr. Halaszynski removed from the ballot because when we were going through the process, Ms. Meade and even prior to Ms. Meade stepping up, there was a petition by the committee that says the residents of this district wanted representation that was younger, that was more connected to the district, not because we're older, but still just more connected. So, what I find interesting and almost borderline incredulous is that there was no concern that our previous solicitor gave us an opinion, acted to the contrary, whited out the form, sent it to the County, didn't tell the Administration. There were parts of the process where you sat here, she was talking, heartfelt and there was nothing said. So I'm standing on principle and...

Mr. Halaszynski – She did not know when she was standing here that that process happened because you even said to me that you knew that.

Mrs. Gadson – Right, but I didn't know it until she was standing here talking because I said I didn't see a ballot and that's when you said to me, I'm on the ballot. But you didn't say it to the community, so they're sitting there talking...

Mr. Halaszynski – The community put me on the ballot.

Mrs. Gadson – No, the community didn't.

Mr. Halaszynski – First of all, I did not come here, my questions were not...

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Mrs. Gadson – But he represented me.

Mr. Halaszynski – My question to him sitting here as my solicitor as your solicitor,

Mrs. Gadson – But, not at that moment. I hired him to represent me as a citizen and I have that right.

Mr. Halaszynski – There's a conflict here.

Mrs. Gadson – There was no conflict when Matta was representing you and changing the paperwork and sending it in. You can't be the victim on both sides.

Mr. Halaszynski – I sure can here, because you cannot sit here and tell me that nobody in this community knew as of September 13th, prior to that next meeting that Thursday that nobody knew because there's people sitting in this room that knew...

Mrs. Gadson – I'm saying I filed the petition. The Board didn't file the petition, Administration didn't file the petition, I filed the petition.

Mr. Halaszynski – Again, Trish, the simple question I had was for our solicitor and you're not going to get me here to grandstand. I'm sitting here asking him a simple question. Did you feel that that was a conflict of interest or unethical of some nature? I just want that on record.

Mr. Weiss – I do not.

Mr. Halaszynski – You feel there's no unethical issue at hand, sir.

Mr. Weiss – I do not feel there's an unethical issue.

Mr. Halaszynski – I'm asking, that's on record?

Ms. Decker – I'll type it up when I do the minutes.

Mr. Halaszynski – That's all I ask for, thank you.

Discussion followed.

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Adjournment- 9:25 PM –Mr. Lopretto moved for adjournment. Seconded by Mrs. Gadson.

Voting aye. All Members present.

ATTEST:

David M. Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary