

**McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**September 23, 2015**

<b>Presiding</b>	Patricia Maksin, Board President
<b>Date, Time, Place</b>	Wednesday, September 23, 2015, 7:35 PM, Board Room, Administration Building, 3590 O'Neil Boulevard, McKeesport, PA 15132.
<b>Opening Exercises</b>	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.
<b>Present</b>	Trisha Gadson Chris Halaszynski Mary Jane Keller Terri Kisan Steve Kondrosky Joe Lopretto Patricia Maksin Scott Smith
<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

Superintendent – Good evening. McKeesport Area School District is greatly saddened by the tragic death of Deonte Cobbs, a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student at our high school. We ask that you remember him and keep his family in your thoughts and prayers. As this time, let's please pause for a moment of silence. Thank you.

**Board President's Remarks** – Over the last several years our school district and communities have endured many tragedies. Whether they were lost illnesses, accidents or community violence, the pain from the loss of children or young adults has been felt in every corner of our piece of the world. We as citizens of our community often feel helpless and confused as to how to help. I ask that each of us vows to be the strength that our families and communities need to endure and respond to these tragedies. These families in our communities will be

changed forever by events, but we can be united in the effort to move forward in the memory of those lost and be the better for them having been here. We each can be the strong arms that support others in times of need. The strong shoulders to cry on when others are feeling sad or in need of comfort and the strong voice to bring sympathy and hope to those struggling through grief. It may seem like small things, but we as a school district family and a community can be the examples that show our children how to move forward during bad times. Teachable moments and life lessons can never be more at hand than they are now. As we move forward with our school year, we hope that each student reaches his or her full potential on their chosen path in life. Good luck to a successful and fulfilling school year.

**Superintendent's Report** – Again, good evening. We began the 2015/2016 school year on August 31<sup>st</sup> and look forward to working with of our stakeholders, our community, our McKeesport Area School District family and ask the community as well as the five (5) municipalities to become involved in our schools. MASD is known for its incredible staff with their commitment to excellence. As stated in the most recent IN McKEESPORT magazine, the past two summers during school recess I well as School Director Mrs. Kisan, community member and security guard Mr. Marty Allen and Coordinator of Student Services/Grants & Outside Funding Ms. Brie Adams, personally had the opportunity to visit many of our neighborhoods and interact with families from our communities. It is always very satisfying to me to see so many familiar faces and listen to the positive experiences that occur within our schools. My goal is to continue to convey the positive educational opportunities MASD offers our children. Our top priority is to continue the commitment of our entire staff in building positive relationships with our students, families and community. We all must be stakeholders in providing a quality learning environment. Our commitment will work to overshadow some of the challenges that we may face daily. I encourage all of you to stay connected and invested in our students' lives. It truly will make a difference. As you were seated this evening in the audience, you were able to watch an assembly which was a kick-off to the ROAR campaign at our Twin Rivers Primary and Intermediate Schools. ROAR stands for responsibility, on task, always by safe and respectful. This will be a year-long focus in the Twin Rivers building with weekly and monthly prizes and one grand prize at the end of the school year. A couple events that have taken place and will be taking place, something that I had the opportunity to be a part of last week, that was the Semper Fidelis jersey presentation for our very own Khaleke Hudson. This presentation is an All-American football bowl which proudly is supported by the United States Marine Corps. It is designed much differently than other bowls. The players selected to represent the Eastern and Western halves of the country were chosen not only because they are among the most talented of players in the nation, but also because they bring much more to the game. For those of you that know Khaleke, I know why he was selected. (Only 90 throughout the Nation.) Something that we have been working on the last couple of years and are continuing this year is our community swim.

Regular Board Meeting  
September 23, 2015

That information is on our website. It is held at our high school from 7:00-8:30 PM. There is a \$3 fee for adults, \$2 for children and senior citizens. Lots of great things are happening with using the swimming program and I would like to take this time to acknowledge Mr. Milan Kiska and Mr. Scott Smith who were instrumental in getting these programs off and running. I'm very excited and happy that we are going to be a part of something called History Makers. History Makers is an organization actually noted in the Library of Congress. We have our very own Justice Cynthia Baldwin who is a history maker. She is going to be at our high school this coming Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. She will be speaking to a number of our students in the library. I want to take this opportunity to say that Justice Baldwin has been a part of this for the last several years and this year I received a phone call at home and said Rula, I really want to come back to my Alma Mater, do you think it would be possible for me to get to the high school. I said absolutely with open arms. This coming Friday she will be there. It is something we need to be very proud our Justice Baldwin be a part of that and basically it is bringing African American leaders into the schools to interact with our students first hand to inspire and motivate today's youth and to provide important examples of success. Hopefully, we'll get some coverage with our daily newspaper and The Post-Gazette because Justice Baldwin will be here this coming Friday. Also, prior to our next Board Meeting we have Homecoming which is Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, please mark your calendars and for those of you that don't know and I know we made this announcement last Spring, we are going to be honoring our Coach George Smith during our Homecoming. We are naming the field George L. Smith Field in recognition of his legendary success as Head Coach of the McKeesport Area Tiger football team. So that will be held Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. More information will be on our website as well as social media and local newspapers. Finally, I want to take this time, without embarrassing him too much, Matt Holtzman, if you could please stand, I had asked Matt to be here this evening. He is a community member as well as a McKeesport firefighter. Our School Board Members, Vice President of the School Board, Joe Lopretto called me and said you know Rula, why don't we do something different, something unique, something that our kids could be a part of. That is make a T-shirt that says something about how strong our community is. So, I reached out to Dr. Mark Holtzman and he said maybe my brother can design something. So, Matt was within 24 hours and School Board Members who haven't purchased them, they are in front of you and if you would like to hold them up so that the audience may see them, Matthew is was really special that you came right to the plate within 24 hours and we have these T-shirts that are going to be worn Friday night at the McKeesport Tiger football game against Latrobe. Mr. Lopretto I want to say thank you for bringing this to the attention of myself and Matt I want to just say thank you very much for what you to in our community as a fireman and as well as designing this T-shirt. I know that there have been many many orders and the cost of the T-shirt is \$10. Anyone that would like to purchase a T-shirt, and I think we have a few tonight. Any monies that we receive that are above the cost that we have paid for the T-shirts, are going to be given to the McKeesport Area Education

Regular Board Meeting  
September 23, 2015

Foundation. I just want everyone to know, please unite as I said in my opening, we have five (5) municipalities here, we're all McKeesport Area School District community members. So, the T-shirts will be on sale this evening, we have a handful as well as at the high school. Shelley Fawcett will be taking orders and also you can purchase them and Matt, I can't thank you enough.

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

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

**Hearing of Citizens –**

Michelle Thomas, 2816 Riverview Street, McKeesport, PA 15132.

Ms. Thomas addressed the Board on the issue of Board appointment.

Kellie Nelson, 1728 Maple Street, McKeesport, PA 15132.

Ms. Nelson addressed the Board on the issue of Board appointment.

**Minutes** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the minutes of the Open Agenda Meeting of August 12, 2015 and Regular Meeting of August 19, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Lopretto.

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

**Bills** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the list of bills. Seconded by Mrs. Kisan.

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

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

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

**Agreement** – Mrs. Gadson moved to approve an agreement between McKeesport Area School District and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the Title I Program at Mary of Nazareth and Sr. Thea Bowman. Seconded by Mrs. Keller. Discussion followed.

Regular Board Meeting  
September 23, 2015

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

**Railing** – Mr. Lopretto moved to approve the proposal from Redrock Fence Company to install railing along Eden Park Boulevard at a cost not to exceed \$72,490.00 and along O’Neil Boulevard at the cost of \$20,507.00. Seconded by Mrs. Gadson. Discussion followed.

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

**Resolution** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve Resolution #1128 – Authorizing the issuance of a tax and revenue anticipation draw-down note, series 2015-2016 with PNC Bank. Seconded by Mrs. Kisan. Discussion followed.

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

**Boundaries** – Mr. Smith moved to approve the walking boundaries of Young Scholars of McKeesport locates at 413 Shaw Avenue, McKeesport. Seconded by Mr. Lopretto.

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

**Resolution** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve Resolution #1129 – student discipline. Seconded by Mr. Lopretto.

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

**Resignation** – Mrs. Gadson moved to approve the resignation from Thomas Maglicco, Board Member. Seconded by Mrs. Keller.

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

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

**PROFESSIONAL:**

Regular Board Meeting  
September 23, 2015

RESIGNATION: Effective immediately:

1. Brad Baldwin Permanent Day-to-Day Substitute at the High School

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

1. Angela Schifino English Teacher, Founders Hall, sabbatical leave of absence for the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of the 2015-2016 school year.

TO BE HIRED: Long Term Substitute: Rate of pay will be \$125.00/day + benefits:

1. Alexandria Billy English Teacher, Founders Hall, effective 08-26-15.  
(Schifino)

SALARY ADJUSTMENT: Effective 08-26-15:

1. Catherine Gerdich  
From: Step 6 B+30  
To: Step 5 B+30  
Salary: \$45,878.00

TO BE HIRED: Permanent Day-to-Day Substitutes for the 2015-2016 school year: Rate of pay will be \$80.00/day + individual benefits and increase to \$100.00 on the 61<sup>st</sup> day:

1. Ryan McKinney Twin Rivers Intermediate

TO BE HIRED: Effective for the 2015-2016 school year:

1. Kevin S. Ryan, D.D.S. School Dentist \$2,000.00
2. Doris Archer School Dentist Assistant \$1,000.00

RESIGNATION: EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR:

1. George Lepsch Music Director - Musical

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

1. Sarah Persin Music Director – Musical \$1,452.89
2. Paul Kikuchi Audio Visual Founders Hall \$ 866.64
3. Kris Nemchick (shared) Student Council Founders Hall \$ 315.14
4. Patrick McGuire (shared) Student Council Founders Hall \$ 315.14
5. Jean Gallo Director of Musical Founders Hall \$ 950.00
6. Jean Gallo Producer of Musical Founders Hall \$ 950.00
7. Jean Gallo Drama Club Founders Hall \$ 787.86
8. Lisa Miracle Yearbook Founders Hall \$1,103.00
9. Lisa Miracle Photographer Founders Hall \$ 787.86
10. Jesse Wilson Newspaper Founders Hall \$1,103.00

Regular Board Meeting  
September 23, 2015

11.	Robin McCabe	Intramurals	Founders Hall	\$3,387.78
12.	Dean Holtzman	Audio Visual	Twin Rivers	\$ 787.86
13.	Danette Spouse	Stage	Twin Rivers	\$ 630.28
14.	Tina Bieda	Audio Visual	McClure	\$ 787.86
15.	Chris Davidson	Stage	McClure	\$ 630.28
16.	Kelly Mursch (shared)	PAWSS	High School	\$ 454.03
17.	Brandy Daye (shared)	PAWSS	High School	\$ 454.03

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

1. Lauren Fawcett 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Coach

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

1. Susanne Wasilko Assistant Swim Coach \$2,905.78
2. Dana Gumbert 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Coach \$1,890.85
3. Anthony Jacobs 7/8 Grade Girls Soccer Coach \$1,733.28

CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST:

**ADDITIONS:**

- 1.\* Soledad Ramirez Emergency Day-to-Day Certification
2. Mary Hultberg Elementary

**DELETIONS:**

1. Sarah Paterra French

**SUPPORT STAFF:**

RETIREMENT: Effective 12-31-15:

1. Ruthann Bartrug General Worker, Food Service Department
2. Joan Midlo Special Education Assistant, McClure Intermediate School

RESIGNATION:

1. Janet Brady General Worker, Food Service Department, High School, effective 08-19-15 for the purpose of retirement.
2. Jennifer Breda General Worker, Food Service Department, McClure Primary/Intermediate School, effective 08-31-15.
3. Dezarae Embry Special Education Assistant, Twin Rivers Primary School, effective 09-08-15.

TO BE HIRED: Effective 08-26-15:

1. Carol Johnson Instructional Assistant, Pre-K Counts, Founder's Hall Annex  
(New Position) Step 1 \$15,900.00 (pro-rated)

Regular Board Meeting  
September 23, 2015

**CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE LISTS:**

**ADDITIONS:**

- |     |                  |              |
|-----|------------------|--------------|
| 1.* | Joseph Montedoro | Custodian    |
| 2.* | Shirley Miller   | Custodian    |
| 3.* | Mustafa Musa     | Custodian    |
| 4.* | Alyssa Gottheld  | Food Service |
| 5.* | Nancy Sloan      | Secretary    |

**DELETIONS:**

- |    |                  |  |
|----|------------------|--|
| 1. | Thomas Kaylor    | Custodian  |
| 2. | William Palochko | Instructional Assistant                          |
| 3. | Marion Beech     | Special Education Assistant                      |
| 4. | Tracy Cicci      | Instructional Assistant, Secretary and Custodian |

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

**CONFERENCE REQUESTS:**

- |    |                                   |  |
|----|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Jill Hershey                      | 2015 Cooperative Education Conference. Sponsored by the PA. Cooperative Education Association at State College, PA<br>October 6, 2015 through October 7, 2015<br>(Paid for by Perkins)<br>\$682.88 |
| 2. | Dr. Jane Coughenour<br>Brie Adams | ACAPA Child Accounting and PIMS. Sponsored by ACAPA in Hershey, PA<br>November 4, 2015, to November 6, 2015<br>(Paid for by Title I)<br>\$1,706.30   |
| 3. | Dr. Rula Skezas                   | Superintendent's Professional Development Program<br>Sponsored by AIU3 in Bedford Springs, PA<br>October 7, 2015 through October 9, 2015<br>(No Cost)  |

**PROFESSIONAL:**

**TO BE HIRED: Long Term Substitute: Rate of pay will be \$80.00/day + benefits and increase to \$120.00 on the 61<sup>st</sup> day:**

- |    |                           |   |
|----|---------------------------|---|
| 1. | Allison Peters<br>(Moody) | Math Teacher, Founders Hall, effective 09-22-15 |
|----|---------------------------|---|



Regular Board Meeting  
September 23, 2015

TO BE HIRED: (Paid from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Grant – Cohort 7)  
Position is effective from October 2015 through June 2016 (not to exceed 400 hours). Rate of  
pay will be \$24.13/hour:

- |    |                  |                  |  |
|----|------------------|------------------|--|
| 1. | Lisa Miracle     | Site Coordinator | Founders Hall                          |
| 2. | Autumn Grata     | Site Coordinator | Twin Rivers Intermediate               |
| 3. | Chris Starry     | Site Coordinator | McClure Intermediate (shared position) |
| 4. | Mary Ann LaFever | Site Coordinator | McClure Intermediate (shared position) |

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

- |    |                          |               |            |
|----|--------------------------|---------------|------------|
| 1. | Robin McCabe Intramurals | Founders Hall | \$3,387.78 |
|----|--------------------------|---------------|------------|

CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST:

ADDITIONS:

- |     |               |             |
|-----|---------------|-------------|
| 1.  | Deb Calise    | Spanish     |
| 2.* | Diane Osovski | Mathematics |

DELETIONS:

- |    |                |            |
|----|----------------|------------|
| 1. | Ashlee Anthony | Elementary |
|----|----------------|------------|

**SUPPORT STAFF:**

TO BE HIRED: Effective immediately:

- |    |                                  |  |                         |
|----|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 1. | Melva Grimball<br>(New Position) | Federal Instructional Assistant, High School<br>Step 1 | \$12,611.00 (pro-rated) |
|----|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------|

BOARD ACTION TO APPROVE SUBSTITUTE RATE: Effective immediately:

- |    |                         |              |
|----|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Computer Lab Technician | \$11.00/hour |
|----|-------------------------|--------------|

CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE LISTS:

ADDITIONS:

- |     |                |                         |
|-----|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1.* | Ed Estochin    | Computer Lab Technician |
| 2.  | Sandy Weakland | Secretary               |
| 3.  | Marla Harrison | Food Service            |
| 4.  | Ashley Kitta   | Secretary               |

DELETIONS:

- |    |                       |  |
|----|-----------------------|--|
| 1. | Tracy Cicci           | Instructional Assistant, Secretary and Custodian |
| 2. | Doris Sherard-Killing | Secretary  |
| 3. | Season Williams       | Secretary  |

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

Regular Board Meeting  
September 23, 2015

Voting aye. Mr. Halaszynski, Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Kisan, Mr. Kondrosky, \*Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith

Abstain. Page 2, item 2.

Voting no. Mrs. Gadson

**Policies** - First reading 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

Discussion followed.

**Revisions** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the revisions to the attachments of the following Board policies:

218 – Pupils – Student Discipline (Dress Code)

221 – Pupils – Dress & Grooming (Code of Conduct)

Seconded by Mr. Lopretto. Discussion followed.

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

**Committee Reports** -

Athletic –Mary Jane Keller/Terri Kisan – Mrs. Kisan reported. Thank you, Madame President. We did have an Athletic Committee Meeting on Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, and some of the items we discussed were reflected on the green sheets. The resignations, the recommendations and also we recommended positions of winter sports will soon be posted. As Dr. Skezas mentioned in her Superintendent's Report, the community swim resumes, but with mentioning Scott Smith and Milan Kiska, Milan also organized a swim lesson program that is on our web site and our social media. They will be starting sending information out to the students, but will also be offering four \$40 swim lessons at our high school pool Wednesdays and Saturdays. The cost is \$40, minimum age of 4 to sign up. That's eight lessons in total. Also, he continues on, Mr. Kiska also offers the certification and the recertification. There are three good programs going on through our pool with the community swim, swim lessons and the certifications. Thank you Scott for still being part of that and Dr. Skezas for mentioning that in your report. Also, we continue to talk on about the 2015 Homecoming as you mentioned for October 10<sup>th</sup> and that's also on our web site and social media. That is all, Madame President.

Regular Board Meeting  
September 23, 2015

Buildings & Grounds – Scott Smith – Yes, not a real long report. There are a couple of things we will point out. Some additional pothole patching in the South Hall/Founders Hall parking areas. Some of the bleachers in the gym had issues in the new Founders Hall, but those have been taken care of. Most importantly, for anybody who doesn't know what I do for a living, I own a construction management company. The reason I bring that up is recently we have asked the maintenance staff to take on a relatively large project of modifying a section of the high school so that the Alt Ed center can be moved from a very deteriorated, disgusting building and moved into a phenomenal facility where those kids, because they're our kids, deserve to be. My reason for bringing that up, I've been doing this for 26 years and I watched this maintenance staff perform to a standard that I have seen contractors hit. I want to thank every one of them for putting the forth the effort that they put forth to bring that project to a completion which is actually targeted for Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you.

Career & Technology – Terri Kisan – Thank you Madame President. The Career & Technology Meeting was held on September 17<sup>th</sup> and the items that were discussed were the McKeesport Area Technology Center will be holding their semi-annual occupational advisory committee meeting on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and following after that will be the Career Expo to follow from 6-8. Our commercial art enrollment has increased. We have 24, almost 25 students in commercial art, so as we look at the numbers, that's a nice size class and it was nice to see that grow. The Tiger Inn has been serving on the average 40 lunches on Wednesdays and 62 lunches on Thursday, so they are up to two days a week. Wednesdays buffet and Thursdays are sit down dinners and that's \$5.00. The cosmetology clinic will start on Friday, the 25<sup>th</sup> will be the first time it will be open again this school year for the public. Also, our cosmetology students now that we have approved the green sheet, will be able to travel to Kane Hospital one time per month and it is about 25 kids that will be in that program. Under the collision and repair, our auto body program under the direction of Mr. Bane, he wanted to give the students the opportunity to work on a Corvette, so his letter says to purchase a 1980 Chevrolet Corvette using my personal funds and putting the car in my name. He will keep a detailed record with receipts and all necessary repairs and the students will have a chance to work on the car through the auto body shop and he's estimated that approximately \$1,700 will be needed for the repairs which he will personally fund and the students of the McKeesport Auto Body Shop will complete the repairs over the 2015/2016 school year. When the car is completed he will attempt to sell it for at least the amount that he had personally invested in the project, substantiated by a detailed record and any additional funds obtained by selling the car will be donated to the McKeesport Area Technology Center. I thought that was very nice that he is giving those students a chance to work on a more high performance fancier car in the program, and let's hope that he's successful there with the selling of the car after it's complete. One other item if I could report on, our partnership with the 412 food rescue. The food rescue aims to fight hunger by collecting fresh healthy food that would otherwise be discarded

Regular Board Meeting  
September 23, 2015

and directly distributed to community organizations that serve those in need. The 412 rescue is a rapid response organization that utilized technology to aggregate and match food donors and beneficiaries and mobilizes a community of volunteers to efficiently transport food between locations. Food rescues mission is to directly impact our community's health and sustainability. Forty percent of food is wasted, while one in six goes hungry. Hunger affects nearly 200,000 in our region and many of them are children. 412 Rescue bridges the disconnect between waste and hunger by rescuing perfectly viable food from going to waste and directly distributing to organizations that serve those who are hungry. Our first truck will be arriving on Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, from 2:30 – 3:30 PM at the Central Presbyterian Church at 1510 Versailles Avenue in McKeesport. At that time, it's a good location, we'll see how much food will be our first, we're not quite sure how much will be in the truck, but I know that there is a need in that area. I know our families are serviced a lot by the Rainbow Kitchen and also by the Food Bank, but this is another opportunity for those that may be needing the bridge and I do have to thank Brie Adams, Dr. Skezas and Jane Coughenour for putting this together, finding the location, reaching out to the church and hopefully it will be a start that every third Monday and you can make a note of that, those that are in need will be able to receive whatever at that time is loaded and available to us in the 412 truck. Dr. Skezas announced that the dates and times will be on social media.

Community Relations/Cultural Diversity –Trisha Gadson – We had a meeting today. The purpose of the meeting at the Diversity Committee was to report back on an action plan that was developed within the African-American community this past weekend and to initiate discussion with school district leaders. The purpose of the Diversity Committee is to focus on disparity and look at academic outcomes or gaps in academic outcomes particularly as they impact African-American students. This past weekend there was a meeting of 19 residents who came together to develop a plan. The components of that plan and the process was reported to the leadership team of the district today. The process included taking a look at the statistics within the district such as the fact that there are 251 classroom teachers and less than 3% are less than African American and the African American students make up 42.5% of the district. There were some discussion about taking a look at that as well as taking a look at the academic outcomes. We took a look at the Keystone results identifying that the students that are scoring below basic, the majority of those are African American. So we participated in an evidence-based program called a human design process where we underwent a process called rose, thorn, bud where we identify all of the positive things that exist within our district, all of the things that need further support and all of the things that need development. We then begin to vote on the areas that are most prominent in the view of the African American community. The three that were most prominent areas of concern were the community's perception of the existence of nepotism, cronyism, and abuse of influence within the district, the need for more African American representation in classroom

Regular Board Meeting  
September 23, 2015

teachers, administrators, board members and guidance counselors and teachers low expectation of performance by African American students. Prevailing or further development area as identified by representatives of the African American community with a need to create tax revenue by engaging property investors, the need for more African American community and parent involvement in the school district and the utilization of the Diversity Committee to make a difference in the community. So what happened was that each of those areas were taken individually and the group that was gathered identified what the community could do and what the district is requested to do. Tasks and steps were identified, so this plan was presented to the district, the Superintendent received the plan and will review it with senior leadership and then we will discuss it again in the October meeting to begin working on implementing the plan. The overall premise, however, is that the African American community is asking for representation, asking for culturally competent and relevant tools to impact the students and a partnership with the Administrators in the district to make decisions that will bring about change believing that a healthy community is a community where all parts of the community are healthy. Thank you very much Madame President.

Education/Legislation/Policy – Mary Jane Keller – We met on September 16<sup>th</sup>. The PA Department of Education has approved a waiver for tests that the children had taken in 2014/2015. The Principal evaluation was explained along with the rating points which determines their salary increases. Teacher evaluation update took place, observations will continue to be used this year as their evaluation is done. We reviewed the preliminary Keystone test results and also the enrollment figures as of September 16<sup>th</sup> for McKeesport Area School District. The Legislation/Policy Committee is reflected in item #11 which was the first reading of four (4) new policies. Thank you.

Finance/Grants/Outside Funding – No meeting.

Personnel –Joe Lopretto – Yes, we did have a meeting Madame President and the green sheet reflects that. As always every month, I thank Dr. Bauman, Dr. Skezas and Mr. Humanic with some diligent in getting the right people in the places they need to be.

Safe Schools – Joe Lopretto – Yes, we did have a meeting August 28<sup>th</sup>. We met with the building principals to find out how they felt everything was going as far as safety in the buildings. We want to make sure all of the doors are working. Everything came back with good results. Then we also had a meeting yesterday at 10:00 AM and we will have a Safe Schools Meeting every month the Tuesday before the Regular Meeting at 10:00 AM. Again, we spoke on safety again yesterday with the tragedy that we had out here. I feel our buildings are as safe as possible, now we have to make sure everything around our buildings is as safe as possible also.

Regular Board Meeting  
September 23, 2015

**Solicitor's Report** – Madame President, I provided the Solicitor's Report and I have no further report.

**Correspondence** – None

**New Business** –

Mrs. Gadson moved to appoint Soleil Meade to the vacant Board seat until the Reorganization Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lopretto. Discussion followed.

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

Mrs. Gadson moved to end the contract with Dodaro, Matta & Cambest and use Weiss, Burkhardt, Kramer until we are able to accept proposals and review a process to appoint a law firm. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Discussion followed.

Voting aye. Mrs. Gadson, Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Kisan, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith

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

**Adjournment** – 9:15 PM – Mr. Lopretto moved for adjournment. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

Voting aye. All Members present.

**ATTEST:**

---

David M. Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary