

McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
August 19, 2015

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| Presiding | Patricia Maksin, Board President |
| Date, Time, Place | Wednesday, August 19, 2015, 7:40 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 Thomas Maglicco Patricia Maksin Scott Smith Excused. Joe Lopretto |
| 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 Gary Matta, Solicitor |

Board President's Remarks – It's time to begin another school year and summer is drawing to a close and thoughts once again turn to the classroom. Teachers, students and parents all have different views of the coming school year, but all are awaiting the new adventure. I know that our MASD staff has been hard at work this summer preparing for the 2015/2016 year to make it the best that it can be. Hopefully, summer activities have been exciting, fun, healthy and safe. I also hope that some of those activities were ones that also emphasize learning. Taking advantage of summer educational opportunities is vital to being prepared to take on the challenges that await each student. It is not often easy to fit in everything that is important over the summer. Congratulations to students and families that made summer learning a

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priority. We are all looking forward to a new innovative and productive school year and good luck as we begin anew.

Superintendent's Report – Good evening. It's time to welcome our students back to school. Actually, in only 12 days, for those of you that are in the audience. I hope that you are just as enthusiastic about the upcoming school year as I am. We are ready to welcome back all of the students and staff with anticipation for the great experiences we will have during the 2015/2016 school year. The first day for our over 3,500 students will be Monday, August 31st. As a district, we are making great strides in aligning our curriculum in preparation for the new academic standards, continuing to modernize our facilities and most importantly, continuing to form a culture of relationships with our students. We are ready to build on these successes in the 2015/2016 school year. A few important dates that I would like to mention this evening. Our third annual Back to School Bash will be held this Saturday, August 22nd, from 1:00 – 3:00 PM following our scrimmage. It will be held in our Founders Hall gymnasium and it's always been a great success. We will be distributing book bags stuffed with school supplies and families will be able to enjoy games, food and prizes. A couple of other dates that are upcoming, Parent Visitation day which is most importantly on October 5th, as well as Homecoming and George L. Smith field dedication that will take place on October 10th. If you or anyone you know is a Tiger football alumni, and I see a few in the audience, we ask that you contact Kristen Davis to have your name added to the attendees lists. All of our important pertinent dates for the upcoming year will be sent home in a calendar to all students and also can be found on our website which is www.mckasd.net. This year, we are going to be highlighting a variety of initiatives from each of our 6 schools. Be sure to like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to take a tour of what each of our buildings have going on inside of the classrooms. Finally, we could not do the work that we do without the support of our parents, the PTA and community partners throughout the McKeesport Area School District. We want all the best for our students and for every student to be successful and to have a very positive school year. I am always listening, so if you have an idea, suggestion or even a concern, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Treasurer's Report – Mr. Kondrosky moved to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report for the months of June and July 2015. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

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

Excused. Mr. Lopretto

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Hearing of Citizens –

Fawn Walker-Montgomery, 3509 Mayfair Street, McKeesport, PA 15132.

Ms. Walker-Montgomery addressed the Board on the issue of a Board vacancy.

Minutes – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the minutes of the Open Agenda Meeting of June 17, 2015 and Regular Meeting of June 24, 2015. Seconded by Mrs. Kisan.

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

Excused. Mr. Lopretto

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. Maglicco, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith

Excused. Mr. Lopretto

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

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

Abstain. Mrs. Kisan

Excused. Mr. Lopretto

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

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

Excused. Mr. Lopretto

MOU – Mrs. Keller moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Alliance Christian Child Care Center to provide child care services before and after school at Twin Rivers and Francis McClure schools for the 2015/2016 school year. Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

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

Excused. Mr. Lopretto

Subcontract – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve a subcontract with Donna Maguire, RN to provide Nurse Liaison Services for the UPMC/McKeesport Area School District Allied Health Partnership effective September 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Maglicco. Discussion followed.

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

Excused. Mr. Lopretto

Resolution – Mr. Maglicco moved to approve Resolution #1125 – Allegheny County Health Department's Live Well School Partnership. Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

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

Excused. Mr. Lopretto

Contract – Mr. Maglicco moved to approve a contract with Associated Occupational Therapists, Inc. for physical and occupational therapy services for the 2015/2016 school year at the following hourly rates - \$60.25/OTR/L; \$50.50/COTA/L; \$64.00/PT; and \$54.00/PTA. Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

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

Excused. Mr. Lopretto

Insurance – Mr. Maglicco moved to approve the following insurances through Wright Specialty Insurance in the amount of \$188,919 for the period of 9/15/15 through 9/14/16:
Package/Auto - \$155,210
School Leaders & Omissions - \$18,945
Umbrella - \$14,764
Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

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

Excused. Mr. Lopretto

Insurance – Mrs. Gadson moved to accept the proposal from American Management Advisors, Inc. for student athletic insurance for the 2015/2016 school term in the amount of \$11,000. Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski.

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

Excused. Mr. Lopretto

Agreement – Mr. Maglicco moved to approve an agreement with PA.Educator.net Clearinghouse. Seconded by Mrs. Kisan.

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

Excused. Mr. Lopretto

PA Coach – Mr. Smith moved to approve the list of drivers and monitors from PA Coach for the 2015/2016 school year with receipt of appropriate documentation. Seconded by Mrs. Gadson.

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

Excused. Mr. Lopretto

Agreement – Mr. Maglicco moved to approve a Letter of Agreement between McKeesport Area School District and Pittsburgh-Mt. Oliver Intermediate Unit #2. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

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

Excused. Mr. Lopretto

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Resolution – Mr. Maglicco moved to approve Resolution # Resolution #1126 authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Notes in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$6,500,000, for the purpose of refunding a portion of each of the School District's outstanding (i) General Obligation Bonds, Series B of 1997, (ii) General Obligation Bonds, Series D of 1997, (iii) General Obligation Bonds, Series A of 1999, (iv) General Obligation Bonds, Series C of 1999, (v) General Obligation Bonds, Series A of 2005, (vi) General Obligation Bonds, Series B of 2005, (vii) General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2011, (viii) General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2012; and (ix) General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2014, as presented by Bond Counsel. Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

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

Excused. Mr. Lopretto

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

ACT 93:

RESIGNATION: Effective 08-06-15:

1. Tamara Sanders Woods Assistant High School Principal

TEMPORARY CHANGE IN STATUS: Effective immediately through 06-30-16:

1. Shari Halfhill From: Social Studies Teacher, High School
(Sanders Woods) To: Acting Assistant Principal, High School
Stipend of: \$5,000.00

PROFESSIONAL:

RESIGNATION: Effective immediately:

1. Richetta Randolph Elementary World Language Itinerant
2. Katie Hutskow Title I Facilitator, Francis McClure Intermediate School
3. Milissa Dodaro Elementary Teacher, Francis McClure Intermediate School
4. Todd Blackwell Reflections Room Facilitator, High School

TO BE HIRED: Effective 08-26-15:

1. Nevenka Kostley Elementary World Language Itinerant
Step 1M \$42,378.00
2. Joshua Volpe English Teacher, High School/East End Academy
(Tomich) Step 1B \$41,778.00

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| 3. | Jodi Newhouse (Tutko) | Special Education Teacher, High School/East End Academy Step 1M \$42,378.00 |
| 4.* | Samantha Carr (New Position) | Special Education Teacher, East End Academy Step 1M \$42,378.00 |
| 5. | Catherine Gerdich (New Position) | Pre-K Counts Teacher, Founders Hall Step 6B+30 \$46,756.00 |

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

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| 1. | Amanda McArdle | Science Teacher, High School, maternity leave of absence for the 2015-2016 school year. FMLA |
| 2. | Joan Smith | Science Teacher, High School, maternity leave of absence effective 08-26-15 to an undetermined date. FMLA |
| 3. | Paulena Batis | Elementary Teacher, Twin Rivers Primary School, Maternity leave of absence effective 08-26-15 to an undetermined date. FMLA |
| 4. | Tara Reed | Art Itinerant, Twin Rivers Primary/Intermediate School, maternity leave of absence effective 08-31-15 to an undetermined date. FMLA |
| 5. | Cory Kunicky | Elementary Guidance Counselor, Twin Rivers Intermediate School, maternity leave of absence effective 08-14-15 to an undetermined date. FMLA |
| 6. | Brian Moody | Math Teacher, Founders Hall, military leave of absence effective 09-22-15 through 12-25-15. |

TO BE HIRED: Long Term Substitute: Rate of pay will be \$80.00/day + benefits:

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| 1. | Amanda Santucci (McArdle) | Science Teacher, High School, effective 08-26-15 |
| 2.* | Rachel Sprouse (J. Smith) | Science Teacher, High School, effective 08-26-15 |
| 3. | Christine Snyder (Batis) | Elementary Teacher, Twin Rivers Primary, effective 08-26-15 |
| 4. | Benjamin Noonan (McCall) | Social Studies Teacher, Founder's Hall, effective 08-26-15 |
| 5. | Ryan Szymczak (Halfhill) | Social Studies Teacher, High School, effective 08-26-15. |

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

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| 1. | Craig Slafka (Zosack) | Elementary Teacher, Francis McClure Primary School, effective 08-26-15. (pending receipt of certification) |
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2. Kristen Romano Elementary Art Itinerant, Twin Rivers Primary Intermediate
(Reed) Schools effective 08-26-15

TO BE HIRED: Title I Facilitator effective 08-26-15: Rate of pay will be either \$95.00/day + individual benefits or \$105/day without benefits:

1. Cassie McBride Francis McClure Intermediate School
(Hutskow)
2. Troy Blackwell Reflections Room Facilitator, High School
(Todd Blackwell)

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 61st day:

1. Brandi Stalter Twin Rivers Primary
2. Ashlee Anthony Twin Rivers Intermediate
3. Erica Koelsch Francis McClure Primary
4. Reita Kline Francis McClure Intermediate
5. Dana Brown Founders Hall
6. Dawn Shelly Founders Hall
7. Brad Baldwin High School
8. Alexandria Billy High School
9. Keith Parton High School

BOARD ACTION TO ELIMINATE THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS EFFECTIVE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 2015-2016:

- (1) World Language Itinerant at Twin Rivers Primary/Intermediate Schools
- (1) Title I Facilitator at Founders Hall (Annex)
- (1) Kindergarten Teacher at Twin Rivers Primary School
- (1) Kindergarten Teacher at Francis McClure Primary School

BOARD ACTION TO CREATE THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS EFFECTIVE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 2015-2016:

- (1) STEMology Exploration Teacher at Twin Rivers Primary/Intermediate School

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

1. Kelly Fitterer Volleyball Coach
2. Mike Petruzzi Girls Soccer Coach

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

- 1.* Haley Ekaitis Volleyball Coach \$2,724.17

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| 2.* | Tori Walker | Assistant Volleyball Coach | \$1,816.11 |
| 3. | Paul Yester | Girls Soccer Coach | \$3,450.61 |
| 4.* | Chris Goldinger | Girls Assistant Soccer Coach | \$1,816.11 |
| 5. | Lauren Fawcett | 7 th Grade Girls Basketball Coach | \$1,890.58 |
| 6. | Kenny Brown | 7/8 Grade Football Coach (shared) | \$1,260.57 |
| 7. | Sam Bostic | 7/8 Grade Football Coach (shared) | \$1,260.57 |

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

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| 1.* | Ryan Jacobs | Girls Assistant Soccer Coach |
| 2.* | Derek Benedict | Boys Assistant Soccer Coach |
| 3.* | Richard Markowitz | Boys Assistant Soccer Coach |
| 4.* | Michael Brunozi | Boys Assistant Soccer Coach |
| 5.* | Jim Leunberger | Assistant Cross Country Coach |
| 6. | Habeeb Abdul-Raab | Assistant Football Coach |
| 7.* | Ed Mantich | Assistant Football Coach |
| 8.* | Matt Flowers | Assistant 7/8 Grade Football Coach |

TO BE HIRED: Effective for the 2015-2016 school year: Stipend not to exceed \$15,000.00:

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| 1. | C. H. Jaquette | School Psychologist (Duquesne University) |
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CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST:

ADDITIONS:

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| 1.* | Rachel Sprouse | Biology, General Science |
| 2.* | Sharon Mols | Emergency Day-to-Day Substitute (all subject areas) |
| 3.* | Kristy Hobson | Grade PK – 3 |

DELETIONS:

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| 1. | Melissa Conrad | Health and Physical Education |
| 2. | Lilian Bator | Elementary |
| 3. | Caitlyn Mangan | Early Childhood, Special Education |
| 4. | Megan Rowles | Elementary/Secondary Counselor |
| 5. | Lauren Hoover | Elementary, Special Education |
| 6. | Ashley Sayles | Social Studies |

SUPPORT STAFF:

RESIGNATION: Effective 06-24-15:

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| 1. | Joseph Lopretto, Jr. | Custodian, Twin Rivers Intermediate |
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LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

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| 1. | Julia Pratt | General Worker, Food Service Department, Twin Rivers Intermediate School effective immediately (not to exceed one year) |
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TO BE HIRED: Effective immediately;

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| 1. | Jessica Swauger | Secretary, Food Service Department, 10-month position, Category 4. Yearly salary will be \$15,639.00 (pro-rated) effective immediately. |
| 2. | Jennifer Lacey Smith | Computer Lab Technician. Yearly salary will be \$17,300.00 (pro-rated) effective immediately. |
| 3. | Thelma Figas | Custodian, placement to be determined. Yearly salary will be \$32,500.00 (pro-rated) effective 09-01-15 |
| 4. | John Ware | Custodian, placement to be determined. Yearly salary will be \$32,500.00 (pro-rated) effective 09-01-15 |
| 5. | Ryan Pavlovic | Custodian, placement to be determined. Yearly salary will be \$32,500.00 (pro-rated) effective 09-01-15 |
| 6. | Frank Haydok | Custodian, placement to be determined. Yearly salary will be \$32,500.00 (pro-rated) effective 09-01-15 |
| 7. | Steve Cmar | Custodian, placement to be determined. Yearly salary will be \$32,500.00 (pro-rated) effective 09-01-15 |

BOARD ACTION TO CREATE THE FOLLOWING POSITION EFFECTIVE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR:

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| (1) | Federal Instructional Assistant (paid for by Perkins) |
| (1) | Pre-K Instructional Assistant (paid for by Pre-K) |

CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE LISTS:

ADDITIONS:

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| 1.* | Nancy Sloan | Special Education Assistant |
| 2.* | Keith Caito | Special Education Assistant |
| 3.* | Jennifer Mayersky | Special Education Assistant |
| 4. | Gail Miracle | Secretary |

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| 5. | Debra Foster | Food Service |
| 6. | Nick Grice | Custodian |
| 7.* | Carol Johnson | Instructional Assistant |
| 8. | Lorri Mockabee | Custodian |

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

CONFERENCE REQUESTS:

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| 1. | Dr. Mark Holtzman | CTE Technology Coordinators and Counselor |
| | Alice Saxon | Workshop. Sponsored by PACTA at Penn State |
| | Shelley Fawcett | College |
| | | September 24, 2015 through September 25, 2015 |
| | | \$1,260.42 |

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

Voting no. Mrs. Gadson

Excused. Mr. Lopretto

*Abstain. Page 3 item 1 – permanent day to day subs

Change Order – Mr. Smith moved to approve the change order for Twin Rivers Elementary/Intermediate School. Seconded by Mrs. Keller.

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

Excused. Mr. Lopretto

PNC Bank – Mr. Kondrosky moved to authorize the Business Manager to open a line of credit with PNC Bank to provide funds in the event that cash resources are not available to provide for the monthly expenses of the School District. This situation is due to the fact that the State has not passed a budget and; therefore, state subsidies and reimbursements are not being provided to the District. The Business Manager will report bi-weekly to the Board on any funds accessed from the line of credit and the account will be closed once the State passes a budget and begins to provide funds to the district. Seconded by Mrs. Keller.

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

Excused. Mr. Lopretto

Committee Reports -

Athletic –Mary Jane Keller/Terri Kisan – Mrs. Keller reported. The Athletic Committee met on Tuesday, August 11th. We reviewed and approved the following items. Athletic Director Kiss reported on two resignations and 14 employee hires as reflected on tonight's green sheets. The lettering Neenie Campbell Gymnasium on the outside of the building has been installed. The new lettering for Tiger Stadium and the new scoreboard is being done right now. Banners on the inside of the Neenie Campbell Gym are still to come. Ms. Brie Adams is researching outside grant money for a pre-season maintenance project on our girls' softball field at the high school. That's my report.

Buildings & Grounds – Scott Smith – We did not meet; however, I do have a report. Other than the normal summer maintenance which we all know is a lot, the maintenance group took on a special project, the alternative education construction project at the high school. That project is expected to be done and ready to be occupied at the beginning of October. What I can say is that by doing it in house, we probably have saved in my opinion about 66% of what it would cost to outsource it. In putting the Alt Ed center where it's at, DocuTech needed to be moved, that's also part of that expense savings. During the construction at the Alt Ed center, we found a roof drain that was from the original construction of the building that was cut in 2003 and never reconnected by the contractors. That has been resolved. It solves a big issue in part of a corner of a building so we were happy that we found that and it was taken care of also primarily in-house with a little bit of outside help because we were dealing with some footers that had to be dealt with as well. There was 3.5 ton roof top air conditioner that was at the Cornell school that was salvaged and actually installed in the graphic arts center area which was also relocated as part of the Alt Ed center which we can estimate saved approximately \$5,500 by salvaging that unit. Founders Hall parking areas as well as South Hall throughout the summer have received several hot asphalt patching to help make it safer for the kids that use the facility as well as the vehicles that drive through the facility. That's my report. (Mr. Seropian – In addition to the cost savings that resulted from our own staff doing this, our custodial/maintenance staff does a phenomenal job if you see the work out there and the product that they are producing, it's amazing, they do a great job.)

Career & Technology – Terri Kisan – Thank you Madame President. Our committee was named CTC – Career Technology Center, but now on the leadership of Dr. Rula Skezas, we have a new name it's McKeesport Area Technical Center (MATC). (Dr. Skezas – Actually that's what

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it's been called for years upon years, but it was never referred to as that.) Thank you for your leadership and we also have an Assistant Director now, Dr. Mark Holtzman is also the Assistant Director of the MATC. So, we were happy to meet on August 13th and at that meeting we discussed the robotics, our three period engineering class. On the green sheets, a conference request for the PACTA conference. We also have an approved program evaluation along with our comprehensive technical center evaluations that we're working on for the 15/16 school year. We discussed the culinary and we will continue to visit Kane Hospital once a month for the service to those residents and culinary and cosmetology. Under culinary we will continue again with the lunches, however, it will be two days a week as I had reported last meeting, but the price has gone up from \$4.50 to \$5.00 per lunch. Save the date for career expo fair will be October 22nd. Thank you Madame President.

Community Relations/Cultural Diversity –Trisha Gadson – We had our first official meeting for the school year today, however, we have been meeting all summer in preparation for the third annual Back to School Bash. Today we met to finalize the details as Dr. Skezas indicated in her report the Back to School Bash will occur on Saturday, August 22nd, at Founders Hall gymnasium from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. Over 500 book bags filled with supplies will be distributed. The second half of the meeting we began to discuss what our focus will be for the remainder of the 15/16 school year. Our discussions centered around the impact that race and poverty have on students. Again this year we will focus on closing educational gaps. That concludes my report.

Education/Legislation/Policy – Mary Jane Keller – We did not meet in August, but we have several topics already for September.

Finance/Grants/Outside Funding–Tom Maglicco – Yes, Madame President, we did have a meeting and as always we talked about the budget shortages that we often encounter. Mr. Seropian had mentioned in the budget that our fund balance is projected to be slightly higher this coming year and I don't know Dave if you want to touch on the Moody or Standards and Poors reports.)

Mr. Seropian – We talked about it last month, but I think it's worth mentioning again because some of you may have seen an article in the paper and maybe even on the news about the Moody's coming out with a report and part of their review process on their ratings, it wasn't part of a bond issue but they did a routine review and came out with a rating and they lowered our bond rating down to a level that was pretty low. We strongly disagreed with that rating, think it's totally unwarranted, and so fast forward to the issue on here today, we got a rating for this bond issue that was on item #14, so we went to Standard and Poors which is another rating agency, and they rated us an A rating, much higher, like five levels higher than what

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Moody's did. So, they validated what we thought and Alicia might want to add to that. The Moody's report is out there and it does have a negative effect in some ways because now buyers of bonds are looking at two different ratings and trying to make a decision about buying our bonds. It was unfortunate that Moody's took that ridiculous action that they took.

Mr. Smith – Was it not true that Moody's issued that report prior to doing the reassessment of all the schools in the State of Pennsylvania?

Mr. Seropian – My understanding from them when they first informed me of what the rating was and after I said a few things, they said don't get too upset because you're only the first in a number of districts that we're going to be doing. We've only done a handful so far and we're going to be doing this across the State so you're not going to be the only one with that rating. Then they came out with that report and it may look like we're the only ones in the whole country that has that rating.

Mr. Smith – So the report was potentially premature?

Mr. Seropian – They do that, but just the way it worked out them releasing it, it generated a lot of publicity which may or may not have been their intent.

Mr. Smith – So these ratings are very similar to my personal credit rating, but on a school basis. Typically my personal credit rating is based on my ability and past history of making payment on my debt. That's how my personal credit works, I know Moody's and Standard and Poors should be similar and I guess my question to Dave is, how many payments have you missed?

Mr. Seropian – We have never missed a payment obviously, and I explained to the gentleman that we have had a fund balance for 17 years in a row, have never been in deficit, it was uncalled for.

Alicia Phillips explained.

Just wanted to finish up Madame President, that's also true that we discussed at this meeting to continue to work toward reducing our budget over the next several years as the Board moves forward to always keep that in mind that any ways that we can save money, our revenues are fixed at a certain cost, we've raised some taxes, but we still have to find ways to lower our budget due to the fact that we don't have enough monies coming in and hopefully the State will be generous in their subsidies this year. As it was reported in The Daily News, I just want to say that it looks like I will be accepting a position in a couple weeks and I will be sworn in as the new City Controller for the City of McKeesport. My heart is heavy because I

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am passionate about this school district and being a student of this district all my life, and my heart is in the City of McKeesport and this school district. I remembered when I opened my jewelry box, I saw this little red wagon in there. Instead of putting the American flag on today that I wear so proudly, I grabbed the little red wagon and the little saying here by Margaret Katter was pretty nice, I read it as I was coming in today, but I would just like to read it. It says, some days we skip along pulling our wagons with great confidence so full of energy, but the load seems light. Some days the load seems heavy and we need someone to help us pull our wagon over the bumps in the road. Some days we are just tired. We sit in our wagons and let someone else pull us along for a while. And some days it's kind of nice to share our little red wagon with a friend. As you think about yesterday and make plans for tomorrow, keep in mind that there will be times when we can all help pull someone's little red wagon for a little while. After all, helping pull each other's little red wagon is what makes it possible to face the challenges the day brings. This is even touching because of where I got this was in Washington DC after I was injured in the Operation Iraqi Freedom actually in a training mission, it wasn't in a war conflict. I was a whirlwind when I got sent back to Kuwaiti Hospital, to a hospital in Germany when to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington DC. The one doctor there knew that I had worked in the Boys and Girls Club and was in that movement and he offered me to go down to the Reagan Center to see General Colin Powell. That's where General Colin Powell handed me this card and this little red wagon. I hear what Mrs. Walker had said earlier today, but I've go to say that a person that grew up in the town and our mentor, Tim Brown's in this audience, Sam LaRosa, we all have red blood in our veins. That's what I look at when I look at people and I look in their eyes, I look at them as people and we all have red blood. We all believe the same passion for kindness, peace, love, joy whatever it might be. I look to white, black, yellow, brown for guidance for spiritual leadership for motivation. That's what's true in my heart and I hope that's what's true in everybody's heart. Madame President, it's an honor to serve with everybody. As I get sworn in a couple of weeks, I'm going to accept that position and I will be resigning next month as an MASD school director. My heart will never leave here, I may pop in the audience and see everybody and Mr. Brown's coming aboard here shortly so I will be cheering you on there as I will be cheering on the City of McKeesport and rolling up my sleeves and getting back to my roots at the Boys and Girls Club and in the community to do clean up days or whatever it might take to help make our city great. I just want to say thank you, you guys are more than just colleagues here, we're family, we've spent many nights together, days together and sometimes mornings and I consider you all family. Sometimes we all didn't agree all the time, but to let you know, I consider each one of you a friend and I look forward to working with you in another capacity now. Thank you. (Mrs. Maksin – not a dry eye here. Thank you.)

Personnel –Joe Lopretto/Tom Maglicco – Mr. Maglicco reported. The personnel sheets reflect what the Administration had put together and the Board and we welcome all of the new

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employees to the district on this sheet and thank you for all your hard work and effort in putting this together.

Safe Schools – Joe Lopretto – Dr. Skezas reported. Mr. Lopretto and I scheduled a meeting for August 25th. Day before the teachers come back.

Solicitor's Report –

I have two items that will need action this evening Madame President. One if Grievance #5-14-15. I would be requesting that the Board deny that grievance at this time, I would need a motion on that matter.

Grievance – Mr. Smith moved to deny MAEA Grievance #5-14-15. Seconded by Mrs. Kisan.

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

Excused. Mr. Lopretto

Also, I would need approval of Resolution #1127. If I may Madame President, instead of reading the whole resolution, I would like to explain to the community what this is. As everybody is aware, there are properties within our school district and within our city that are delinquent and in a blighted state. The City has approached the school district on a proposal that when we have properties that are in this condition that we may be able to join together in eliminating penalty and interest, but still receiving all of the back taxes due on those properties and get them into projects that can be recreated to put them back on the tax rolls. The school district, each Board Member here and the Administration feel that this is a very good project that we can partner with our communities and make certain that we are finding areas of our community that are not tax generating at this point and make them tax generating properties and establishing anchors in certain communities with projects that will help develop not only the exact piece of property that is in question, but also properties surrounding it. So, this evening if the Board would choose to approve this resolution it would give the Administration and Business Manager specifically the ability to work with the city on projects of this type to help economic growth within the school district and the city. I would ask approval this evening of that resolution.

Resolution – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve Resolution #1127 - a Resolution of the Board of School Directors of the McKeesport Area School District, establishing a policy to forgive penalties and interest on certain properties as identified as an exhibit to this resolution. Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski. Discussion followed.

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

Excused. Mr. Lopretto

Correspondence – None.

New Business –

Mrs. Gadson – I would like to make a comment, Madame President. So I first want to acknowledge the heartfelt comments made by Mr. Maglicco. I want to personally say it has been a privilege and an honor to sit beside you in the room. I have learned from you and I have grown from you. You have literally driven me around the district when I first was appointed by the courts before winning the election and I appreciate your guidance and support. We have even had some very courageous conversations where it has been tense between us, but we have been able to work it out. I appreciate you for that. However, I have to say something as a member of the district, as a mother of two graduates, as a professional and as an African American woman. My friend, race does matter, it does matter to us and I cannot sit here and say it does not enter into the equation when I am terrified about my son walking or driving in our community or any community at certain times or when I am looking at the outcomes of children who are my friends' children and my son's and my daughter's friends. When I look at the families that look like me, race does matter and we were talking about that today in the Diversity Committee, we can't say it doesn't because it does so I think what the constituents were saying is that they are hoping that this Board will give consideration to qualified people of color to represent and to provide a different voice and a different perspective and a different color to the conversation to the meaningful and important conversations and because we want to see that does not take away from the contributions, your hours, your dedication, it speaks volumes Tommy, I'll never forget it and I will always be indebted to you for the way that you have helped me, but race does matter. But, I wish you well my friend, and I sincerely mean that.

Adjournment – 8:30 PM – Mr. Kondrosky moved for adjournment. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

Voting aye. All Members present.

ATTEST:

David M. Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary

