

**McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 22, 2015**

<b>Presiding</b>	Patricia Maksin, Board President
<b>Date, Time, Place</b>	Wednesday, April 22, 2015, 7:40 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 Thomas Maglicco Patricia Maksin Scott Smith
<b>Others Present</b>	Dr. Rula S. Skezas, Superintendent Dr. Harry A. Bauman, Assistant Superintendent James G. Humanic, Director of Human Resources/ Assistant to the Business Manager Gary Matta, Solicitor

**Board President's Remarks** – I was told to keep my comments short because we're late and because there's a hockey game tonight. I will just say happy earth day to everyone and as we come to the end of testing in the buildings over the next few weeks, we want to thank our students, our staff and our families for all of the hard work that went into all of the successes experienced this school year. Everyone should feel proud in the accomplishments that have developed through hard work and commitment. I also invite everyone to check our website to find out the concerts and events that each building will be having to celebrate those accomplishments and the talents of our students in the upcoming weeks. Join us in supporting our children and encourage them to greater heights in the coming days and weeks before summer break. Be an active part of the MASD family and continually show your tiger pride in our academics, arts and athletics. Tiger pride forever.

**Superintendent's Report** – Good evening. While you were awaiting the beginning of our meeting, and we apologize for being late, you were able to see video footage from our Founders' Hall Middle School game against Gateway. During that game, our student, Danielle List was asked to temporarily give up her management role on the team to go into the game! I would like to extend a special thank you to Gateway School District for allowing us to make a very memorable experience for one of our students! The video can also be viewed on our website! I see in the audience many familiar faces. Founders' Hall Musical – I would like at this time during my report I am going to announce that you will be doing Godspell this year and I am so excited to be attending next week. It will be April 30<sup>th</sup> through May 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 7:30 p.m. in our Francis McClure Auditorium. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students. At this time I'm going to take a break from my report and I would like to see a little bit of Godspell. After seeing last week's performance, Bye Bye Birdie, I know we're going to see these students up on that stage at the high school. Wonderful job. A couple of other things that I would like to make reference to and am very proud to recognize. This evening we have a familiar face here to be recognized. Our high school was well represented at the Pennsylvania Skills USA Competition, and the students were appreciative of the opportunity to participate. Most importantly, they each further developed leadership skills to set in place for the upcoming team's activities. We are proud to announce recognize Savannah Bowman from our Allied Health Program, the Bronze Medalist for her Health Occupations Portfolio. In addition to her win, Savannah was awarded scholarships valued up to \$4,000.00! We are very proud of you Savannah, keep up the good work. We are very pleased that you are representing the Allied Health program. We also have another special guest from the Career and Technology Center here with us tonight and her name is Mrs. Lyndsay Brown. She received the 2015 Champion of Learning Award for Technology Integration in the classroom. I was fortunate enough to actually attend the dinner that evening. Awardees were selected from among three or four finalists in each of the seven categories. The finalists emerged from a nominating process that began in November and drew 75 submissions. At this time I would like to congratulate and please come forward Mrs. Lindsay Brown. Kindergarten fun event Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Founders Hall gymnasium. Please we are registering our kindergarteners. If all of their packets are complete, they are invited. I know Dr. Bauman has worked very hard on this project as well as the committee of kindergarten teachers and other staff members throughout the district. May 6<sup>th</sup> we are having the Americanism awards at White Oak American Legion for our 8<sup>th</sup> graders and we will speak and recognize those next month, but on May 12<sup>th</sup> and again we're not going to have a meeting until later in the month, but I do want to make note that National Junior Honor Society induction at Founders Hall will take place on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. That concludes my report.

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

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

**Hearing of Citizens –**

Keno Fitzpatrick, 408 Meadow View Drive, McKees Rocks, PA 15136

Mr. Fitzpatrick addressed the Board on the issue of employee alignment.

Tom Bowman, 2602 Cleveland Street, McKeesport, PA 15132

Mr. Bowman addressed the Board on the issue of thanking the Board for allowing his daughter to compete in Skills USA.

**Minutes** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the minutes of the Open Agenda Meeting of March 18, 2015 and Regular Meeting of March 25, 2015. Seconded by Mrs. Keller.

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

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

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

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

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

**Programs** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the following:

- A. Summer Family Literacy Program
  - B. Credit Recovery Program
  - C. Summer School Program through the YMCA
- Seconded by Mrs. Keller. Discussion followed.

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

**Calendar** – Mr. Lopretto moved to approve the Board Meeting calendar 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. Lopretto, Mr. Maglicco, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith

**AIU** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) Program of Services budget for the 2015/2016 school year. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

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

**Bond Proceeds** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to authorize the Business Manager to transfer \$500,000 in unspent bond proceeds from the Construction Fund to the General Fund for payment of debt service on the 2013 and 2014 bond issue. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Discussion followed.

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

**Food Service** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to accept the proposal from The Nutrition Group for food service management for the 2015/2016 school year with a guaranteed profit of \$121,410. Seconded by Mrs. Keller. Discussion followed.

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

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

802 – Operations – School Organization

803 – Operations – School Calendar

804 – Operations – School Day

806 – Operations – Child Abuse

Seconded by Mrs. Kisan.

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

**Resolution** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve Resolution #1116 – student discipline. Seconded by Mr. Maglicco.

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

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Lopretto, Mr. Maglicco, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Smith

**Resolutions** – Mrs. Keller moved to approve the following Resolutions:

#1117 – Cyber Charter School Funding

#1118 – School Employee Pension Reform

#1119 – Funding Formula for Basic Education

Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

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

**Plan** – Mr. Lopretto moved to approve the Special Education Plan for 2015/2016, 2016/2017 and 2017/2018. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Discussion followed.

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

**TABLE** – Mr. Smith moved to table the closing of the East End building and housing the East End Academy at the High School Campus. Seconded by Mrs. Gadson.

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

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

Appointment of Rula S. Skezas, Ed.D. to Director of McKeesport Area Tech Center effective July 1, 2015.

**ACT 93:**

**RESIGNATION: Effective 05-22-15:**

- |    |                 |                                 |
|----|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Mary Ann Plance | Associate High School Principal |
|----|-----------------|---------------------------------|

**RESIGNATION:**

- |    |                 |   |
|----|-----------------|---|
| 1. | Stephanie Emter | Long Term Substitute World Language Teacher, Twin Rivers Intermediate School, effective 03-20-15. |
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TO BE HIRED: Long Term Substitute Teacher: Rate of pay will be \$80.00/day + benefits and increase to \$125.00 on the 61<sup>st</sup> day:

- 1.\* Sarah Paterra World Language Teacher, Twin Rivers Primary/  
Intermediate School, effective 03-25-15.

TO BE HIRED: Camp Invention Summer School. Rate of pay will be \$24.13/hour (Salaries to be paid from School Improvement Grant):

1. Ed Camic
2. Jill Lape
3. Sherry Yocco
4. Jamie Lusebrink

Substitutes:

1. Rebecca Tutko
2. Dana Ruffing

CHANGE OF POSITION: Extra Curricular Athletics effective for the **2014-2015** school year:

1. Amy Gumbert FROM: 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Softball Coach  
TO: Assistant Softball Coach  
SALARY: \$2,088.53

TO BE HIRED: Extra Curricular Athletics effective for the **2014-2015** school year:

1. Nichole Long 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Softball Coach \$1,733.28

CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS LIST:

ADDITIONS:

- 1.\* Jodi Newhouse Elementary (K-6), Special Education
- 2.\* Ty-Meer Brown Emergency Day-to-Day Certification
- 3.\* Brandi Stalter Early Childhood PK-4 and Special Education PK-8
- 4.\* Monica Poupakis Emergency Day-to-Day Certification

**SUPPORT STAFF:**

CHANGE OF RETIREMENT DATE:

1. Daniel Weissert From: 06-30-15  
To: 05-01-15

CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE LISTS:

ADDITIONS:

- 1.\* Raymond Walko Custodian
- 2.\* Rachel Haberberger Nurse Assistant

TO BE HIRED: Summer laborers in the maintenance department effective  
05-01-14: Hourly rate of pay will be \$7.25:

- |    |                  |    |                |    |                        |
|----|------------------|----|----------------|----|------------------------|
| 1. | Parthenia Greene | 3. | Rosin Alvarado | 5. | Shirley Allen-Greer    |
| 2. | Elizabeth Ball   | 4. | Kara Cella     | 6. | Christopher Montalbano |

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

**CONFERENCE REQUEST:**

- |    |                   |   |
|----|-------------------|---|
| 1. | Dr. Sanders-Woods | PACTEC. Sponsored by the Bureau of Career and<br>Technical Education in Seven Springs, PA<br>June 15, 2015 through June 17, 2015<br>(Paid for from Perkins)<br>\$718.05 |
|----|-------------------|---|

BOARD ACTION TO **ELIMINATE** THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL STAFF POSITIONS EFFECTIVE  
06-30-15:

- (1) KTO Teacher
- (1) Grade 2 Teacher at Twin Rivers Primary School
- (1) Grade 3 Teacher at Twin Rivers Intermediate School
- (1) Grade 4 Teachers at Francis McClure Intermediate School
- (1) Grade 6 Teachers at Founders' Hall Middle School
- (3) English/Reading Teachers at Founders' Hall Middle School
- (2) Math Teachers at Founders' Hall Middle School
- (1) Music Teacher at Founders' Hall Middle School
- (1) Career Explorations Teacher at Founders' Hall Middle School
- (1) Counselor at Founders' Hall Annex
- (1) Health and Physical Education Teacher at the High School
- (1) Math Teacher at East End Academy
- (1) English Teacher at East End Academy
- (1) Social Studies Teacher at East End Academy
- (1) Science Teacher at East End Academy
- (1) Counselor at East End Academy
- (1) Social Studies Teacher at the High School
- (1) Science Teacher at the High School
- (1) Math Teacher at the High School
- (1) Cosmetology Teacher at the Career Technology Center
- (1) School-to-Work Teacher at the Career Technology Center

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**BOARD ACTION TO CREATE THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL STAFF POSITIONS EFFECTIVE**

**07-01-15:**

- (1) Emotional Support Teacher at the East End Academy
- (1) Title I Math Teacher at Twin Rivers Primary/Intermediate School
- (1) Math Teacher at the High School/East End Academy
- (1) English Teacher at the High School/East End Academy
- (1) Social Studies Teacher at the High School/East End Academy
- (1) Science Teacher at the High School/East End Academy

**BOARD ACTION TO ELIMINATE THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT STAFF POSITIONS EFFECTIVE**

**06-30-15:**

- (1) Payroll/Purchasing Clerk
- (2) Assistant Secretary - Elementary
- (1) Special Education/Curriculum & Instruction Secretary
- (1) Assistant Secretary – Founders’ Hall Middle School (Annex) **effective 04/22/15**
- (1) East End Secretary
- (3) Custodians
- (1) Maintenance - HVAC
- (1) Maintenance - Warehouseman
- (1) Computer Lab Technician

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

\*Mrs. Gadson voted yes, but would like to go in the record that I do have concerns about our process.

\*\*Mr. Lopretto – abstaining on page one very bottom #1

\*\*\*Mrs. Maksin – abstaining on changes to the substitute list item #3





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**Policies** – First reading of Board Policies:

- 811 – Operations – Bonding
- 812 – Operations – Property Insurance
- 813 – Operations – Other Insurance
- 814 – Operations – Copyright Material
- 817 – Operations – Background Checks

**Committee Reports -**

**Athletic** –Mary Jane Keller/Terri Kisan – Mrs. Keller reported. We did have a meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Letters will be going out to approximately 200 student athletes of fall sports targeting the middle school students. A research study is to evaluate violence prevention called Coaching Boys Into Men. This program trains coaches to talk to the middle school athletes and non-violent behaviors toward women and girls. The program and evaluations are supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Dr. Elizabeth Miller from University of Pittsburgh is leading the research. Participation in this research study is completely voluntary and will have no effects on his or her participation in their selected sport. Woodland Hills is a local school participating currently. In our May's report we will be having the personnel for the fall sports beginning in the summer. Cheerleading tryouts the second week of May and physicals for the fall and winter sports are scheduled and the form will be sent home with the report cards. The varsity football physicals will be July 29<sup>th</sup>, 7/8/9 football is August 7<sup>th</sup> and the rest of the fall sports August 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

**Buildings & Grounds** – Scott Smith – Outside of the normal maintenance and repairs just a handful of bullet items to hit on. New hot water tank replaced in Founders Hall, George Washington received some vandalism, we've had to do some repairs up there. New motor on the high school gym bleachers. They started some asphalt repairs, some pothole repairs, some exterior hardware repairs in Founders Hall and received today, again this would be for future discussions, quite a number of proposals for budgetary purposes that covers all the asphalted areas on this particular campus. We are experiencing more and more failure naturally as the years go on and it's just something that we've got to think about addressing in the near future. That's my report.

**Career & Technology** – Terri Kisan – We did have a meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> and Dr. Skezas did mention that the kindergarten fun event is May 11<sup>th</sup> and our child care students will be assisting at that event. We will be having a mom's day luncheon for the parents of the children going to kindergarten. Pre-school graduation will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The commercial arts students' documentary projects will be shown at Pittsburgh Filmmakers Melwood Screening Room for a premier on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6PM. Congratulations again for Savannah Bowman and the Skills USA winner. The National Technical Honor Society induction ceremony will be held May

12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM at the Tiger Inn and under the Allied Health, we have an upcoming blood drive on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, and having the second drive will guarantee at least a \$1,000 scholarship to a Future Nurse's Club member. Pennies for patients drive has been completed collecting a total of \$1,886 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Our students will be attending two significant events. One, the apprenticeship program will be attending a field trip to the Human Engineering Research Lab at the University of Pittsburgh on April 24<sup>th</sup> and also our apprenticeship program our students are invited to UPMC McKeesport to hear Amy Brooks, the author of the book, Unseen Arms. Ms. Brooks who was born without limbs will present an inspirational and motivational speech not only to our students but also to invited guests of UPMC and the community. We have about 23-26 of our students, depending on how many permission slips come back. They will be having a lunch. Their lunch is paid for and the Career and Technology is also paying for them to have one of her books. Also, the Tiger Inn tomorrow, 10:35 AM to 1:15 PM, they will have the iceberg lettuce salad served with pepperoncini, provolone cheese, tomatoes, olives, Italian dressing and main entrée tomorrow is Cajun chicken served on penne pasta tossed in a roasted red pepper Alfredo sauce. Dessert tomorrow is chocolate cheesecake and soup to go is turkey stew. You could enter right by the stadium entrance, the walkway that goes up to the Tiger Inn, lunch tickets are \$4.50 of three (3) for \$12. Hope to see you there.

Community Relations/Cultural Diversity –Trisha Gadson – The mission of the Diversity/Community Relations committee is to promote a positive learning environment through diversification and promotion of positive perceptions by faculty, staff, students and the community. Over the past several weeks many residents have communicated their doubt and lack of confidence in the effectiveness that this committee has in achieving the aforementioned mission. Consequently, I as the chair, cancelled the meeting for April in order to take time to assess the communicated concerns. Moving forward, I am inviting members of the community to contact me to discuss their needs and recommendations on how to productively and collaboratively move forward. I want to emphasize that verbalizing ideas without a commitment to consistently volunteer to do work is not a productive effort. However, if there are community members who want to work together to decrease student educational gaps, and increase the confidence that you have placed in this Board, please feel free to contact me directly. That concludes my report.

Education/Legislation/Policy – Mary Jane Keller – The committee met on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, and then again today. The following items were discussed and approved, first Angela Cale reported on the Special Education Plan for the 2015/16 school year. Second, the committee agreed to recommend support for House Bill 168 which eliminates the Keystone Exams as graduation requirements and prohibits the development of Keystone Exams in subjects other than Algebra I, Literature and Biology. Third, Mr. Wes Lyons gave us a presentation on his program, The Pursuit of Patience, which instructs boys and girls in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade on how to plan for their futures and achieve success. Fourth, consideration was also requested for research study to be done in grades 6, 7 and 8 and that program is called Coaching Boys to Men. Sixth,

Tendercare will be closing as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. We have been asked to take their Pre-K Counts class of 17 students for the coming school year. The amount coming to our district will be \$430,000. Seventh, an expansion grant has been applied for to partner with Brightside Academy in McKeesport. There are two classes of 20 children each who would remain there at that facility. The grant is for \$340,000 with \$90,000 staying with us in the district. Finally, the CIZ which stands for Community Innovation Zone Grant has also been filled out and submitted. It is to target Pre-K through 3 students and will be used at our Twin Rivers Primary. We will be getting \$75,000 a year for three (3) years and this will help us achieve a literacy tutor who will be provided for in reading at that school. The Legislation/Policy committee met on April 15<sup>th</sup> and the first reading was prepared for the Board concerning policy updates on the policies, 811 – Operations – Bonding; 812 – Operations – Property Insurance; 813 – Operations – Other Insurance; 814 – Operations – Copyright Material and 817 – Operations – Background Checks for the Board's consideration. That's my report.

Finance/Grants/Outside Funding – Tom Maglicco – Yes Madame President, we did meet. Dave gave a nice rendition of the budget last week for all the Board Members and passed out the budget. We talked about the upcoming 2015/2016 budget that stands at \$62,062,631. Items that we are following closely are the debt service, pension obligation and charter school costs. We will be making every effort to keep our charter school costs down as we did this year. Staff costs will be less next year and we will continue to reduce through attrition. Continued adjustments will need to be made to continue to reduce the 2015/2016 budget towards a budget that will not rely so heavily on the fund balance. Thank you Madame President.

Personnel – Joe Lopretto/Tom Maglicco – Mr. Lopretto reported. Yes, we did have a meeting. The green sheet reflects all that and as far as the ones that Dr. Skezas announced tonight that are in the audience, I myself personally did not attend any of the interviews, but I know there were a lot of people on the Board that did attend them and they went through and what was recommended to the personnel and the Board is what was voted on. Again, I give them all the credit in the world because I know it wasn't an easy task, like Mr. Maglicco said, we're fighting a tight budget here and the last thing we want to do is see anyone lose their job.

Safe Schools – Joe Lopretto – No Madame President, we did not have a meeting.

**Solicitor's Report** – No report.

**Correspondence** – None.

**New Business** – None.

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

Voting aye. All Members present.

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
David M. Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary