

McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
March 25, 2015

Presiding	Patricia Maksin, Board President
Date, Time, Place	Wednesday, April 22, 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 Joe Lopretto Thomas Maglicco Patricia Maksin Scott Smith
Others Present	Dr. Rula S. Skezas, Superintendent Dr. Harry A. Bauman, Assistant Superintendent David M. Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary James G. Humanic, Director of Human Resources/ Assistant to the Business Manager John Rushford, Solicitor

Board President's Remarks - My remarks this evening, welcome to spring, it has finally arrived and this afternoon was beautiful. Our district has done so much this year, but we still have so much more to do before we end the school year. Our spring sports have begun, our music department is busy at working preparing for musicals and concerts, but most importantly our students are ready for State testing, which should be happening very soon. I know how much preparation has occurred and I am confident our students will do their best. I ask that if you know a school aged child, please encourage them as they face this testing and let them know you support them and are confident in their abilities. You would be surprised how much it means to our students and staff to feel the love from families and community members. Good luck to all. I would also like to thank our Board Members, Dr. Skezas and Dr. Bauman who have put in

Regular Board Meeting
March 25, 2015

so much extra time interviewing candidates for three (3) administrative positions this past week. Your extra effort is appreciated. I also want to thank all of those who applied and interviewed for the positions. It gives Board Members the opportunity to see the valuable contributions each of you make to the district each day. Thanks for everything that you do.

Superintendent's Report – Good evening! As you were waiting this evening, you saw a short movie created to play at our high school highlighting the programs and extra-curricular offerings that we have. This video was made to show eighth grade students all of the endless possibilities that we have within our district. I want to thank those staff members who put that video together and as I shared with the Board, I will attach it to the School Board update on Friday. We have with us this evening members of our wrestling team, as well as their coach, Adam Alfer. We would like to congratulate the following students on their exemplary representation of our school district at the WPIAL championships: Taylor Anderson, Cameron Zuber, Keith Rhodes, Brandon Ingram. Brandon placed and went on to compete in the PIAA State Competition. A couple of announcements that I have, we will be administering PSSA tests for grades 3-8 as President Maksin said beginning April 13th through May 1st. I know that sounds like a very long time period, but we begin with reading and math for grades 3-8 and science for grades 4 and 8. We wish all of our students the best of luck and I want to take this time to thank our staff and our Administration for putting some wonderful programs together and I love hearing the win win emails on Sunday evenings and throughout the week on all of the wonderful activities that they do here at Founders Hall. I wish you all of the best. We also have a teacher who is going to be recognized this Saturday and I know a couple of us are going to something that is through the Consortium for Public Education and it's called Champions of Learning and it's this coming Saturday, March 28th, at the Marriott City center. We have a teacher who is being recognized and she is a finalist in technology integration and her name is Mrs. Lindsey Brown, a media arts teacher at our high school and technology center. She is recognized because as I quote, she creates a model of technology education looking beyond the borders of K-12 education to bring real world experience, projects and purpose into the classroom. I wish Lindsey all the best. I know she's been involved with WQED, she was involved with this video that you saw today as well as some programs through Carnegie Mellon University. I wish her all the best on Saturday. Also, we have kindergarten and pre-kindergarten registration. There are fliers that are going to be passed around. We are going to have, Let's Learn About Kindergarten Event, and I see a kindergarten teacher in our audience, at Francis McClure. It will be held on Tuesday, April 14th at 6:30 PM. This is for all students who are going to be in kindergarten next year. They do not have to be registered to come to the events, so we will have that on our web site as well as Twin Rivers we have incoming kindergarteners invited on Tuesday, April 14th, from 4:30 to 6:00 PM at Twin Rivers Primary School and the contact information is on the fliers as well as it will be on our web site. We hope that we have a lot of kindergartens register early. Last week I talked about those snow make up days now somebody told me today that we're going to have one to two

Regular Board Meeting
March 25, 2015

Inches by Friday morning, but I'm just going to ignore that. These are the days and this will be posted on our web site as well and probably be in The Daily News, our snow make up days and we do have found, we made up one last Friday, March 20th. We have the second one we're making up on April 1st; the next one May 22nd and the final one is June 8th. Those will be the four (4) days. Also, on April 2nd we have our Senior Projects and some of you may have received an invitation and I want to say thank you Mrs. Plance, Mrs. Saxon and that entire team of putting the senior projects together. I know how much Dr. Holtzman works with that team and making sure that we have all of our kids in order to show exactly what they have learned and what they want to present and it's almost like a culminating activity that I know we truly enjoy, so that is going to be happening on April 2nd, again, just for seniors, K-11 do not have school that day. Finally, someone very special is here that I would like to recognize a fifth grader from Francis McClure, Logan Kellerman. Logan placed first in the state in the Intermediate Division for this project in the Music Composition category. His piece has been sent on to the National PTA Reflections contests and we are awaiting the results. Logan will be performing his musical composition piece for us tonight. Last but not least, we have representatives from our high school's musical, Bye Bye Birdie. (The students did a speaking piece.) Tickets are on sale throughout the week at the high school and musical information is on the table where you sign in.

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

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

Hearing of Citizens – None

Minutes – Mr. Smith moved to approve the minutes of the Open Agenda Meeting of February 18, 2015 and Regular Meeting of February 25, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

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

Regular Board Meeting
March 25, 2015

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

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

Abstain. Mrs. Kisan

Field Trips – Mr. Lopretto moved to approve the following field trips:

- A. High School music department to Walt Disney World, Florida on January 20-24, 2016.
 - B. High School students participating in the Skills USA State Competition in Lancaster, PA on April 8-10, 2015.
- Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

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

Program – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the following:

- A. Camp Invention Program
- Seconded by Mr. Smith.

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

Calendar – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve calendar B for the 2015/2016 school year. Seconded by Mrs. Keller.

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

Proposal – Mr. Lopretto moved to accept the proposal from Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood to provide auditing services for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, 2016 and 2017. Seconded by Mrs. Kisan.

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

Insurance – Mr. Kondrosky moved to accept the proposal from MetLife for group life insurance with Arthur J. Gallagher Co, as broker of record for said coverage. Seconded by Mr. Lopretto.

Regular Board Meeting
March 25, 2015

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

Prom – Mrs. Gadson moved to approve funding in the amount of \$4,000 for chaperones and security for the 2015 prom. Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

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

Parking – Mrs. Keller moved to approve parking at McKeesport Area High School during International Village to be held on August 11, 12 and 13, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Maglicco.

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

Agreement – Mr. Kondrosky moved to renew the service agreement with Consolidated Communications for district phone lines for a period of 36 months in the amount of \$3,423.30 per month. Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski.

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 personnel recommendations (green sheets). Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

ACT 93:

TO BE HIRED: Effective 07-01-15:

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|--|
| 1. | Dr. Jane Coughenour | Director of State and Federal Programs.
Salary adjustment of \$5,000.00. |
| 2. | Dr. Mark Holtzman | Coordinator of Secondary Education and Teacher
Evaluation
Salary adjustment of \$5,000.00. |
| 3. | Paul Sebelia | Associate Principal of Founders Hall
Salary will be \$90,000.00 for the 15-16 school year |

PROFESSIONAL:

RESIGNATION:

- | | | |
|----|--------------|---|
| 1. | James O'Neal | Mathematics Teacher, Founders' Hall, effective
04-25-15. |
|----|--------------|---|

Regular Board Meeting
March 25, 2015

2. Megan Duncan Permanent Day-to-Day Substitute, Founders' Hall, effective 02-07-15.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

1. Anna Giuliano German Teacher, High School, maternity leave of absence effective approx. 05-06-15. Unpaid leave will commence at the expiration of specified days.

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

1. Ryan Szymczak Mathematics Teacher, Founders Hall, effective 04-25-15

RESIGNATION: Extra Curricular Athletics effective for the 2014-2015 school year:

1. Lacy Kondrosky 9th Grade Girls Basketball Coach (shared position)

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

1. Michael McCabe 9th Grade Girls Basketball (shared) \$ 1,181.78

SUPPORT STAFF:

CHANGE OF RETIREMENT DATE:

1. David Frederick From: 06-30-15
To: 04-30-15

RESIGNATION:

1. Amanda Rossi Special Education Assistant, High School, effective 02-26-15.
2. Rica Oslowski-Rush Special Education Assistant, Founders' Hall, Effective 03-16-15.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

1. Nevenka Kostley Special Education Assistant, Francis McClure Primary/Intermediate School, effective 03-09-15 to an undetermined date (not to exceed 1 year). Unpaid leave will commence at the expiration of specified sick days.

2. Michele Maglicco Secretary, East End Academy, unpaid leave of absence effective 03-05-15 to an undetermined date (not to exceed 1 year). FMLA

TO BE HIRED: Effective immediately:

1. Brooke Dawson Special Education Assistant, placement to be determined. Step 1

CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE LISTS:

ADDITIONS:

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|--------------|
| 1.* | Melissa Creighton | Custodian |
| 2.* | Eugenie Mbouyem | Food Service |
| 3.* | Richard Walko | Custodian |

DELETIONS:

1. Pearl Rolnik Secretary

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

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Jen Breda | 7. Collin Whitney | 13. Casey Carriero - Docutech |
| 2. Frank Haydok | 8. Gerard Grace | 14. Lori Mockabee |
| 3. James Hayes | 9. William King | 15. Alexis Kost |
| 4. Ryan Pavlovic | 10. Thelma Figas | 16. Daniel Troutman |
| 5. John Ware | 11. Irma Lewicki | 17.* Kevin Stalter |
| 6. Ted Kampert | 12. Rachel Marshall | 18.* Nicholas Grice |

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

CONFERENCE REQUEST:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. LaToya Wright
Dr. Sanders-Woods | ELECT Statewide Conference. Sponsored by
ELECT in Harrisburg, PA
April 22, 2015 through April 24, 2015
(Paid for by ELECT)
\$640.72/each |
| 2. M'Hala Sanders | ELECT Statewide Conference. Sponsored by
ELECT in Harrisburg, PA
April 22, 2015 through April 24, 2015
(Paid for by ELECT) \$460.16 |

Regular Board Meeting
March 25, 2015

3. Ashlee Boyle
Dr. Chapman Pre-K counts State Wide Conference. Sponsored
by PDE/OCDEL at Penn State College, PA
May 18, 2015 through May 19, 2015
(Paid for by Pre-K Counts)
\$612.06/each
4. Mary Lynn Zosack PA Literacy Conference. Sponsored by PDE/KtO
in Hershey, PA
June 22, 2015 through June 25, 2015
(Paid for by Title I)
\$627.98
5. Amy Dellapenna PA Literacy Conference. Sponsored by PDE/KtO
in Hershey, PA
June 22, 2015 through June 25, 2015
(Paid for by Title I)
\$849.93

BOARD ACTION TO ELIMINATE THE FOLLOWING ACT 93 POSITIONS EFFECTIVE

06-30-15:

- (1) Director of Technology Integration and Academic Support
- (1) Head High School Principal
- (1) Director of Vocational Education
- (1) Public Relations Specialist
- (1) Head Middle School Principal
- (1) Principal Founders' Hall Annex
- (1) Assistant Middle School Principal
- (1) Alternative Education Transition Specialist

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

06-30-15:

- (1) Coordinator of Educational Options and Student Support
- (1) Elementary Literacy Coach and Pre-K Counts Facilitator

BOARD ACTION TO **CREATE THE FOLLOWING ACT 92 POSITIONS EFFECTIVE**

07-01-15:

- (1) Campus Coordinator of Secondary Education & Teacher Evaluations
- (1) Associate Middle School Principal
- (1) Assistant Middle School Principal/Coordinator of Pre-K
- (1) Director of Student Services/Grants and Outside Funding
- (1) Public Relations Specialist/Homeless Liaison

Regular Board Meeting
March 25, 2015

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

*Mr. Maglicco – abstaining on leave of absence #2

**Mrs. Maksin – abstaining on summer laborer #17

Agreement – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the listing agreement with Broker 1 Realty to provide services for the marketing and sale of White Oak Elementary building and East End Academy building. Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski.

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

Policies – first reading and of the following Board policies:

802 – Operations – School Organization

803 – Operations – School Calendar

804 – Operations – School Day

806 – Operations – Child Abuse

Committee Reports -

Athletic – Mary Jane Keller/Terri Kisan – Mrs. Kisan reported. We had a meeting on March 17th, first I want to remind everybody that we continue to offer the community open swim on Mondays from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. We still have Mondays available in April, May and the first week in June. Time has come around again for the second American Red Cross certification, we're offering life guard certifications at the McKeesport High School pool starting April 23rd into mid-May. Discussions also were had with the City of McKeesport and the city parks and the school district and we're working together on the Helen Ritchey Field and we would like to thank the city parks for keeping it well maintained. We have been able to play a game today when the weather was bad and we might normally not be having the field open. They are definitely working together for a better McKeesport. We continue to have discussions on the Neenie Campbell sign whether we are illuminating it and one other thing we brought to the coaches attention that we have added the dinner program an extra half an hour from 5:00 to 5:30 so the students that might be busy with the after school activities still get an extra chance to receive dinner. Thank you Madame President.

Buildings & Grounds – Scott Smith – Outside of normal maintenance items, they have done Spring exterior debris clean up along Eden Park Boulevard and O'Neil. Some new stair treads should be going in at McClure on the stairwells very soon. I have asked them to produce the 2015 summer goals for special projects to be completed over the summer. Sixth grade academy,

Regular Board Meeting
March 25, 2015

weather permitting, the contractor will start finishing the exterior work. As you could see through the minutes today, there were no change orders to report. Contingency set aside for the project was \$723,626. Total change orders approved to date was only \$102,409. Showing that only 14% of the contingency was used to date. That's my report.

Career & Technology – Terri Kisan – We did meet and we had discussions on the 8th grades going over to the Freshman Academy and they had a wonderful evening available showing all the careers, all the clubs, all of the activities available to upcoming Freshmen and it was a nice introduction for them. Dr. Skezas mentioned the Champion of Learning award for Lindsey Brown. Our commercial arts students are going to visit the Andy Warhol on a field trip. We have eight (8) students competing in Hershey for the Skills USA. Our culinary continues with lunches in the Tiger Inn every Thursday. Tomorrow there will be a lunch as well and the new house passed the inspection; however, the former one is now going through all of the inspections as it may possibly be up for sale. We continue to communicate and hope that something could happen. We're having all the inspections on the home and WQED did come in and I mentioned that last month in my report, but to save the date for the Hear Me 101 student documentary will be May 14th at 6:00 PM. After that it will be available on You Tube. That is all Madame President.

Community Relations/Cultural Diversity –Trisha Gadson – Madame President, my apologies to you and to the committee members, I had to cancel today's meeting with very little notice. As you know my real job, I'm an Executive Director and I was not able to leave the city to come back to McKeesport. However, a member of the committee who is a recent graduate of McKeesport has reached out and offered to provide me assistance and support with this and so we are still moving forward with the conference for young ladies in April. We will have updates within a week. I briefly notified Kristen about it and I will be reaching out to ask Dr. Skezas if we can move our April meeting up a week so that we will have time to pull everyone together.

Education/Legislation/Policy – Mary Jane Keller – We met on March 18th, the committee was presented updates to our policies as reflected in your minutes. Policy 802, 803, 804 and 806 were presented for first reading. The Education Committee met also on March 18th and we were presented with a wonderful presentation very informative from the YMCA. Ms. Deborah Prizner talked to us about the wise willingness to work with our children through their summer camps and they were specifically looking at children ages 0-5. In addition, Dr. Mark Holtzman presented, it's that time of year, his proposed changes that will occur. If you would like me to go through all thirteen (13), I can. The other part of his presentation was a report on the winter Keystone Exams and analysis of that. I am very proud to say that in math we were able to increase the percentage of proficient testers from 11% during the spring 2014 test to 20.4% proficient during this winter exam. My congratulations to our wonderful staff and to Dr. Holtzman.

Regular Board Meeting
March 25, 2015

Finance/Grants/Outside Funding–Tom Maglicco – Yes Madame President, we did meet and we talked about the upcoming 2015/2016 budget. The items we are following closely are the debt service, pension obligation and health care costs. We will make every effort to keep our charter school costs down as we did last year. Staff costs will be less next year and we will continue to reduce costs through attrition. Moving forward over the next three (3) months, we will continue to reduce the 2015/2016 budget towards a budget that will not rely so heavily on our fund balance.

Personnel –Joe Lopretto/Tom Maglicco – Mr. Lopretto reported. Yes, we did have a meeting Madame President. You pretty much summed everything up on the green sheet for me which I appreciate and I just again want to congratulate the three (3) that are moving into those positions. I think it's three (3) of the finest we have.

Safe Schools – Joe Lopretto – No, we did not have a meeting, but I do stay in touch with Dr. Skezas on this and we have a guard at the beginning of the day and pretty much try to schedule them all for that. Again, I think everyone of our schools are led by prominent people and I think our schools are as safe as we can make them.

Solicitor's Report – No report.

Correspondence – None.

New Business – Dr. Skezas – The only thing I want to say, not from the Board but from me, in the audience I have two (2) people who are going to be leaving us at the conclusion of this year and without me making a big deal about it, I just want to acknowledge both of you. I am not going to go into detail, but you're going to be very much missed in this district. I know you're a phone call away and that's Dr. Chapman and Mr. Michael Matta. I thank you. That concludes my comments.

Adjournment – 8:30 PM – Mr. Lopretto moved for adjournment. Seconded by Mr. Maglicco.

Voting aye. All Members present.

ATTEST:

David M. Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary

