

**McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**January 26, 2011**

<b>Presiding</b>	Wayne Washowich, President
<b>Date, Time, Place</b>	Wednesday, January 26, 2011, 7:30 PM, Board Room, Administration Building, 3590 O'Neil Boulevard, McKeesport, PA 15132.
<b>Opening Exercises</b>	Mr. Washowich called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM, followed by the Pledge to the Flag.
<b>Present</b>	James Brown Joseph Chiaverini Chris Halaszynski Mark Holtzman Steve Kondrosky Joe Lopretto Tom Maglicco Patricia Maksin Wayne Washowich
<b>Others Present</b>	Dr. Timothy Gabauer, Superintendent Dr. Rula Skezas, Assistant Superintendent David Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary James G. Humanic, Director of Human Resources/ Assistant to the Business Manager Gary Matta, Solicitor

**Board President's Remarks** – I would like to acknowledge out in our audience tonight, we have Mayor McLaughlin here from the City of McKeesport. So, thank you for attending Mayor.

**Superintendent's Report** – Thank you Mr. President. This is School Board Recognition Month. Personally, I would like to take the time to commend the School Board on behalf of the district to comment the School Board for the time, energy and effort that they put into the district. Through the committee meetings and the Board meetings that we have here, it is one of those jobs that everybody thinks they can do, it's a simple little thing, but at times it can be a

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thankless job and I can tell you, we have nine (9) folks here that put the time, energy and effort in and we're very thankful for everything that you do for the community in stepping up and representing those within the McKeesport Area School District, so thank you. Tonight was also the time where we were going to have a presentation from several students, a child from each building in the district, unfortunately, at 12:00 and 1:00 and 2:00 and 3:00 and 4:00 the snow continued to fall and we had to make a decision at that point what we were going to do with the children that had prepared and I know they were excited to be here, they really prepared well to do a nice event here for the School Board. But, we decided at that point that we did not want to burden the families if the snow were to continue and have the children, so we decided to postpone because it appears the Board would like to have them come back if they would be willing to come back next month. What you see in the front of you, I would like to give you a little bit of background as to what it was they were going to do this evening and recognize who those students were. You will see some geese laying out on the floor right here. Mr. President, can you hold up the plaque that you have right there. You will notice the plaque that the Board Members received and the motto for the month is "Taking Flight – Academic Achievement in Public Schools." So the idea of taking flight is represented here by the geese and if you have heard the poem about the geese, do we have as much sense as a goose, if you have ever heard that, it talks about the flying in formation. I would like to recognize those students and what it was they were going to do this evening.

Kate Monezis – Narrator

Kristine Seargeant – Cyber School – By flying in V formation, the WHOLE flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

Marnika Butler-Cromerdie – Francis McClure – The lesson learned is that people who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are travelling on the thrust of one another.

Jaron Domarsky – Founders Hall – When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying along. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediate in front of it.

Dayona Bray – Centennial – We stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give out help to others.

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Stephen Wilhelm – White Oak – When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position.

Brandon Murphy – East End – It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership.

Melissa Druskin – When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again.

Nia Armstrong – If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.

Brooke Cain – Geese flying in a V formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Wrapped up again by Kate in closing the evening's presentation – lessons learned we need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, the production is much greater. The power of encouragement (to stand by one's heart or core values and encourage the heart and core of others) is the quality of honking we seek.

And from all the children that were going to come here, they collectively came up with the statement, they wanted to say – Thank you for doing your part on the McKeesport Area School District team that helps each of us take flight and increase academic achievement in our schools.

Those were some of the messages to the Board of Directors from our children here in the McKeesport Area School District.

If we could, we have Kristen Davis here, I would like to show a couple of scenes of some things that are happening here around McKeesport Area School District. Once again, as we say every month, that could be an exhaustive list of pictures, but it gives you a little sense of what has been happening over the last thirty (30) days or so since we last met and we'll continue to update you with that. I want to make mention that we have discussed a few snow make up days and those are going to be February 21<sup>st</sup>, which is Presidents' Day as well as May 17<sup>th</sup>,

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which is an Act 80 Day. Staff came in at our last cancellation and we're going to flip that with our Act 80 Day on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. President, that will be it.

**Treasurer's Report** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2010. Seconded by Mr. Chiaverini.

Voting aye, Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Maglicco, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Washowich

**Hearing of Citizens** - None

**Minutes** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the minutes of the Reorganization Meeting of December 1, 2010, Open Agenda Meeting of December 1, 2010 and Regular Meeting of December 8, 2010. Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski.

Voting aye, Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Maglicco, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Washowich

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

Voting aye, Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Maglicco, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Washowich

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

Voting aye, Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Maglicco, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Washowich

**Agreement** – Mr. Brown moved to approve an agreement with the American Red Cross to utilize the district facilities as an Emergency Shelter. Seconded by Mr. Chiaverini.

Voting aye, Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Maglicco, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Washowich

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**Agreement** – Mr. Maglicco moved to approve an agreement with Soliant Health for Speech Pathology services for the 2010/2011 school year. Seconded by Mr. Chiaverini.

Voting aye, Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Maglicco, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Washowich

**Transfer** – Mr. Maglicco moved to authorize the Business Manager to transfer \$1,000,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

Voting aye, Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Maglicco, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Washowich

**Proposal** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to accept the proposal from Coca-Cola to provide exclusive beverage vending services in the school district for a five-year term and to authorize the Business Manager to execute an agreement with the terms outlined in the proposal. Seconded by Mr. Holtzman.

Voting aye, Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Maglicco, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Washowich

**PlanCon** – Mr. Maglicco moved to authorize the submission of PlanCon Part F for the Cornell Elementary/Intermediate School project. Seconded by Mr. Chiaverini.

Voting aye, Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Maglicco, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Washowich

**Resolution** – Mr. Maglicco moved to approve Resolution #1004 – LERTA – contingent upon approval by the City of McKeesport. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

Voting aye, Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Maglicco, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Washowich

**Resolutions** – Mr. Maglicco moved to approve Resolutions #1005 and #1006 – student discipline. Seconded by Mr. Holtzman.

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Voting aye, Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Maglicco, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Washowich

**Curriculum** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve curriculum changes for the High School and Founders Hall as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Maksin.

Voting aye, Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Maglicco, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Washowich

**Plan** – Mr. Brown moved to approve the Getting Results Improvement Plan for Centennial. Seconded by Mr. Maglicco.

Voting aye, Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Maglicco, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Washowich

**Agreement** – Mr. Halaszynski moved to approve an ongoing Architect-of-Record Agreement with JC Pierce, LLC for miscellaneous projects/services that may be needed by the District. Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

Voting aye, Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Maglicco, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Washowich

**Subcontract** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to subcontract with Tim Lacey to provide consulting services to the building construction classroom effective January 12, 2011 at a rate of \$100/day. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

Voting aye, Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Maglicco, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Washowich

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

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Professional:

To Be Hired: Effective 2/28/11:

Allison Serman                      Spanish Teacher, High School  
Step 1B                      \$39,000

To Be Hired: Effective 1/12/11 through the remainder of the 2010/2011 school year. Rate of pay will be either \$95/day + individual benefits or \$105/day without benefits:

Kathleen Adamek                      Title I Facilitator, Centennial Elementary School  
(C. King)

Resignation:

Holly Hayes                      Spanish Teacher, High School, effective 2/25/11

Leave of Absence:

Maria Katsakis                      Elementary Teacher, McClure Intermediate School effective 1/3/11 to an undetermined date.

Amber Watson                      Speech-Language Teacher, White Oak Elementary, maternity leave of absence effective approximately 3/17/11 to an undetermined date. Unpaid leave will commence at the expiration of sick and personal days.

Cheri King                      Title I Facilitator, Centennial Elementary School unpaid leave of absence effective 12/23/10 through 4/22/11.

Joan Smith                      Science Teacher, High School, unpaid maternity leave of absence effective approximately 4/11/11.

To Be Hired: Long Term Substitute: Rate of pay will be \$80/day + benefits and increase to \$125 on the 61<sup>st</sup> day:

Michael Pohlot                      Elementary Teacher, McClure Intermediate School  
(Katsakis)

Board action to create the following coaching positions effective immediately (funded through the School Improvement Grant) effective immediately through the remainder of the 2010/2011 school year:

1 Secondary English Coach – English Integration

1 Secondary Math Coach – Math Integration

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- 1 Secondary Science Coach
- 1 Secondary Social Studies Coach
- 1 Technology Coach
- 1 Secondary Academic Liaison to At-Risk Students

Resignation: Extra Curricular Athletics for the 2010/2011 school year:

Mathia Harrison                      Head Track Coach

To Be Hired: Extra Curricular Activities/Athletics for the 2010/2011 school year:

John Debes	Assistant Baseball Coach	\$ 955.80
Dale McCall	Assistant Baseball Coach	\$ 955.80
Davis Roddy	Assistant Baseball Coach	\$1,101.81
Sam Bostic	Assistant Baseball Coach	\$1,101.81
Dana Brown	Assistant Baseball Coach	\$1,294.18
Brie Adams	Assistant Softball Coach	\$1,411.60
Christy Bell	Assistant Softball Coach	\$ 955.80
Mark Hammerstrom	Assistant Softball Coach	\$ 955.80
Ed Blacka	Head Track Coach	\$3,822.60
Mark Bacco	Assistant Track Coach	\$1,731.40
Robin Tyke	Assistant Track Coach	\$1,731.40
Craig Slafka	7/8 Grade Track Coach	\$1,731.40
Todd Blackwell	Assistant Track Coach	\$1,731.40
Troy Blackwell	Assistant Track Coach	\$1,731.10
Jim Ward	Weight Lifting Coach	\$1,742.30
Michelle Rossi	7/8 Grade Volleyball Coach	\$1,586.20
Karen Cole	Elementary Band (shared position)	\$ 290.85
Mark DeCarlo	Elementary Band (shared position)	\$ 290.85

Conference Requests:

Dr. Coughenour                      PETE & C. Sponsored by the PA Educational Technology Expo  
Robin Canova                          & Conference in Hershey, PA February 13, 2011 through  
Ben Althof                                February 16, 2011 (Paid for by the EETT Grant) \$2,774.30

Michael Matta                          Child Accounting Spring Conference Sponsored by the  
Dr. Coughenour                        Attendance/Child Accounting Professional Association in

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Kathy Rose  
Shirley Roberts                      Hershey, PA March 9, 2011 through March 11, 2011  
(Paid for by Title I Funds) \$3,475.76

Cory Kunicky  
Giselle Bey  
Danette Sprouse  
Robin McCabe  
Nicole Mallory                      Why Try Training. Sponsored by Why Try at Penn Hills High  
School, February 7, 2011 through February 8, 2011  
(Paid for by Title I Funds)  
\$2,133.00

Changes to the substitute teacher list:

Additions:

\*Anne Marie Barsotti              Elementary  
\*Melissa Conrad                      Health and Physical Education  
\*Sarah Kozak                          Elementary, Special Education  
\*Rebecca Swonick                    Elementary

Deletions:

Kristen Kunkle                        English

Support Staff:

Retirement: Effective 6/30/11 (unless noted): (Retirements are under the terms of the Retirement Incentive for Support Staff adopted 11/23/10):

Donna Chancio                        Bus Monitor  
Gregory Feltz                          General Worker, Food Service Department at George Washington  
Kathleen Galley                        Bus Monitor, effective 2/25/11  
George Henderson                    Custodian, White Oak Elementary School  
Fred Hill                                Bus Driver  
Dennis Keefe                          Custodian, Administration/Founders Hall  
Norbert Paunovich                    Custodian, White Oak Elementary School  
Kathy Rose                              Federal/State Programs Secretary  
Ronald Suchant                        Bus Driver  
Georgia Terrijoni                      Bus Monitor, effective 5/31/11



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Deletions:

Tracy Warren                      Food Service

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

Voting aye, Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Maglicco, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Washowich

**Change Order** – Mrs. Maksin moved to approve the change order for the Francis McClure Elementary/Intermediate School project. Seconded by Mr. Maglicco.

Voting aye, Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Maglicco, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Washowich

**Services** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the request from JCPierce llc for additional services for redesign/re-engineering related to site relocation for the new McKeesport Elementary/Intermediate School. Seconded by Mrs. Maksin.

Voting aye, Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Maglicco, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Washowich

**Contract** – Mrs. Maksin moved to appoint and approve the contract with David M. Seropian to the position of Business Manager/Board Secretary for a five (5) year contract effective July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2017. Seconded by Mr. Lopretto.

**Table** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to table. Seconded by Mr. Chiaverini.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky

Voting no. Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Maglicco, Mrs. Maksin, Mr. Washowich

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### **Committee Reports**

Athletic – James Brown – Nothing at this time.

Buildings & Grounds – Steve Kondrosky – I had a lengthy conversation with Mr. Fagan. He gave me a list of things that they accomplished. Mostly at Founders Hall at the request of Dr. Chapman, they removed carpet and replaced it with vinyl tile. He replaced heat valve actuators, cleaned ignition electrodes, repaired leaks on the return and piping on boiler #1 and adjusted the steam flow to the heat exchanger temporarily the incoming steam valve to reduce the changes in overheating. He started to construct three (3) separate storage rooms at South Hall cafeteria and he also removed two (2) divider walls in the fish bowl area to allow for more student seating. The soiled carpet will be replaced with vinyl floor tile and the ceiling and floor tile will be replaced where needed. Ceiling light fixtures in the main office hallways and cafeteria South Hall are being replaced with the salvage fixtures from Cornell. These fixtures, bulbs and ballasts are more energy efficient and provide much brighter illumination. To date we replaced 54 fixtures. These fixtures would have cost \$116,000 each. We had a savings of \$6,264. I directed Ed Fagan to acquire four (4) bricks and have them cleaned and given to the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Business Manager and Assistant Business Manager. I understand they were delivered today or yesterday. I think that's something nice to hold on to. Excavation at the Cornell site is ongoing. The sub basement is being addressed right now as we speak I was by there. Scrap is still being removed and the grinding of the brick, block and masonry is continuing for back fill. McClure is on schedule. Mr. Fagan and two men were meeting this afternoon after 3:00 PM with the HVAC contractor. I would also like to thank Director Chiaverini for his efforts of identifying a possible savings of anywhere from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 by rotating the new school on the Buck site. Thus cutting down on the amount of grating and excavation and I think it's a job well done Joe. Taxpayers will be happy with that. And lastly, a member of our prize Buildings & Grounds and maintenance crew recently received an award that most districts would be very proud of. That award was handed out to one of the men that is on the scene right now as we speak and he's here with us tonight and his name is Rick Navaroli. I don't know exactly what the award was, maybe he can give us a little response.

Rick Navaroli – My boss, Ed Fagan, I can't believe he did this. What it was, it was a big joke. What he did is our salt now that we spread for the ice, if you would see it, it's like purple. I believe the City has blue. He said that he wants me because nobody else wanted to do it to spray the salt with the conditioner. He said nobody else wants to do it. You got to know how to mix it properly and apply it right and you got to do it in a safe manner. Well, he had this

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bottle of purple stuff, it wasn't anything, it was purple car wash, you got to know Ed. So I go out there and I played right with him and he gave me a real nice plaque. I went out and sprayed the salt like I was told to do and then it was just a big joke because all it was was car wash, I guess you knew that. It was just ongoing thing, but it was fun. But I can't believe he did this. I just played right into it. Maybe I wasn't suppose to say this.

Cultural Diversity – Tom Maglicco – Yes, Mr. President, we had a lengthy meeting, we had a great meeting. We went over several topics, Heinz Endowment Education Program, the new teachers project through the Pittsburgh Public School, the Olweus Bullying Implementation Program, it's a K-8 program and it's a research based model program that we'll be putting in our schools, Why Try, Gwen's Girls, it will possibly be doing some work at Founders Hall. We went over the school improvement grants.

Education/Technology/Grants & Outside Funding – Pat Maksin – We did meet last week and that's reflected in numbers 11 and 12 of the agenda for this evening. A couple of the changes that are being made in the curriculum I thought were particularly interesting. The 9<sup>th</sup> grade physical science class some of the material involved had been changed over the last several years to meet the needs of the PSSA science exams. Now that we're moving to Keystone exams that class needs to be adjusted again and so the teachers want to change that back to meet the needs of the Keystone exams. Instead of doing just Spanish, she wants to do an exploration of all three of the languages that we offer at the high school. She has already been meeting with the French teacher and the German teacher at the high school so instead of just Spanish next year, the students will be exposed to Spanish, German and French which will help to give them a good footing before they have to make a choice when they go into the high school. The last one is the new cinematography program and entrepreneurship in the vocational programs. These are basically taking a lot of the things that we already have and we're providing at the high school, moving those now to a vocational program that the students can enroll in and hopefully will be able to get some additional funding and have more students enrolled in vocational programming, we'll be able to get some additional funding there. I just wanted to commend all of the staff members that were involved in all of that because I just really feel that they are looking at our students, what our needs are, moving us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, these are all programs that are going to help our students move along.

Financial Affairs – Tom Maglicco – No report at this time. We will be having a meeting in February.

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Legislation/Policy – Pat Maksin – No meeting.

Personnel – Joe Lopretto – We did have a meeting. The green sheet reflects that.

Safe Schools – No meeting.

**Solicitor’s Report** – I have no report other than what we discussed in Executive Session.

**Correspondence** – None

**New Business** - None

**Adjournment** –8:15 PM – Mr. Kondrosky moved for adjournment. Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski.

Voting aye. All Members present.

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