

McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
February 25, 2009

Presiding Lori Spando, President

Date, Time, Place Wednesday, February 25, 2009, 7:30 PM, Board Room,
Administration Building, 3590 O'Neil Boulevard,
McKeesport, PA 15132.

Opening Exercises Ms. Spando called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM,
followed by the Pledge to the Flag.

Present James Brown
Joe Chiaverini
David Donato
Chris Halaszynski
Steve Kondrosky
Joe Lopretto
Lori Spando
Barb Stevenson
Wayne Washowich – by phone

Others Present Dr. Michael Brinkos, Assistant Superintendent
David Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary
James Humanic, Director of Administrative Services/Assistant to
the Business Manager
George Gobel, Solicitor

Mr. Lopretto – Madame President, before we get started, we lost one of our fellow colleagues this past week. I would like a moment of silence for Officer Lee Poo Burke. (Silence) Thank you.

Board President's Remarks – I have no remarks tonight.

Superintendent's Report – Madame President, on behalf of Dr. Golofski who is out this evening, she would like me to remind everyone that on March 8th the McKeesport Area School District will be celebrating the Read Across America at the Waterfront Barnes & Noble. Again, this is March 8th from 2 until 4. Community members are encouraged to come and join for a day of family fun. Individuals who present a voucher and purchase anything can insure that a percentage of their purchase sale will be donated to the school district. I have some of these vouchers here this evening if you would like to stop up and some. She would also like me to acknowledge an honor that will be bestowed upon the McKeesport High School and also the

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Special Education Department. She has asked Mr. Matta to come and present to the Board to inform them what's happening.

Michael Matta – We would just like to share with you that this year the PA Department of Ed for the first time offered an award to recognize schools who offered exemplary inclusive practices. A parent of one of our high school students, without knowledge of anyone from the district, took it upon herself to nominate the high school. The nominations could take place in any one of eight (8) different categories. No more than three (3) categories per school. Our high school was nominated in the areas of leadership, school climate and supplementary aids. Several hundred school districts in the state were nominated. Of those, only fourteen (14) were recognized to receive an on site visit. McKeesport was one. A team spent a day in our high school interviewing students, regular and exceptional, teachers, regular ed teachers, special ed teachers, and they interviewed parents of exceptional students and regular ed students. Following their visit, we received notice very recently that that committee chose to recognize McKeesport on all eight (8) of the categories rather than just three (3). Those areas outside of leadership and school climate and supplementary aids included student placement, involvement in extra curricular activities, family involvement, collaborative practices, and instructional planning. Along with the award this high school will receive a grant of \$15,000 to continued inclusive practices for this year and can be eligible next year for additional \$15,000. Our Special Ed Department has done a phenomenal job as indicated and the high school staff were just outstanding. We're not just referring to special ed teachers. The regular ed teachers were the ones that really earned this award for the school district. So I would like to turn this over at this time to Dr. Gabauer.

Dr. Tim Gabauer – Good evening everyone. As I begin I would like to introduce two (2) people if they can come up with me from the high school, Miss Kathy Kenny who is a science teacher in the high school and also Mrs. Sherry Geyer who is a special education teacher in the high school. With these two individuals, what they allowed us to do with their daily interactions with a certain young lady, and all the students that come through our doors, they actually opened up the doors for us to get this nomination. They had such a profound impact on a young lady, as well as the family, as Mr. Matta pointed out, this was the only one that was actually nominated by a parent. The rest were nominated by someone within the school. So I give an awful lot of credit to these two (2) for opening the doors. One thing that we always encourage is just get those doors open, have people come in to see what's happening. Once they come in and see what's happening, by the time they leave, I think they're absolutely amazed just about every time when they come into the high school and they leave. There is one thing I want to share with this nomination, something that really will stick with you when you're looking for something that really gives a lot of credence to something, this would be it. When the panel came in the panel included a parent that was from Central Pennsylvania who had a physically and mentally challenged child. She is always searching for a situation that would be that situation that she would consider to be pristine for her child. That place where

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she would want to see her child be raised. She called me to the side when everything was done, when the entire panel had met for the day and interviewed everybody and what I take as probably the greatest compliment to the district of McKeesport. She said if I had an opportunity and if I were looking for a place to live at this time and if I were looking to move my family, I would with all certainty move my family to McKeesport so that they could attend the McKeesport Area School District and take advantage of the opportunities that are here. That is one of the greatest compliments we could have to the district. Thank you and thank you to the two (2) staff members here as well as those in the high school as well as the support of Patty Tkacik and the Special Education Department.

Dr. Brinkos – I should also report that Mrs. Tkacik had planned on being here this evening, but was unable to due to illness. She was also questioned during the on site interview whether these inclusive practices observed over at the high school if they are happening at the other buildings within the district and she said most definitely they were. I think it is a testament. So thank you to Miss Kenny and Mrs. Geyer, Dr. Gabauer and also Mrs. Tkacik. Thank you, Madame President.

Treasurer's Report – Mr. Chiaverini moved to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2009. Seconded by Mr. Lopretto.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Donato, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Spando, Mrs. Stevenson, Mr. Washowich

Hearing of Citizens – None.

Minutes – Mr. Brown moved to approve the minutes of the Open Agenda Meeting of January 22, 2009 and Regular Meeting of February 4, 2009. Seconded by Mr. Chiaverini.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Donato, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Spando, Mrs. Stevenson, Mr. Washowich

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

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Donato, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Spando, Mrs. Stevenson, Mr. Washowich

Refunds – Mr. Chiaverini moved to approve property tax refunds. Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Donato, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Spando, Mrs. Stevenson, Mr. Washowich

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Calendar – Mr. Brown moved to approve the 2009/2010 calendar A as presented. Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Donato, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Spando, Mrs. Stevenson, Mr. Washowich

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

- A. High School cheerleading to Cheer Ltd. Nationals in Myrtle Beach, SC on March 20-23, 2009 subject to Board imposed conditions.
- B. High School students to see Cirque De Soleil in Youngstown, OH on Sunday, March 8, 2009. Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Donato, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Spando, Mrs. Stevenson, Mr. Washowich

Bids – Mr. Chiaverini moved to advertise bids for the 2009/2010 school term as follows: General, Art, Office, Industrial Arts, Vocational/Technical, Custodial, Athletic and Athletic Medical Supplies. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Donato, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Spando, Mrs. Stevenson, Mr. Washowich

Report – Mr. Chiaverini moved to accept a proposal from Hallett & Associates Inc. to prepare an actuarial valuation report to comply with the requirements of governmental accounting standards board statement #45 at a cost of \$6,000. Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Donato, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Spando, Mrs. Stevenson, Mr. Washowich

Grievance – Mr. Brown moved to deny MESPA Grievance #11-12-08. Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Donato, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Spando, Mrs. Stevenson, Mr. Washowich

Report – Mrs. Stevenson moved to acknowledge receipt of the 2007/2008 Audit Report. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Donato, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Spando, Mrs. Stevenson, Mr. Washowich

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Green Sheets - Mrs. Stevenson moved to approve the personnel recommendations (green sheets). Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski.

PROFESSIONAL:

Retirements: Effective 6/9/09: Retirements are under the terms of the Retirement Incentive for Professional Employees adopted 11/19/08:

Janet Brinkman	Antoinette Panarella
Susan Garish	Mary Polizzano
Trudy Giammario	David Stash (effective 6/22/09)
Frank McWilliams	

Leave of Absence:

Jennifer Knight Math Teacher, Founders Hall, maternity leave of absence effective 2/17/09 to an undetermined date. Unpaid leave, if necessary, will commence at the expiration of sick days.

Brian Moody Math Teacher, Alternative Education, military leave of absence effective 3/16/09 through the remainder of the 2008/2009 school year. Unpaid leave will commence 3/31/09.

To be hired: long term substitute: rate of pay will be \$100/day + benefits and increase to \$125/day on 61st day:

Erica Bailey Math Teacher, Founders Hall, effective 2/17/09
(J. Knight)

To be hired: long term substitute: rate of pay will be \$80/day + benefits and increase to \$125/day on 61st day:

Douglas Zott Math Teacher, High School, effective 2/2/09
(D. Burd)

To be hired: extra curricular athletics for the 2008/2009 school year:

Mark Bacco	Track Coach	\$3,712.00
Robyn Tyke	Assistant Track Coach	\$1,775.00
Suzzane Milanovich	Assistant Track Coach	\$1,775.00
Anthony Gallagher	Assistant Track Coach	\$1,775.00
Eric Anderson	7/8 Grade Track Coach	\$1,540.00
Steven Guydo	7/8 Grade Track Coach	\$1,540.00
Brie Adams	Assistant Softball Coach	\$1,856.00
Mike Swartz	Assistant Softball Coach	\$1,856.00
Mark Nemchick	7/8 Grade Softball Coach	\$1,540.00
Richard Satcho	Baseball Coach	\$3,854.52
John Debes	Assistant Baseball Coach	\$1,281.86

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Joe Healey	Assistant Baseball Coach	\$1,281.86
Dale McCall Jr.	Assistant Baseball Coach	\$1,281.86
*Jamie Grayson	7/8 Grade Baseball Coach	\$1,263.90
Vladimir Kovalchuk	Boys Golf Coach	\$2,260.00

Volunteers: Extra Curricular Athletics for the 2008/2009 school year:

*Elise D'Aliasandro	Assistant Softball Coach
Amy Haliko	Assistant Softball Coach

Changes to the substitute teacher list:

Additions:

*Catherine Gerdich	Elementary
*Elizabeth Smith	Special Education

Conference Requests:

Christopher Kastronis	Promising Practices – Proven Strategies sponsored by PDE and the Center for Schools and Communities in Harrisburg, PA March 4, 2009 through March 6, 2009 (Paid for by the 21 st CCLC Grant) \$810.92
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Chris Starry	Promising Practices – Proven Strategies sponsored by PDE and the Center for Schools and Communities in Harrisburg, PA March 4, 2009 through March 6, 2009 (Paid for by the 21 st CCLC Grant) \$441.46
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Mary Ann LaFever	Promising Practices – Proven Strategies sponsored by PDE and the Center of Schools and Communities in Harrisburg, PA March 4, 2009 through March 6, 2009 (Paid for by the 21 st CCLC Grant) \$573.36
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Kerry Ochap	Promising Practices – Proven Strategies sponsored by PDE and the Center of Schools and Communities in Harrisburg, PA March 4, 2009 through March 6, 2009 (Paid for by the 21 st CCLC Grant) \$622.92
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Harry Bauman Marc Mayer Ben Althof Sherry Yocco Robin Canova	Middle School Association State Conference sponsored by the PA Middle School Association in Harrisburg, PA March 1, 2009 through March 3, 2009 (Paid for by 21 st CCLC Grant) \$3,515.40
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Support Staff:

Retirement: Effective 4/14/09:

Richard Grygo Custodian, Cornell Intermediate School

Leave of Absence:

Donna Brakeall Lunch Aide, Centennial Elementary School unpaid leave of absence effective 1/21/09 to an undetermined date (not to exceed 1 year)

To be hired: effective immediately:

Yvonne Brown General Worker, Food Service Department, High School.
Rate of pay will be \$7.15/hour.

Changes to the substitute lists:

Additions:

*Williette Jackson Food Service

*Wayne Harrison Custodian

Board action to eliminate the following support staff positions effective immediately:

1-1/2 Custodians at the High School

1/2 Custodian at Founders Hall

1 Custodian at Cornell Intermediate School

Board action to create the following support staff position effective immediately:

1 Roving Permanent day to day substitute custodian at an hourly pay rate of \$10

*Pending receipt of Act 34, 114 and 151 clearances and TB Tine Test and Drug Screening Results.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Donato, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Spando, Mrs. Stevenson, Mr. Washowich

Proposals – Mr. Kondrosky moved to authorize the Business Manager to seek proposals for students transportation services for the 2009/2010 school year. Seconded by Mr. Lopretto. Discussion followed.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Donato, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Spando, Mrs. Stevenson, Mr. Washowich

Tax Liens – Mr. Chiaverini moved to authorize the solicitor to satisfy delinquent tax liens DTD 95-058516 and DTD 95-057644. Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski.

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Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Donato, Mr. Halaszynski, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Spando, Mrs. Stevenson, Mr. Washowich

Committee Reports

Athletic – Jim Brown – No report.

Buildings & Grounds – Joe Chiaverini – No report. Would like to commend the Buildings & Grounds crews on how they have handled this winter. I know I leave for work rather early in the morning, I leave at 5:00 – 5:30 in the morning and the sidewalks, driveways are already cleared. They have done an outstanding job keeping the snow off the grounds. And just by the list of things that Mr. Fagan gives to me every month, they do an awful lot and I would just like to take this time to commend them on the job they have been doing for the district.

Cultural Diversity – Wayne Washowich – No report.

Education/Technology/Grants & Outside Funding – Steve Kondrosky – Yes, we met on February 19th, Dr. Brinkos, Patty Scales and Patty Tkacik. We discussed the district's initial stages of developing a consistent learning walk procedure that can be utilized in all buildings throughout the district. Learning walks conserve to promote best practice system wide. They can also initiate discussion that can promote quality staff development opportunities throughout the district. Also, we discussed the Megabyte Modules and Literacy workshops. Both are comprehensive staff development technology opportunities that are being offered to the staff in technology integration in a classroom in best practice in teaching of reading. Thank you.

Finance – Dave Donato – No report.

Legislation/Policy – Barb Stevenson – No report.

Personnel – Chris Halaszynski – We did meet this month. All decisions are reflected in tonight's green sheets.

Safe Schools – Joe Lopretto – Our schools are pretty safe as we're going, but we will be having a meeting coming up. I'll get with Dr. Brinkos and all the building principals and we'll have something for next month.

Solicitor's Report – No report for the public meeting.

Correspondence - None

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New Business – Mr. Donato moved to advertise from within and outside for the position of Superintendent of Schools of McKeesport Area School District. Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski. Discussion followed.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mr. Halaszynski, Ms. Spando

Voting no. Mr. Chiaverini, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mrs. Stevenson, Mr. Washowich

MOTION FAILED.

Adjournment – 7:55 PM – Mr. Donato moved for adjournment. Seconded by Mr. Halaszynski

Voting aye. All Members present.

ATTEST:



David M. Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary

McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Open Agenda Meeting
February 19, 2009

Presiding Lori Spando, President

Date, Time, Place Thursday, February 19, 2009, 7:30 PM, Board Room,
Administration Building, 3590 O'Neil Boulevard,
McKeesport, PA 15132.

Roll Call James Brown
Joseph Chiaverini
David Donato
Steve Kondrosky
Lori Spando
Barbara Stevenson


Excused Chris Halaszynski
Joe Lopretto
Wayne Washowich

Others Present Dr. Michael Brinkos, Assistant Superintendent
David Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary
James Humanic, Director of Administrative Services/
Assistant to the Business Manager
George Gobel, Solicitor

Hearing of Citizens None.

Items Discussed The agenda items discussed are attached.

ATTEST:



David M. Seropian, Business Manager/Board Secretary