**McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Regular Board Meeting**

**April 28, 2021**

**Presiding** Joe Lopretto, President

**Date, Time, Place** Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 7:30 PM, Board Room, Administration Building, McKeesport Area School District, 3590 O’Neil Boulevard, McKeesport, PA 15132.

**Opening Exercises** Mr. Lopretto called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM followed by the Pledge to the Flag. We met in Executive Session prior to tonight’s meeting to discuss personnel and potential litigation items and issues.

**Present** James Brown

David Donato

Diane Elias

Thomas Filotei

Ivan Hampton

Steve Kondrosky

Joe Lopretto

James Poston

Mindy Sturgess

**Others Present** Dr. Mark Holtzman, Superintendent

Dr. Tia Wanzo, Assistant Superintendent

Joan Wehner, Business Manager/Board Secretary

Charles Kiss, Treasurer  
Gary Matta, Solicitor

**Board President’s Remarks** – As Dr. Holtzman said earlier, we have about 20 days of school left. Hopefully we can get through them with no problems. Something I am very proud of, if you're available May 21st, the D.A.R.E. graduation. This is the 25th year for D.A.R.E. which I started and I will pat myself on the back for that because I think it's a great program. Officer Wehrli still has it going on for me and I thank him for that.

**Superintendent’s Report** – A lot of our events are wrapping up and preparing for the end of the school year. Our D.A.R.E. graduation, 25 years, that’s is a long time. Anyway, we are really excited to be able to put on our events this year and have our students participate. Obviously, our big ones that happen in our high school with the prom and graduation ceremonies. We are just

**Regular Board Meeting**

**April 28, 2021**

working on a plan to maybe rearrange the stage and the stadium a little bit so the family can see the graduates from both sides be socially distanced and make sure we are following all the mitigation strategies.  Things have been lifted a little bit outdoors but mostly for vaccinated people so we still have to be conscientious of that as we put that on. Also our Prom and promenade is something exciting that's going to happen. We plan on being able to enjoy that evening with our seniors and juniors. Some senior rec things are happening, concerts, we just wrapped up for the musical unfortunately we only have one live opportunity to see the musical little mermaid but it also being streamed I think it's free this past this weekend as well as the last time I could be watched or seen so please your website for that and then the middle school musical is coming up, School House Rock, which is next week starting on Thursday at 6:30. It will be limited attendance but it's something that we value and our students value and it can only be made possible by them physically being in our school and with our staff. We are happy to celebrate with them and celebrate the warm air and hopefully that will continue after maybe a little snow in the next day or two. We are looking forward to that and a number of summer programs that we are going to provide in conjunction with some of our partners and I am really excited to be able to share those things in the very near future.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Mr. Poston moved to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer’s Report

for the month of March 2021. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr.

Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Hearing of Citizens** – Brandon Kucich, 4641 Bolton Lane, Irwin, PA 15642

Mr. Kucich addressed the Board on the issue of White Oak School.

**Minutes** – Mr. Filotei moved to approve the minutes of the Open Agenda Meeting of March 17, 2021 and Regular Meeting of March 24, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Hampton.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr.

Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Bills** – Mr. Poston moved to approve the list of bills. Seconded by Mr. Filotei

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr.

Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

Voting no Mr. Donato

**Regular Board Meeting**

**April 28, 2021**

**Proposal** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to accept the proposal from Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP to provide auditing services for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2021, 2022 and 2023. Seconded by Mr. Filotei.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr.

Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Calendar** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the corrected calendar B for the 2021/2022 school year. President’s Day was listed on the wrong Monday of the previously approved calendar. The change has been made to reflect the correction. Seconded by Mr. Poston

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr.

Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Calendar** – Mr. Hampton moved to approve the 2021/2022 Board meeting calendar. Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr.

Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Program** – Mr. Poston moved to approve the Summer Music Program of 27 hours Brass, 27 hours Woodwinds, 26 hours Percussion, 40 hours Strings, and 60 hours for High School Marching Band instruction. Seconded by Mrs. Elias.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr.

Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Programs** – Mr. Poston moved to approve the following programs:

1. Summer School Program (DH Education Solutions)
2. Camp Invention
3. C.A.N.O.E.S.
4. T.I.M.E.

Seconded by Mr. Filotei

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr.

Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Regular Board Meeting**

**April 28, 2021**

**Music** – Mr. Poston moved to approve the Music Department trip to Nashville, Tennessee on April 27-30, 2022 pending necessary changes to mitigation and Covid-19 restrictions. Seconded by Mrs. Sturgess

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr.

Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

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

#000 – Local Board Procedures – Board Policy/Procedure/Administrative Regulations

#001 – Local Board Procedures – Name and Classification

#002 – Local Board Procedures – Authority and Powers

**Policies** –Mr. Poston moved for second reading and adoption of the following Board Policies:

#807 – Operations – Opening Exercises/Flag Displays

#910 – Operations – Community Engagement

#913 – Community – Non-school Organizations/Groups/Individuals

Seconded by Mrs. Sturgess.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr.

Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Program** – Mrs. Sturgess moved to approve the Covid Compensatory Services (CCS) Programming from June 14, 2021 through June 24, 2021, with the exception of Fridays. The program will also run from July 26, 2021 through August 5, 2021, with the exception of Fridays. Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr.

Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Program** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the Extended School Year Programming from June 28, 2021 through August 5, 2021, with the exception of Fridays. Seconded by Mrs. Sturgess.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr.

Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Resolution** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve Resolution #1256 – Bond Refinancing. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

**Regular Board Meeting**

**April 28, 2021**

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr.

Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Resolutions** – Mr. Poston moved to approve Resolutions #1257, #1258 and #1259 – student discipline. Seconded by Mrs. Elias.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr.

Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Math** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve a new math series for Kindergarten through 5th grade. Math series will be paid by Title I. Seconded by Mrs. Sturgess.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr.

Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

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

PROFESSIONAL:

Resignation:

Erica Gibson Title I Facilitator, McClure Elementary School,

Effective 4/19/21

Tiara Young Permanent day to day substitute, Founders Hall Middle

School, effective 5/7/21

To be hired: Effective immediately:

Kayla Beatty Mathematics Teacher, placement to be determined

(Hartnett/LoNigro) Step 1B $41,778.00 (pro-rated)

Leave of Absence:

Eran Scozzaro ESL Teacher, District, leave of absence effective 4/12/21

to an undetermined date

Jennifer Perry Elementary Teacher, McClure Elementary School, leave of

absence effective 5/12/21 to an undetermined date

Jill Hershey Bus-Cpmp Information Technology Teacher/

Co-operative Education Teacher, High School/CTC,

leave of absence effective 5/11/21

**Regular Board Meeting**

**April 28, 2021**

To be hired: Long Term substitute teacher: rate of pay will be $100/day + benefits and increase to $125 on the 61st day.

Hayley Maksin Elementary Teacher, McClure Elementary School, effective

(J. Perry) 5/12/21

To be hired: Extra Curricular Athletics for the 2021/2022 school year:

Troy Blackwell Head Varsity Basketball Coach $7,313.98

Changes to the substitute teacher list:

Additions:

\*Hayley Maksin Elementary PK-4

\*Danette Sprouse Early Childhood, Elementary Counselor

\*Gianna Sigado Mathematics

\*Eileen Schmidt Elementary PK-4

Support Staff:

Retirement:

Cheryl Claggett General Worker, Food Service Department at Twin Rivers

Elementary School, effective 6/2/21

Resignation:

Matti Dolfi School Police Officer, effective 4/7/21

Lisa Dandar General Worker, Food Service Department at the High School,

effective 4/16/21

To be hired: effective immediately:

Shelley Fawcett Confidential Secretary/Board Clerk, Administration Building,

(A. Decker) Yearly salary will be $49,400.00 (pro-rated)

Stephen Dumic Truck Driver/Maintenance Helper

(R. Harper) Hourly Salary will be $18.10

\*Ronald Bishop Groundskeeper

(Poston/Dumic) Yearly salary will be $35,335.00 (pro-rated)

Bridgette Batch Instructional Assistant, placement to be determined.

Yearly salary will be $16,500.00 (pro-rated)

**Regular Board Meeting**

**April 28, 2021**

Leave of absence:

Ana Orsini General Worker, Food Service Department, Founders Hall

Middle School, unpaid leave of absence effective 4/17/21

To an undetermined date (not to exceed 1 year)

Board action to create the following Act 93 positions effective 7/1/21:

1 Assistant Coordinator of Special Education

1 Technology Integration Specialist

Board action to create the following professional positions effective at the beginning of the 2021/2022 school year:

4 Social Workers

1 Reading Specialist

1 ESL Teacher (Districtwide)

1 Instructional Technology Teacher at Twin Rivers Elementary School

1 Instructional Technology Teacher at Francis McClure Elementary School

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

\*\*Step placement pending employer verification

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr.

Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Realignment** – Mrs. Sturgess moved to approve the Administrative realignment. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

Recommendations for Administrative Assignment and salary – effective 7/1/21.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Position From | Position To | 2021/2022 Salary Information | Length of Year |
| David Listorti | Acting Head Principal at Francis McClure Elementary School | Head Principal at Francis McClure Elementary School | No change | 12 months |
| Matthew Mols | Assistant High School Principal and Career and Technology Center | Assistant High School Principal and Director of Career and Technology Center | $10,000.00 | 12 months |

**Regular Board Meeting**

**April 28, 2021**

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr.

Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Termination** – Mr. Poston moved to terminate employee number XXX-XX-9228 effective immediately. Seconded by Mr. Filotei.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr.

Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**ROTC** Mr. Filotei moved to approve Air Force Jr. ROTC Unit contracts for SMSGT. Jason N. DeFelice and MAJ. Bryan L. Carlson at McKeesport Area High School and Technology Center for the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 school years. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr.

Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**INSURANCE** – Mr. Filotei moved to approve One2One device insurance through Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc. Seconded by Mr. Hampton.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr.

Lopretto, Mr. Poston

Voting no – Mrs. Sturgess

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Athletic** – James Brown/Ivan Hampton – Mr. Hampton reported. Primarily we were interviewing candidates for the Boys Basketball Coach job. We interviewed 7 candidates and chose Troy Blackwell to be the next boys basketball coach. My congratulations to Mr. Blackwell and I wish good luck.

**Buildings & Grounds** – Steve Kondrosky/Mindy Sturgess – Mr. Kondrosky reported. We did meet last week, Mr. Balogh and myself and I don’t have much to report so I’ll double up next time.

**Community Relations/Cultural Diversity** – Mindy Sturgess/Ivan Hampton – Mrs. Sturgess reported. I’m not quite sure how to report on a date because recently the board has started meeting as a committee as a whole so is that the date? The committee did meet last week and we did receive updates on the voices of change organization that is occurring at our high school.

**Regular Board Meeting**

**April 28, 2021**

I continue to praise those students for their leadership that they are showing. The commitment, care and concern for future generations I think speaks for the work that is done in this district by our students and staff. We are in the process now with our next step which would be identifying staff. Individual staff members will receive letter to gauge their interest in participating with the diversity and equity inclusion work that will be going on with Penn State Greater Allegheny. We are really excited and we really hope to have a lot more information once we get the teachers on board. We hope to have a plan and process in place for the work we will be doing next year.

**Education/Legislation/Policy** – Diane Elias/Mindy Sturgess – Mrs. Sturgess reported. We had the meeting on April 14th and reviewed again at the committee as a whole this week because we ran out of time in executive session last week. There are a lot of new and exciting things that are happening with our Education Committee. We are approving two new courses at the high school that with focus on employability skills and infectious disease to offer out high school students more opportunities. I think both of them are extremely timely and something that can only enhance the education for our students at the high school. We also had an opportunity to review some of our district wide data to make sure that the decisions that are made are in the best interest of students as always and are going to move our academic achievement forward and part of the discussion focused on the adoption of a district wide assessment which would give us the opportunity to receive updates regularly and really help the administration and teachers guide their instruction to make sure we address our students needs. Hopefully more information to come will be on that. We also approved this evening a new Math program which is very exciting for our students K-5 which we talked about at the middle school also which will provide our teachers and students with more hands-on opportunities. Its going to get us up to date with the PA standards and avoid teachers having to supplement hopefully as they have done in the past because more will be built in. Hopefully the team had an opportunity to review it and come up with the recommendation and that was approved this evening so that’s very exciting. We also approved this evening the Summer learning programming that will help us address the learning gaps caused by COVID. We talked about the T.I.M.E. program, C.A.N.O.E.S program and families should be receiving information about those very soon possibly next week for some. We encourage our families and learners that are eligible to participate. We also talked about a focus area for 2021-2022 where some of our instructional coaches can focus on those foundational skills in K-2 which are extremely important and what needs to be done for systemic change and over all academic achievement and we reviewed several policies that I will not bore you with all the details.

**Finance/Grants/Outside Funding** – Diane Elias/James Poston – Mr. Poston reported. We met as a meeting as a whole last week and this week we went over the preliminary budget that was presented to the board in the back.

**Regular Board Meeting**

**April 28, 2021**

**Personnel** – Mindy Sturgess/Steve Kondrosky – Mrs. Sturgess reported. The committee met as a whole last week to review and discuss those items on the green sheets.

**Safe Schools** – James Poston/David Donato/Thomas Filotei – Mr. Poston reported. We met last week via Zoom with Administrators and building Principals. Our technology coordinator is working on prices for new cameras throughout the district. Everything else in fine at the buildings.

**Solicitor’s Report** – My report was all executive in nature.

**Correspondence** – None

**New Business** – Mr. Donato - We were able in the last few weeks to get a copy of the audit report a few months later than we are accustomed too. The management letter indicated a couple matters that are opportunities to strengthen the internal controls and operating efficiency. During the course of audits, we noted the payroll and tax collection banks accounts were not being reconciled monthly thru the general ledger. Joan, are we currently reconciling our payroll and tax collection banks accounts? Mrs. Wehner – Yes, we are reconciling those.

Mr. Donato – Ok, but we have noted this and have made proper adjustments. Mrs. Wehner – Yes, we are making changes to that. Mr. Donato – Ok, thank you. And one that is most dear to my heart is one that I have been cautioning the board on since I got back on the board. And they apparently have found weakness in the minutes of the board. Minutes of the board meeting on December 4th, 2019 reported a motion to approve all projects recommended by ABM. The motion did not indicate the dollar amount of the projects that were recommended. Nor did it disclose the authorization to enter in to the contract with ABM. The lack of the details of the contract and the amount of the contract could lead to improper transactions occurring. Therefore, we recommend that these types of actions including the approval of significant contracts, be disclosed in greater in detail in board minutes. These are vital and I know that, just let me give you an example of the parallel. Number 6 on tonight’s agenda is the board action to approve the summer music program with 27 hours Brass, 27 hours Woodwinds, 26 hours Percussion, 40 hours Strings, and 60 hours for High School Marching Band instruction. That’s pretty intense. That is pretty all encompassing I would say. But with a 10 million dollar, no bid contract, we gave no information to the public. I have cautioned about this and I would hope that the board takes under advisement in the future. It had been discovered by the auditors. Mrs. Sturgess – I believe that was addressed formally and in this group as a whole as a board, I think that you brought that to our attention I do know that we rectified that. Is that correct? Even

**Regular Board Meeting**

**April 28, 2021**

before the audit. So, I do think that the district is making, has made….. Mr. Donato – I will let you know the next time we do a 10 million no bid contract, how’s that?

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

Voting aye. All Members present.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Joan Wehner, Business Manager/Board Secretary