**McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Regular Board Meeting**

**August 12, 2020**

**Presiding** Joe Lopretto, President

**Date, Time, Place** Wednesday, August 12, 2020, 7:30 PM, High School Auditorium,

1960 Eden Park Boulevard, McKeesport, PA 15132.

**Opening Exercises** Mr. Lopretto called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. 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** – Mr. Lopretto read the instructions for those individuals signed in to speak. I would like to thank Dr. Mark Holtzman and Dr. Tia Wanzo and their staff on working on the Health & Safety Plan for McKeesport Area School District. A lot of time it is tough decisions. Dr. Holtzman did five videos so the parents could understand. I want to thank Dr. Holtzman and Dr. Wanzo and the staff. Mr. Lopretto read correspondence from a parent regarding return to school. I would also like to thank Chuck Davis from White Oak Council for the donation of two of their retired police vehicles. Those vehicles will be put to good use by our district police. I would like to thank Jonathon Balogh and his entire staff on working so hard to get our schools ready for the 2020/2021 school year. These guys don’t hear it enough how much they are appreciated for their day to day duties. Again, I want to thank Jonathon Balogh and his entire staff.

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**Superintendent’s Report** – Dr. Holtzman presented the Health & Safety Plan. Discussion followed.

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

the month of June 2020. Seconded by Mr. Poston.

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

Lopretto, Mr. Poston, Mrs. Sturgess

**Hearing of Citizens** –

Cher and Paul Redwood, 1109 Ohio Street, McKeesport, PA 15132.

Mr. and Mrs. Redwood addressed the Board on the issue of students with special needs.

Wilhelminia Goodlow, 1024 Washington Street, McKeesport, PA 15132.

Ms. Goodlow addressed the Board on the issue of IEPs.

**Minutes** – Mr. Poston moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 24, 2020. 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

**MOU** – Mr. Filotei moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Alliance Christian Child Care Center to provide childcare services before and after school at Twin Rivers and Francis McClure schools for the 2020/2021 school year. Seconded by Mr. Poston. Discussion followed.

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

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**Insurance** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the insurances through MGI Risk Management with CM Regent as the carrier effective 9/15/20 through 9/14/21 for an annual premium of $226,932.00. Seconded by Mr. Filotei.

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

**PA Coach** – Mr. Poston moved to approve the list of drivers and monitors from PA Coach for the 2020/2021 school year with receipt of appropriate documentation. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

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

**Agreement** – Mr. Filotei moved to approve an agreement with Interim Health Care to provide skilled nursing services for a district student. Seconded by Mr. Poston.

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 60 hours High School Marching Band instruction. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

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

**Name Change** – Mr. Brown moved to acknowledge the name change from Young Scholars of McKeesport to Young Scholars of Greater Allegheny. Seconded by Mrs. Sturgess.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mrs, Sturgess

Voting no. Mr. Hampton, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Poston

**Calendar** – Mr. Poston moved to approve August 26, 2020 as the first student day for the 2020/2021 school year. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

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

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Voting no. Mrs, Sturgess

**Student** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the recommendations of the solicitor in regards to student #9739655491. Seconded by Mr. Poston.

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

**Agreement** – Mr. Filotei moved to approve an agreement with All Lines Technology as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Sturgess. Discussion followed.

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

**Plan** – Mr. Poston moved to approve the McKeesport Area School District Health and Safety Plan. Seconded by Mr. Filotei.

Voting aye. Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Poston

Voting no. Mr. Brown, Mrs, Sturgess

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

#221 - Pupils – Dress and Grooming

**Bids** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to reject the bids for the White Oak School building. Seconded by Mr. Filotei.

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

**Proposal** – Mr. Filotei moved to accept proposal A from David Michael Management Services, LLC as presented. Seconded by Mr. Donato.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Filotei, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Lopretto, Mr. Poston

Voting no. Mr. Kondrosky, Mrs, Sturgess

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**Lawsuit** – Mrs. Sturgess moved to authorize the District to enter into an Attorney-Client Fee Contract with the Frantz Law Group, ALPC, 402 West Broadway, Suite 860, San Diego, California, 92101, for the commencement of a legal action against Juul Labs, Inc., formerly known as PAX Labs, Inc., and other Defendants, including but not limited to Altria Group, Inc.; Altria Client Services; Altria Group Distribution Company; Nu Mark LLC; and Philip Morris USA, Inc. Said related to the use of vaping products on District property. The Attorney-Client Fee Contract shall provide for a Contingent Fee of Twenty Percent (20%) of any recovery prior to December 31, 2020, and Twenty-Five Percent (25%) of any recovery after January 2, 2021. Expenses needed to fund the litigation shall be advanced by Frantz Law Group, APLC, and deducted from any recovery. The District shall not be responsible for any fee or cost reimbursement in the event that there is no recovery in the action. The School Board President and/or District Superintendent are authorized to sign the Attorney-Client Fee Contract. Seconded by Mr. Poston.

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

**Machines** – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the purchase of eight Hilltip Spray Strickers at $11,500 each from A&H Equipment per Co Stars 25-044 contract. Seconded by Mr. Filotei. Discussion followed.

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

**Green Sheets** – Mr. Poston moved to approve the personnel recommendations. Seconded by Mr. Kondrosky.

Act 93:

To be hired: effective immediately:

Stefanie Burgh Assistant Principal, Founders Hall Middle School,

Yearly salary will be $65,700 (pro-rated)

Professional:

Retirement:

Marsha Bana Elementary Teacher, effective 7/16/20

Bonnie Butler English Teacher, effective 7/15/20

Angela DiBattista Title I Math Teacher, effective 7/20/20

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Jean Gallo Reading Teacher, effective 8/11/20

Leave of Absence:

Kathleen Haselhoff Elementary Teacher, Twin Rivers Elementary School,

Unpaid leave effective 8/18/20 to an undetermined date.

Courtney Reese Speech Teacher, sabbatical for the 1st semester of the

2020/2021 school year.

Change of position: effective 8/18/20:

Nayelle Williams From: Research Strategies and Study Skills, Itinerant, Founders Hall

To: English Teacher, Founders Hall

To be hired: effective 8/18/20:

\*\*Jah-Chant Robinson English Teacher,

Step 1M Salary $42,378.00

\*\*Caitlin Dee Research Strategies and Study Skills Itinerant, Founders Hall

Step 1M Salary $42,378.00

\*\*Marie Hayes Title I Math Itinerant

Step 3M Salary $43,478.00

\*\*Danielle Jiancristoforo Special Education Teacher, McClure Elementary School

Step 2M Salary $42,878.00

\*\*Greta Stadtfeld World Language Teacher, Founders Hall Middle School

Step 1M Salary $42,378.00

To be hired: long term substitutes: effective 8/18/20:

Nicole Pero Speech Teacher Itinerant. Rate of pay will be $100/day +

(Reese) benefits and increase to $125 on the 61st day.

Joanne Michalak Elementary Teacher, Twin Rivers Elementary School. Rate of

(Haselhoff) pay will be $125/day + benefits.

Jacquelyn Tresse Health/Physical Education Teacher, High School. Rate of pay will

(Burgh) be $100/day + benefits and increase to $125 on the 61st day.

To be hired: Permanent day-to-day substitutes. Rate of pay will be $100/day + individual benefits and increase to $125 on the 61st day:

Elaine Hrinda High School

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Keith Parton High School

Kevin Johnson High School

Carly Tanney Founders Hall

\*Ryan Pontzloff Founders Hall

Monica Poupakis Founders Hall

Kathleen Bayer McClure Elementary School

Tyrone Neal McClure Elementary School

Sade Banks Twin Rivers Elementary School

Jessica Gerber Twin Rivers Elementary School

To be hired: Title I Facilitator effective 8/26/20: Rate of pay will be either $100/day + individual benefits or $110/day without benefits:

\*Erika Gibson McClure Elementary School

To be hired: extra-curricular athletics for the 2019/2020 school year:

Nick LoNigro Off-Season Conditioning Coach $1,928.21

John Moninger Off-Season Conditioning Coach (shared) $964.10

Jamie Eckels Off-Season Conditioning Coach (shared) $964.10

To be hired: summer music program: rate of pay will be $25.84/hour:

Mark DeCarlo 60 hours Marching Band

Changes to the substitute teacher list:

Additions:

\*Joshua Reist Social Studies

\*Emily Hughes English (S Tharp Intern)

Angela DiBattista Elementary K-6

Deletions:

Michelle Cox Special Education

Emily Cornish Elementary K-4

Kristy Hobson Elementary K-4

William Isbir Social Studies

Jennifer Large Early Childhood

John Domarsky Social Studies

Support Staff:

Resignation: effective immediately:

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Chelsey McDonald Instructional Assistant, McClure Elementary School

Changes to the substitute lists:

Additions:

\*Kathleen Klein Secretary

\*Crystal Little Secretary

Deletions:

Davonte Doty Custodian

Joy Flowers Secretary

Chelsy McGee Instructional Assistant

\*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.

ADDENDUM:

Professional:

Resignation effective 8/17/2020:

Ashley Tomaino Special Education Teacher, High School

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Athletic** – James Brown/Ivan Hampton – no meeting

**Buildings & Grounds** – Steve Kondrosky/Mindy Sturgess – no meeting, phone conversation

**Community Relations/Cultural Diversity** – James Brown/Ivan Hampton – no meeting

**Education/Legislation/Policy** – Diane Elias/Mindy Sturgess – We met today and had the opportunity to review the health and safety plan.

**Finance/Grants/Outside Funding** – Diane Elias/James Poston – no meeting

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**Personnel** – Mindy Sturgess/Steve Kondrosky – Mrs. Sturgess reported. We met on August 3rd and those items are on the green sheets tonight.

**Safe Schools** – James Poston/David Donato/Thomas Filotei – no meeting

**Solicitor’s Report** – New business – PA Coach motion.

**Correspondence** – none

**New Business** –

PA COACH – Mr. Filotei moved to authorize district Administration and Solicitor to take all appropriate legal action regarding PA Coach, the current district’s transportation provider and also ratify the previous filings of administration and the solicitor’s office regarding the current transportation agreement Seconded by Mr. Poston. Discussion followed.

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

**Adjournment** – 9:20 PM – Mr. Kondrosky moved for adjournment. Seconded by Mr. Poston.

Voting aye. All Members present.

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

Joan Wehner, Business Manager/Board Secretary