

McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Open Agenda Meeting

December 1, 2021

Presiding Mindy Lundberg, President

Date, Time, Place Wednesday, December 1, 2021, 7:30 PM, Board Room,
Administration Building, 3590 O'Neil Boulevard, McKeesport, PA
15132. We met in Executive Session prior to the Open Agenda
Meeting to discuss any personnel and potential litigation items and
issues.

Roll Call James Brown
David Donato
Diane Elias
Dan Goughnour
Matthew Holtzman
Steven Kondrosky
Joe Lopretto
Mindy Lundberg
Latoya Wright

Others Present Dr. Mark Holtzman, Superintendent
Dr. Tia Wanzo, Assistant to the Superintendent
Charles Kiss, Treasurer
Krisha DiMascio, Solicitor

Hearing of Citizens None

Items Discussed The agenda items discussed are attached.

ATTEST:



Joan Wehner, Business Manager/Board Secretary

McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
December 8, 2021

Presiding	Mindy Lundberg, President
Date, Time, Place	Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 7:30 PM, Board Room, Administration Building, McKeesport Area School District, 3590 O'Neil Boulevard, McKeesport, PA 15132.
Opening Exercises	Ms. Lundberg called the meeting to order at 8:15 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 Dan Goughnour Matthew Holtzman Steve Kondrosky Joe Lopretto Mindy Lundberg Latoya Wright
Others Present	Dr. Mark Holtzman, Superintendent Dr. Tia Wanzo, Assistant Superintendent Joan Wehner, Business Manager/Board Secretary Charles Kiss, Treasurer Krisha DiMascio, Solicitor

Board President's Remarks – I am going to keep this very short since we were late. I would like to thank my fellow board members for giving me this opportunity. I'm really excited to see a packed house tonight. I hope we continue to see this level of engagement throughout the year. I am very excited for fresh starts and new beginnings. I think the Board has some work to do ourselves, to get back to where we need to be to adequately support you as a community, our students and staff. Please be along with us for this ride.

Superintendent's Report – I actually wanted to read this letter to you but we are really late and I want to apologize again. We were ironing out some things and making some decisions that ran over and its not a good look and we are going to do better next time. I received a letter, an incredible story form around May 1945 when World War II ended. The gentleman that wrote this letter is Frank Wosinski and if I had to guess he is around 85-86 years old. He was a 9 ½ year old boy then and there was a big bell outside of East End Academy and he decided to climb on top of that bell during the celebration and hit it with a hammer which he still has to this day. As he was banging on the bell with the hammer, if you know what bell I'm talking about its right in front of Founders' Hall and it has a crack in it with a big piece missing, the bell cracked and a piece fell off. So at 9 ½ years old, he was banging that bell so hard in celebration of the war ending and we still have that piece of history today, The bell has been relocated to Founders' Hall when it was renamed. I think it is an incredible story and I shared it with Dr. Wanzo and a few people around the office. I reached out to this gentleman and had a really cool conversation with him and I am hoping to connect him with the Heritage Center. He has the hammer to this day and maybe they can put that together with the story to represent a rich part of McKeesport history. I just wanted to share that will all of you. Mr. Lopretto asked that the letter be read in January. Another thing that is really important, yearly or annually, we have our students take the opportunity of designing the District Christmas card and we rotate through our buildings. The card goes out to all the school districts in Allegheny County, City of McKeesport, White Oak and other boroughs and things like that. This year I wanted to make sure that the student, Maxwell Kwiecinski, deserves the honor. It's a really cool accomplishment. Thank you for your outstanding effort. Congratulations! Dr. Holtzman gave a presentation on funding.

Treasurer's Report – Mr. Kondrosky moved to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report for the month of October 2021. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Goughnour, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Lundberg, Ms. Wright

Amendment – Solicitor advised the Board to amend the Agenda to add (2) Resolutions #1288 & #1289- Student Discipline and to repeat the vote for President and Vice President due to an error last week.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Goughnour, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Lundberg, Ms. Wright

Hearing of Citizens –

Ms. Stephanie Graham, 1915 Kansas Avenue, White Oak, PA 15131, Bus 6

Ms. Darlene Allen, 1712 Flagler Street, McKeesport, PA 15132, Bus 6-Did not speak

Ms. Robin Kelly, 611 North Grandview, McKeesport, PA 15132, Contract Renewal
Mr. Keith Murphy, 907 Evans Avenue, McKeesport, PA 15132, Academic Achievement
Pastor Earlene Coleman, 2401 James Street, McKeesport, PA 15132, Confirming Bethlehem Baptist Church backing of Dr. Wanzo.

Nominations – Mindy Lundberg opened the floor for nominations for Vice President. Mr. Goughnour nominated Steve Kondrosky. Seconded by Mr. Brown

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mr. Goughnour, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Ms. Lundberg, Ms. Wright

Voting No. Mrs. Elias, Mr. Lopretto

Nominations – Mindy Lundberg opened the floor for nominations for President. Mr. Kondrosky nominated Mindy Lundberg. Seconded by Mr. Brown

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mr. Goughnour, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Ms. Lundberg, Ms. Wright

Voting No. Mrs. Elias, Mr. Lopretto

Minutes – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the minutes of the Open Agenda Meeting of October 20, 2021 and Regular Meeting of October 27, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Goughnour, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Lundberg, Ms. Wright

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

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Goughnour, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Lundberg, Ms. Wright

Transfer – Mr. Lopretto moved to approve the budgetary transfer as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Elias.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Goughnour, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Lundberg, Ms. Wright

Grant Award – Mr. Lopretto moved to approve the Grant Award Agreement for McKeesport Area School District from Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation in the amount of \$195,000. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Goughnour, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Lundberg, Ms. Wright

Agreement – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve the agreement between UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh and McKeesport Area School District for the School Health Initiative for 2021-2022 and the 2022-2023 school years. Seconded by Mr. Lopretto.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Goughnour, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Lundberg, Ms. Wright

Proposal – Mr. Lopretto moved to approve the second Amendment to the agreement with Comcast Cable Communications Management LLC and McKeesport Area School District for the Internet Essentials Program effective January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025. Seconded by Mrs. Elias.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Goughnour, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Lundberg, Ms. Wright

Contract – Mr. Kondrosky moved approve the contract between McKeesport Area School District and Teamsters Local Union #205 effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Goughnour, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Lundberg, Ms. Wright

Virtual Days – Mrs. Elias moved to approve moving to in-person instruction to virtual learning days on November 24, 2021 and December 22, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Goughnour, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Lundberg, Ms. Wright

Collaboration – Mr. Lopretto moved to approve the Diversity Equity Inclusion Focused Collaboration with Dr. Erika Gold Kestenberg – to be paid with ESSER Funds and DSGF Grant Award. Seconded by Mrs. Elias. **Dr. Wanzo** explained: Dr. Kestenberg has already began some of the work in leading some of our diversity, equity and inclusion work. There will be three layers of it. She will lead the community group, a student group and a teacher group. The timeliness of this just because of what’s going on in society, we knew that is was necessary for our District to be intentional about our work in diversity, equity and inclusion. She will look at some of the things Mr. Murphy mentioned earlier such as data, achievement data and discipline date just focus on what needs to be done to make our district cable to deal with what’s going on in society and in

our district. **Mr. Donato:** Is there anything that Dr. Kestenberg is doing that would be considered Critical Race Theory. **Dr. Wanzo:** No Dr. Holtzman: We are looking for opportunities to grow our student body and our staff. We think about things like a book study that we are doing right now on “So You Want to Talk About Race” which is a challenging read no matter what race you are. It challenges everyone to think differently about their position and privilege in life. The things that are thought to be every day occurrences that they call you out and talk about racism. I think is important to challenge ourselves as well as our educators and especially our children so we can move in a direction that would allow everyone to be successful. And be able to problem solve and deal with problems that exists in todays society and be able to do it in an appropriate fashion. It starts with us as adults because I think we lead those things. Often times children at this age may be a little oblivious to those issues that we know all to well. We have a responsibility to prepare them for the future. Dr. Wanzo and I have taken this very seriously and her efforts as mentioned earlier today to bring in African American staff members, members from our community as part of our staff here in McKeesport Area School District has never been done better than it has been under her watch dealing with personnel. **Dr. Wanzo:** The areas that she is focusing on right now is empathy and inclusion.

Voting aye. Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Goughnour, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Lundberg, Ms. Wright

Voting no. Mr. Brown

Policies – First reading of the following policies:

#003 – Local Board Procedures – Functions

#004 – Local Board Procedures – Membership

Prices – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve adult cafeteria prices as follows:

Adult Lunch \$3.90

Adult Lunch Entrée \$1.75

Adult Breakfast \$2.00

Adult Breakfast Entrée \$1.05

Seconded by Mr. Goughnour.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Goughnour, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Lundberg, Ms. Wright

Resolutions – Mr. Kondrosky moved to approve Resolutions #1284, #1285, #1286, #1287, #1288 & #1289 – Student Discipline. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Goughnour, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Lundberg, Ms. Wright

Recommendations – Mr. Lopretto moved to approve the McKeesport Area Technology Center Occupational Advisory Recommendations. Seconded by Mrs. Elias.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Goughnour, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Lundberg, Ms. Wright

Incentive – Mr. Kondrosky moved to adopt an Early Retirement Incentive (ERI) for MAEA Professional Staff. Seconded by Mr. Goughnour.

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Goughnour, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Lundberg, Ms. Wright

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

Voting aye. Mr. Brown, Mr. Donato, Mrs. Elias, Mr. Goughnour, Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Kondrosky, Mr. Lopretto, Ms. Lundberg, Ms. Wright

**McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
PERSONNEL ITEMS**

December 8, 2021

PROFESSIONAL:

RESIGNATION:

1. Christian Sirnic STEMology Teacher, Founders' Hall Middle School, effective 12-02-21.
2. Jessica Gerber Permanent Day-to-Day Substitute Teacher, Twin Rivers Elementary School, effective 11-30-21.

TO BE HIRED:

1. Karen Kwiecinski School Nurse, district, effective 11/18/21. (pending emergency Certification. Step 1B Salary \$41,778.00 (pro-rated)
2. Joseph Chiaverini
(J. Saunders) Permanent Day-to-Day Substitute, McClure Elementary School, effective immediately. Rate of pay will be \$105.00/day + individual Health benefits and increase to \$125.00 on the 61st day.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

1. Erika Skraitz Math Teacher, Founders' Hall Middle School, sabbatical leave of absence for the 2nd semester of the 21-22 school year.
2. Christy Oakley Elementary Teacher, Twin Rivers Elementary School, leave of absence Effective 12-21-21 to an undetermined date (not to exceed 1 year) FMLA

TO BE HIRED: LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE: Rate of pay will be \$130.00/day + benefits:

1. Emily Hardy Special Education Teacher, McClure Elementary School, effective immediately.

CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE LIST:

ADDITIONS:

1. Bonnie Butler English
- 2.* Kareesha Reed PK - 4
3. Dr. Curtiss Porter Emergency Certification
- 4.* Jordan Slater Social Studies

PERSONNEL ITEMS

12-08-21

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PROFESSIONAL STAFF:

TO BE HIRED: Extra Curricular Athletics for the 2021-2022 School Year:

1.	Milan Kiska	7/8 Grade Swimming Coach	\$1,912.43
2.	Haley Morgart	Assistant Swimming Coach	\$3,206.13

SUPPORT STAFF:

RESIGNATION:

1.	Parthenia Greene	General Worker, Food Service Department, effective immediately.
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LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

1.	Brenda Fields	Lunch Aide, Food Service Department, unpaid leave of absence effective 11-10-21 to an undetermined date (not to exceed 1 year).
2.	Lorraine Turner	General Worker, Food Service Department, unpaid leave of absence Effective 11-19-21 to an undetermined date (not to exceed 1 year)
3.	Nancy Peebley	Custodian, McClure Elementary School, unpaid leave of absence effective 11-01-21 to an undetermined date (not to exceed 1 year) FMLA

TO BE HIRED: Effective immediately:

1.*	Emily Kortz-Pecciotto	Instructional Assistant, placement to be determined. Step 1 Salary \$18,500.00 (pro-rated)
2.*	Dahlasziah Konik	Instructional Assistant, placement to be determined. Step 1 Salary \$18,500.00 (pro-rated)
3.*	Cassidy Bodnar	Instructional Assistant, placement to be determined. Step 1 Salary \$18,500.00 (pro-rated)

CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE LISTS:

ADDITIONS:

1.*	Deon Archie	Custodian
2.*	Zoe Pero	Secretary

* Pending receipt of Act 24, 34, 114 and 151 clearances, Act 168 Disclosure Release, T.B. Fine and Drug Test results.

**Step placement pending employer verification

McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
PERSONNEL ITEMS
December 8, 2021
ADDENDUM

PROFESSIONAL:

RESIGNATION: Long Term Substitute Teacher:

1. Heather Wagner Elementary Teacher, Twin Rivers Elementary School, effective 12-10-21.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

1. Diane Pazuchanics Art Teacher, High School, sabbatical leave of absence for the second semester of the 21-22 school year.
2. Carolyn Cox Special Education Teacher, McClure Elementary School, leave of absence effective approximately 04-19-22 through the end of the 21-22 school year.

RESIGNATION: Extra Curricular Athletics effective 12-03-21:

1. Dexter Hairston JV Girls Basketball Coach \$500.75

CHANGES TO THE SUBSTITUTE LIST:

ADDITIONS:

- 1.* LaTisha Hickman PreK – 4
- 2.* Morgan McPherson PreK – 4, Special Education PK – 8
- 3.* Serena Audley PreK - 4

SUPPORT STAFF:

TO BE HIRED: Effective immediately:

- 1.* Ebony Jones Instructional Assistant, placement to be determined.
Step 1 Salary \$18,500.00 (pro-rated)
- 2.* Kneasha Paul Lunch Aide, Food Service Department, Twin Rivers Elementary School, effective immediately. Rate of pay will be \$9.45/hour.
- 3.* Lorraine Phenizee Lunch Aide, Food Service Department, McClure Elementary School, effective immediately, Rate of pay will be \$9.45/hour.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

1. Aleathea Travillion General Worker, Food Service Department, Founders' Hall, unpaid leave of absence effective 12-08-21.

BOARD ACTION TO APPROVE THE RATE INCREASES FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITION:

1. District Security Guard \$14.60/hour, effective 12-09-21
\$15.10/hour, effective 07-01-22
\$15.60/hour, effective 07-01-23
\$16.10/hour, effective 07-01-24

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

**Step placement pending employer verification

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Athletic – James Brown/David Donato – Mr. Brown report – We didn't meet this month.

Buildings & Grounds – Steve Kondrosky/Mindy Lundberg – Mr. Kondrosky reported – I met with Mr. Balogh this afternoon just to reintroduce ourselves and he will have a great list of accomplishments by next month.

Community Relations/Cultural Diversity – Mindy Lundberg/David Donato – Ms. Lundberg reported – We did have an opportunity to meet on November 30th. We had an opportunity to meet with Dr. Kestenberg, Eric Yule from Penn State University and Chant Robinson who is one of our teachers. We have a 3-tier approach to the diversity equity and inclusion work, it didn't start out that way but I am really glad the way it has morphed. The key to making this all work is bringing it all together and that's something Dr. Kestenberg is able to do. Right now, she is leading the teachers on the book study, its not all teachers, it's a smaller select group. Mr. Yule focusing on the community. He had a meeting with community leaders which included, business leaders, faith leaders, community leaders and I believe there were 10-12 invited, there were 7 participants. I think it was interesting to see what their concerns were and what they think is working and going well. Chant Robinson is doing a fantastic job with our student group on the voices of change. I'm very excited with their enthusiasm. We will be meeting monthly and we will have some new leadership in some of our committees so that's exciting and we hope to provide you with updates as we move through.

Education/Legislation/Policy – Diane Elias/Mindy Lundberg – Ms. Lundberg reported – We met on November 30th and had the opportunity to meet with Jackie Castma, she is the on the ground person for lack of a better term from DSGF that is doing the work at Twin Rivers and is kind of overseeing this whole project from the school perspective on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Her title is the Associate Executive director of education at Dick's Sporting Goods. She presented us with a PowerPoint that really looked at meeting the needs of all students. The goals look at rigorous academics with real world connections, healthy and active lifestyle, as well as wrap around support. Dick's is starting to put those resources in our buildings. We added social workers, which was a huge investment but a necessary one. We had the opportunity to hear what each one of them are doing in each of our buildings. They are running student groups, student surveys, they are working with individual teams within the buildings to really build capacity. We will be approaching our second round of assessments which will be NWEA Map assessment. It's a growth assessment measure. We will get really rich data for the second round of testing which will give us a better idea of where to refocus.

Finance/Grants/Outside Funding – Diane Elias/Steve Kondrosky – Mrs. Elias reported – We met on December 1st as the committee as a whole. We talked about our budget a little bit and went over some Keystone Collections.

Personnel – Mindy Lundberg/Steve Kondrosky – Ms. Lundberg reported – We also met on December 1st as a committee as a whole to discuss the items that were approved on this evening's green sheet.

Safe Schools – David Donato – Mr. Donato reported – The bulk of the work on this committee has been done by Mr. Poston and Mr. Filotei as far as Safe Schools. I would like to congratulate them and the service they had with the school district. I had a moment to spend with Mr. Poston and he wanted me to assure you that all the schools are safe.

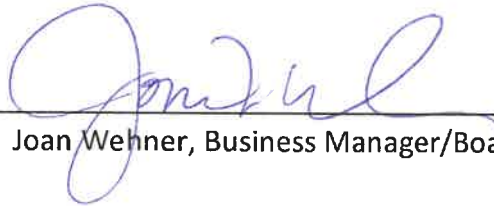
Solicitor's Report – Report was given in Executive session.

Correspondence – None

New Business – None

Adjournment – 9:34 PM – Mr. Kondrosky moved for adjournment. Seconded by Mr. Brown.

ATTEST:



Joan Wehner, Business Manager/Board Secretary