

Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Media Center on Wednesday, September 18, 2019

I. Call to Order

Mr. Angus called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District Board of Directors on Wednesday, September 18, 2019, is now called to order.

II. Flag Salute-Please rise

Mr. Angus asked all present to rise for the flag salute

III. Notice – Mr. Angus read the following: This meeting is being recorded for District purposes. It is or may be published in part or in its entirety on the District’s website without the express permission of meeting participants. The opinions expressed by any member of the public do not necessarily reflect the view or opinion of the Ambridge Area School District Board of School Directors or the Ambridge Area School District, and are solely that of the speaker. The Ambridge Area School District Board of School Directors hereby expressly disclaims any and all responsibility or liability for any false, defamatory or slanderous statements expressed by the speaker.

III. Roll Call

An attendance roll call was taken. The following Board members were present:

Scott Angus, President
Terry Mylan, Vice President
Valerie Pedigo, Treasurer
Cathy Fischer
Mary Jo Kehoe
Roger Kowal
Kimberly Locher
Jim Sas

Others President
Dr. Jo Welter, Superintendent
Megan Turnbull, Solicitor
Doug McCausland, Director of District Operations
June Mueller, Board Secretary

IV. Sunshine Law

Mrs. Mueller read the following:

Section 708 of the Sunshine Law permits agencies to hold executive sessions to discuss employment and personnel matters, labor relations and arbitration matters, purchase or lease of real estate up to the time an option or agreement is obtained, litigation or potential litigation, legal matters subject to Attorney Client Privilege and other agency business which if discussed in public would violate lawful privilege or would violate confidentiality laws.

The Board of School Directors held Executive Sessions on Wednesday, September 11th and Wednesday, September 18th to discuss:

- 1) Employment and Personnel Matters
- 2) Salary Schedule and Labor Relations
- 3) Matters subject to Attorney Client Privilege

V. Correspondence - Thank you note from Baden Memorial , thanking the Board for reconsidering donations

VI. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of: August 14th Meet and Discuss Voting Meeting, August 14th Non-Voting Meeting and August 21st Board Meeting.

Mrs. Mylan made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Kowal. Vote in favor was unanimous.

VII. Motion to Accept the Treasurer’s Report dated: August 2019

Mrs. Locher made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report, seconded by Mrs. Mylan. Vote in favor was unanimous.

VIII. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda NONE

IX. Board President’s Report

Mrs. Mylan resigned as chair of Public Relations Committee

X. Recognition/Presentation

Ambridge Area High School 2019 Varsity Volleyball Team

Jake Gorman	Dorien Priddy	Trey Smith	Tom Swaney
David Brock	Aaron Hilzendeger	Zach Gardner	Liam Buck
David Stuebgen	Kevin Rotthoff	Josh Meyer	Hudson McGeorge
Jonathan Ciani	Reed Fisher	Jacob Kotula	Ronin Kittrell
Levi Baker	Josh Hovan	Brett Mueller	Austin Merlina
Caleb Ziemkiewicz	Nathan Norton		

2019-2020 Boys Volleyball Results

District

WPIAL Champions (back-to-back champions)

State

PIAA 3rd Place

Varsity Record

Section 1-AA:

9-1 (1st Place)

Overall:

17-4

All-Section Teams

First Team:

David Brock, Liam Buck, Dorien Priddy

Second Team:

Aaron Hilzendeger, Josh Meyer, Kevan Rotthoff

Co-MVP WPIAL

Liam Buck

All-WPIAL Teams

First Team:

Liam Buck, Dorien Priddy

Second Team:

Josh Meyer

Third Team:

David Brock, Kevan Rotthoff

All-State Team

Liam Buck, Dorien Priddy, Kevan Rotthoff

Head Coach: Glenn Freed

Assistant Coaches: Jorge Bojorquez & Jason Benkowski

Congratulations Bridgers!

Dr. Welter would like to welcome new teachers:

Madeline Blosser

Stephanie Bucci

Tim Buresh

Courtney Parisi

Matthew LaPorte

Alexandra Toras

Cassidy Hruski

Jennifer Ax

Scott Setzenfand

Sophia Krahe

Stacy Hawranko

Emily Maddox

Alyssa Greco

Long-Term Substitutes

Marissa Niaros

Mallory Accamando

Kim Roppa would like to recognize Dan Finnegan for his yearly STEAM Donation.

XI. Public Comment (Regarding Agenda Items Only)

At this time, DISTRICT RESIDENTS may come forward to comment on agenda items only. Each person must state their first and last name and address prior to speaking. Each resident will be allowed three minutes and can speak only once. This period for public comment prior to the standing committee reports will be limited to one-half hour. Although not required, board members desiring to address questions or concerns may do so after the residents' comment/question or at the conclusion of the committee reports. There will still be an opportunity for residents to comment on any business relevant to the Ambridge Area School District under Old and New Business at the end of the meeting.

XII. Committee Reports**Education and Technology****Mrs. Pedigo****1. Allegheny Intermediate Unit 2019-2020 Title I Non-Public School Agreement**

It is recommended to approve the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) Title I Non-Public School Agreement to provide services to the non-public school students on behalf of the Ambridge Area School District for the 2019-2020 school year at a cost of \$10,397.00 as a combined cost of all non-public students in Allegheny County.

2. Field Trip

It is recommended Marie Dewar, Band and Choir Teacher, be authorized to take The High School Band and Chamber Choir to New York City from March 11-14, 2020. The Band will perform at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. All expenses will be obtained through fundraising. Parents or guardian will be required to sign permission and release forms. Chaperones will be required to have current clearances, satisfactory drug screening and TB testing.

3. Field Trip

It is recommended that the High School Boys' Basketball Team, be authorized to travel to Las Vegas from December 18-22, 2019 to participate in a Holiday Basketball Classic Tournament. The team will also visit the Hoover Dam. Parents or guardian will be required to sign permission and release forms. Chaperones will be required to have current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening. There will be no cost to the District.

4. Field Trip

It is recommended that MSgt Thomas Short, a Marine Corps JROTC Instructor, be authorized to take the JROTC unit to Camp Guysuta, Sharpsburg, PA for a leadership camp from October 8-10, 2019. The purpose of this trip is to build teamwork, enhance the camaraderie amongst the cadets, to develop leadership skills and to increase unit cohesion. The aforementioned training is educational and in compliance with the required curriculum. The JROTC unit will incur the expense related to this trip. All expenses will be obtained through fundraising. Parents or guardian will be required to sign permission and release forms.

Mrs. Pedigo motioned to accept items 1-4, seconded by Mr. Kowal. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Finance and Budget

Mr. Sas

1. School District Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly school district bills in the amount of \$1,068,307.19 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,073,716.13 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$56,428.37 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$11,613.84 be paid.

3. Repository Settlement

It is recommended the Board approve the Sale of Property from the Beaver County Repository of Unsold Property for the following properties:

- a) 204 Peach Court, Lot 20, Sewickley, PA Tax Parcel 60-185-0242.822, for the bid amount of \$1,537.00 to Orchard Estate.
- b) 303 Maplewood Avenue, Ambridge, PA Tax Parcel 09-002-0215.000, for the bid amount of \$1,735.00 to Geoffrey and Erin Mackey.
- c) 1015 Circleview Aly, Ambridge, PA Tax Parcel 64-002-0628.000, for the bid amount of \$1,689.00 to Gerald Lowen.

4. Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) Tax Abatement

It is recommended to approve the request for LERTA Abatement on the value of the improvements to Parcel No. 12-003-0100.000, 1201 New Economy Drive, Ambridge, PA 15003, at the following schedule: Year 1 – 100%, Year 2 – 100%, Year 3 – 75%, Year 4 – 50%, Year 5 – 25%, and Year 6 – 0%, as presented.

5. Gifts in Kind

It is recommended to accept the donation from Pastor Thomas Manning of the Allison Park Church, Ohio River Campus Branch of \$1,349.00 to the student lunch debt, with appreciation. The donor has received no goods or services in return for this gift.

Mr. Sas made a motion to accept items 1-3, and 5, seconded by Mr. Kowal. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Sas made a motion to accept item 4, seconded by Mrs. Locher. Mrs. Kehoe, Mr. Kowal, Mrs. Locher, Mrs. Mylan, Ms. Pedigo, Mr. Sas and Mr. Angus voted against item 4. Motion failed.

Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Kowal

Point of Information

The paving project at Economy Elementary is underway. There will be inconvenience with parking and drop off for a few weeks. Please contact the building Principal, Aphrodite Galitsis, or Doug McCausland with any concerns.

Athletics**Mrs. Fischer****Public Relations****Steering and Rules****Mrs. Kehoe**1. Policy 209.1 – Pediculosis – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final reading, to update School Board Policy 209.1-*Pediculosis* – to provide guidelines for the prevention and control of head lice in students.

2. Policy 913.1 – Nonschool Organizations/Groups/Individuals – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final reading, to adopt School Board Policy 913.1 – *Nonschool Organizations/Groups/Individuals* – to utilize the district as a means to engage the school community in activities and/or to distribute or post non-school materials.

3. Policy 204 – Attendance – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to update School Board Policy 204 – *Attendance* – to support a comprehensive approach to identify and address attendance issues.

4. Policy 208 – Withdrawal From School – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to update School Board Policy 208 – *Withdrawal From School* – to affirm the best interests of both students and the community that students are withdrawn from school according to the mandated protocols.

5. Policy 209 – Health Examinations/Screenings – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to update School Board Policy 209 – *Health Examinations/Screenings* – to ensure all district students submit to health and dental examinations in order to protect the school community from the spread of communicable disease and to ensure the learning potential of each student is not lessened by a remediable physical disability.

6. Policy 808 – Food Services – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to update School Board Policy 808 – *Food Services* – to provide students with adequate, nourishing food and beverage in order to grow, learn and maintain good health.

7. Policy 719 – Memorials – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to adopt School Board Policy 719 – *Memorials* – to assist staff, students and families impacted by a death by providing guidelines for decision making regarding memorials and memorialization activities.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to accept items 1-7, seconded by Mr. Kowal. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Legislative

Mrs. Kehoe

1. PSBA Officer Elections

It is recommended the Board Secretary be directed to cast the vote of the Ambridge Area School Board for election of the following PSBA Slate of Candidates for 2019:

President-elect Art Levinowitz, Upper Dublin School District (Montgomery Co.)

Vice President David Hein, Parkland School District (Lehigh Co.)

Insurance Trust Kathy K. Swope (Lewisburg School District)
 Mark B. Miller (Centennial School District)

Section 5 Advisor Marsha Pleta, Washington School District (Washington Co.)

Mrs. Kehoe moved to accept item 1, seconded by Mrs. Locher. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Salary Schedule and Labor Relations

Mr. Wear

Personnel

Mrs. Locher

1. Professional Employee

It is recommended to ratify Cassidy Hruska as a Reading/English Teacher at the Middle School, at a salary of \$42,792.00 (Step 1 Bachelors), effective September 3, 2019, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEE/PSEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

2. Professional Employee

It is recommended to ratify Alyssa Greco as a Special Education Teacher at Economy Elementary School, at a salary of \$42,792.00 (Step 1 Bachelors), as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEE/PSEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

3. Mentor Teachers

It is recommended the following individuals be approved as mentor teachers at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement:

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>New Teacher</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Lauren Metz	Madeline Blosser	\$250.00
Melissa Thomas	Stephanie Bucci	\$250.00
Erica Schmidt	Tim Buresh	\$250.00
Dawn Gonzalez	Courtney Parisi	\$250.00
Tom Frost	Matthew LaPorte	\$250.00
Anthony Amadio	Alexandra Toras	\$250.00
Brenna Wandel	Cassidy Hruski	\$250.00
Jamie Orth	Jennifer Ax	\$250.00
Chris Ceratti	Scott Setzenfand	\$250.00
Tammy Kennedy	Sophia Krahe	\$250.00
Stacey Brock	Stacy Hawranko	\$250.00
Carolyn Crawford	Emily Maddox	\$250.00
<u>Social Worker</u>	<u>New School Psychologist</u>	
Eliana Jorgensen	Rebecca Keenan	\$250.00

4. Secretary

It is recommended to ratify Anastasia Maia as a Part-Time Secretary at Economy Elementary School, as per the collective bargaining agreement, effective August 27, 2019, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

5. Secretary

It is recommended to hire Cathy Ray as a Full-Time Secretary at the Middle School, as per the collective bargaining agreement, effective September 19, 2019, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

6. 2019-2020 Band Camp

It is recommended to rescind the approval of Melissa Jones, as the Bridger Belle Choreographer, per the approved on the August 21, 2019 Board agenda. It is further recommended to approve Emily Gregory as the Color Guard Choreographer to be paid a stipend of \$300.00.

7. Rescind

It is recommended to rescind Item 6 under Personnel on the August 21, 2019 Board agenda.

8. Hall Monitors

It is recommended to hire the following individuals as Hall Monitors at \$11.60 per hour, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Victoria Freed - High School

Robert Gulish - High School

9. Student Teachers

It is recommended Mark Mares, a student from California University, be ratified, for student teaching for the 2019 fall semester per the agreement with California University, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening. Mark will be placed with Karen DeMarco.

10. Student Teachers

It is recommended to approve Shannon Small, a student from California University, for student teaching for the 2020 spring semester per the agreement with California University, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening. Shannon will be placed with Greg Helsel.

11. Student Teacher

It is recommended to approve Brianna Frashure, a Geneva College student, for student teaching at Economy Elementary School for the 2020 spring semester, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening. Brianna will be placed with Jennifer Shannon.

12. Resignation

It is recommended to ratify the resignation of Sheela Miller, a Special Education Teacher at Economy Elementary, effective August 26, 2019, with regret.

*Mrs. Miller may be held for 60 days or until such time the District is able to secure a qualified replacement.

13. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Ashley Byars, a Para-Educator at Highland Elementary, effective September 25, 2019, with regret.

14. Resignation

It is recommended to ratify the resignation of Anastasia Maia, a Para-Educator at Economy Elementary, effective August 23, 2019.

15. FMLA

It is recommended to approve employee #1841 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family Medical Leave, effective September 23, 2019, not to exceed 12 weeks.

16. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #1563 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family Medical Leave, effective August 23, 2019, not to exceed 12 weeks.

17. Uncompensated Leave

It is recommended to approve employee #2410 taking two unpaid days, effective October 23-24, 2019.

18. Department Head Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Jason Groom as the secondary Department Head of the Special Education Department.

19. Posted Positions: Department Heads and Building Heads

It is recommended the following individual who has applied for the specified posted position for the 2019-2020 school year be approved at the salary designated in the negotiated agreement, pending receipt of current clearances and drug screening:

<u>DEPARTMENT HEADS</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
<u>Secondary:</u>	
Special Education - Teresa Brewer	\$1,365.00

20. Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind-Outreach Program

It is recommended to approve the Service Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind, Outreach Program for the 2019-2020 school year.

21. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

It is recommended the following individual who have applied for the specified posted positions for the 2019-2020 school year be approved at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement:

<u>ACTIVITY/CLUB (High School)</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Ecology Jason Roos/Pamela Green(co-sponsors)	\$470.00

Teen Leadership	Kim Bogati	\$470.00
Gay-Straight Alliance	Karen Brecht	\$470.00

ACTIVITY/CLUB (Middle School)

Science Explorers	Carrie Keber	\$470.00
Art	Jennifer Ax	\$470.00
TSA	Scott Setzenfand	\$470.00

Salary22. 2019-2020 Fall Coaches

It is recommended the following individuals be approved to fill the designated fall coaching positions for the 2019-2020 school year at a salary as per the terms of the collective bargaining agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Boys' Golf

Terry George, Assistant Coach

Stipend

\$1,050.00 (pro-rated)

High School Football

Ron Wilson, Equipment Manager

Craig Wiltrek, Equipment Manager

Stipend

\$3,000.00

\$ 500.00

Middle School Football

Marlon Kittrell

Ray Gazda, Volunteer Coach

Stipend

\$3,350.00 (pro-rated)

No Remuneration

Middle School Girls Assistant Soccer

Don Ayers, Assistant Coach

Stipend

\$1,350.00 (pro-rated)

High School Cheerleaders

Amanda Burton Palshaw, JV Coach

Stipend

\$1,950.00

23. Varsity Girls' Basketball Coach

It is recommended to approve Nikki Santiago as the Varsity Girls' Basketball Head Coach for the 2019-2020 school term. She will receive a stipend of \$7,000.00, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

24. Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach

It is recommended to approve Mark Jula as the Varsity Boys' Basketball Head Coach for the 2019-2020 school term. She will receive a stipend of \$7,000.00, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

25. 2019-2020 Spring Coach

It is recommended the following individual be approved to fill the designated spring coaching position for the 2019-2020 school year at a salary as per the terms of the collective bargaining agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

High School Baseball
Matthew LaPorte, Head Coach

Stipend
\$4,300.00

26. High School Play Vocal Instructor

It is recommended to approve Brenda Menjivar as a Vocal Instructor for the 2020 Spring Musical, to be paid a stipend of \$2,500.00, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

27. Theatrical Musical Director

It is recommended to approve Laura Young as the Musical Director for the 2020 Spring Musical, to be paid a stipend of \$3,000.00, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

28. 2019-2020 Game Day Workers

It is recommended the following individuals be approved as game day workers for the 2019-2020 school year at a salary as per the terms of the collective bargaining agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Football Chain Gang
Don Sineway
Larry Knopsnyder

Ryan Wilson
Mark Jula

Kenny Carlisle

Public Address System
Greg Helsel
John Robertson
Matt Popchock

Game Operations Coordinator
Ryan Racioppo

STATS
Carter Dunlap
Elliott Powell

Video

Tyler Sickles
Hunter Albring

Football Main Clock

Official

Soccer Game clock

Keven Martin (Boys)
Ron Wilson (Girls)
Don Sineway (Back up)

Ticketing/Crowd Control

Mary Marasco	Sandy Kowal	Jessica Scerbo
Lydia Aquino	Val Misencik	Rebeca Sivewright
Jennifer Buchanan	BJ Orlovski	Rachel Wetzal
Shana Dowlin	Kim Racioppo	Rene Hartman
Megan Racioppo		

29. Long-Term Substitute Salary Correction

It is recommended to correct Item 1 under Personnel on the August 21, 2019 Board agenda, to read 70% Step 1 Masters +20, \$31,193.40.

30. Professional Employee Correction

It is recommended to correct Item 2 under Personnel on the August 21, 2019 Board agenda, to read Step 3 Masters, \$50,547.00.

31. Para-Educators (Teaching Assistants)

It is recommended to hire the following individuals to fill current Para-Educator (Teaching Assistants) vacancies as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association (ESPA/PSEA-NEA) collective bargaining agreement pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening:

David Smith – Middle School
Lisa Patton – Economy Elementary

32. Salary Increase

It is recommended to approve Custodial Substitutes hourly pay rate be increased from \$10.00 to \$12.00 per hour, effective September 20, 2019.

33. Economy Elementary Before and After School Child Care

It is recommended to approve Haley Salazar the Director of the Before and After School Child Care Program at Economy Elementary School at a rate of \$11.00 per hour, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and compliance with Act 168. The hours being 6:30a.m.-8:30a.m. before school and 3:30p.m.-6:30p.m. after school.

34. Technology Integrators

It is recommended to approve the following individuals to serve as the Technology Integrators in their assigned buildings for the 2019-2020 school year, to be paid a stipend of \$1,200.00, as per the collective bargaining agreement:

High School

Michelle Hapich
Kent Withrow
Christina Briola

Middle School

Glenn Freed
Ashley Simpson
Michelle Keczmar

Economy Elementary

Missy Ramer

Highland Elementary

Nicole Darroch

Mrs. Locher moved to accept items 1-34, seconded by Ms. Pedigo. Vote in favor was unanimous.

XIV. Solicitor's Report

XV. Superintendent's Report

XVI. Old and New Business

It is now time for old and new business. Any DISTRICT RESIDENT who desires to comment on any business relevant to the Ambridge Area School District should now come forward. Each person must state their first and last name and address prior to speaking. Each person will be allowed three minutes and can speak only once.

Comments:

Jody Gill, Ambridge – Concerns with Sheri Berg, AASD's Public Relations

- Asked if Shari Berg used a fake Facebook profile by the name of J.C. DeVanti
- Asked why an independent contractor was sending emails using an AASD email address

Tracia Bratton, Ambridge – Concerns about the student who was tased in Ambridge

- Feels something needs to be done to unify the student body
- Need to address racial divide with the district
- Stated black children do not feel safe

Rich Bufalini, Ambridge - Would like his son to attend New Horizons to do his special needs

- Perceives that AASD does not care about special need students
- Would like the district to expedite the process to transfer he son to New Horizons

Kasi Devinney, Economy – Event planning within the district

- Believes it to be poor planning to have multiple district events happening on the same evening...for example open house on the night of the Board meeting.

Roger Kowal, Board Member – Concerns in regards to the technology within the district not working correctly

- Scott Angus – Advised that the specific technology problems be sent to Lori Heim, the Technology Supervisor

XVII. Motion to Adjourn

At 7:47 p.m., Ms. Pedigo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Locher. Vote in favor was unanimous.