

**Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Non-Voting Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Media Center on Wednesday, October 9, 2019.**

**I. Call to Order Mr. Angus called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM**

The Meet and Discuss Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is held on Wednesday, October 9, 2019. This meeting is being held to go over the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Media Center.

**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.

**IV. Roll Call**

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

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

**V. Correspondence: None**

**VI. Student/Teacher Recognition**

**VII. Presentations**

**VIII. Public Comment (Regarding Agenda Items Only). Mr. Angus read the following:**

The Meet and Discuss Meetings are open to the public. At this time, DISTRICT RESIDENTS may come forward to comment or ask questions on agenda items only. 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 during this half-hour period. There will be no discussion during this time, but any board member or administrator desiring to address questions or concerns may do so at the conclusion of the committee reports.

Comment:

Sean Dugan, Ambridge

- Concerns that the musical auditions protocols and audition and questioned who decides on the directors of the musical

Responses by the Board and Dr. Welter:

- The High School Principal makes the recommendation for Board approval.
- Will speak to the High School Principal do a evaluation of protocol and process
- Stressed that it is extraordinarily hard to get the volunteers for the musical due to the hundreds of hours of volunteer work it takes

## **IX. Committee Reports**

### **Education and Technology**

**Mrs. Pedigo**

#### 1. Field Trip

It is recommended that Anthony Amadio, a social studies teacher at the Middle School, be authorized to take the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies students to Washington, DC from November 1<sup>st</sup> through November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. The bus will depart from the Middle School on Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 p.m. and return to the Middle School on Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> around 9:00 p.m. The trip will cost \$350.00 per student and will cover all expenses. There will be no cost to the District. 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.

#### 2. Field Trip

It is recommended that Todd Hartman, high school band and music teacher, be authorized to take The Steel Drum Band to Ocean City, MD from June 15 through June 19, 2020. The Steel Drum Band will represent the Ambridge Area School District at the “Concerts on the Boardwalk” concert series. The event is to be held on Wednesday, June 17 and is sponsored by Ocean City Development Corporation. This is at no cost to the District. 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.

### **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 \$2,058,115.44 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,393,882.97 be paid.

#### 2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$82,612.10 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$45,166.34 be paid.

### 3. Capital Project Expenditures

It is recommended \$39,119.50 be paid from the Capital Projects Fund 39.

### Buildings and Grounds

**Mr. Kowal**

#### 1. Energy Savings Project

It is recommended to authorize Administration to advertise for a Request for Qualifications for the potential Energy Savings Project within the Ambridge Area School District. The District will be seeking qualified companies to develop scope, evaluate contractors, analyze and guarantee energy savings, and oversee the management of the project. No funds have been committed nor are there any contractual obligations with regard to a project at this time.

Mr. Kowal asked what is the total benefit of this

- Mr. McCausland – we will see a generated savings overall in the operations of the district. Keeping on top of repairs and maintenance will help reduce future cost – guaranteed savings from the company or the District will receive a check.
- As of now Mr. McCausland is still exploring several vendors for this project

### Athletics

**Mrs. Fischer**

### Public Relations

**Open**

### Steering and Rules

**Mrs. Kehoe**

#### 1. Policy 204 – Attendance – Third Reading

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

#### 2. Policy 208 – Withdrawal From School – Third Reading

It is recommended, as a third 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.

#### 3. Policy 209 – Health Examinations/Screenings – Third Reading

It is recommended, as a third 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.

#### 4. Policy 808 – Food Services – Third Reading

It is recommended, as a third 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.

5. Policy 719 – Memorials – Third Reading

It is recommended, as a third 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.

6. Policy 433 – Professional Development – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to revise School Board Policy 433 – *Professional Development* – to continue professional study and in-service training for administrative professional and support staff to enhance ability to complete responsibilities and maintain certification.

7. Policy 705 – Facilities and Workplace Safety – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to revise School Board Policy 705 – *Facilities and Workplace Safety* – to maintain district facilities and operate in a condition that prioritizes the safety of students, staff and visitors.

8. Policy 709 – Building Security – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to revise School Board Policy 709 – *Building Security* – to recognize the need to maintain security of school facilities for reasons of safety, vandalism and theft.

9. Policy 805 – Emergency Preparedness and Response – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to revise School Board Policy 805 – *Emergency Preparedness and Response* – to recognize the district responsibility for the safety of students, staff, visitors and facilities.

10. Policy 805.1 – Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to update School Board Policy 805.1 – *Relations With Law Enforcement Agencies*, to protect students and staff, maintain a safe environment in schools, and safeguard district property.

11. Policy 805.3 – School Security Personnel – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to adopt School Board Policy 805.3 – *School Security Personnel*, to employ, contract for and/or assign staff to coordinate the safety and security of district students, staff, visitors and facilities.

**Legislative**

**Mrs. Kehoe**

1. Resolution 2019-2020-2 – Supporting House Bill 2124

It is recommended to adopt Resolution 2019-2020-2 supporting House Bill 97 to prevent sale of E-Cigarettes to minors and their use in schools.

**X. 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 and will now hold an Executive Session to discuss:

- 1) Employment and personnel matters
- 2) Salary Schedule and Labor Relations

The Board will not return to take any legislative action.

Public Comment

Joelene Maslanik, Economy

- Concerns with the behavior of the students at the Middle School
- The safety of the students at the Middle School
- Questioned whether the cameras in the hallway were working properly

Response by Board and Dr. Welter:

- Will schedule a meeting with the Principal and Dr. Welter
- Will have the technology department check the functionality of the cameras in the hallways.

Kim Roppa, Teacher at State Street Elementary

- Concerns with the PreK students pulling the fire alarm
- Asked if there could be a plastic cover placed over them so that they cannot pull the lever
- Concerned with safety issues due to a large grate in the ground where the bus turnaround is.

Responses by Mr. McCausland:

- This is part of the paving quote that was delayed – this will be fixed

**XI. Motion to Adjourn**

At 7:35 p.m., Mrs. Locher made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Wear, vote in favor was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

June Mueller  
School Board Secretary