

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held virtually on Wednesday, June 17, 2020.

**I. Call to Order Mrs. Fischer called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m.**

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District Board of Directors on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, is now called to order.

**II. Flag Salute-Please rise Mrs. Fischer asked all to rise**

**III. Notice: Mrs. Fischer 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.

**IV. Roll Call**

Mrs. Cathy Fischer, President  
Mr. Scott Angus, Vice President  
Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe, Treasurer  
Ms. Jodi Gill  
Mr. Chuck Campalong  
Mrs. Terry Mylan  
Ms. Valerie Pedigo  
Ms. Meagan Trimbur  
Ms. Valerie Young

Others President  
Dr. Joseph W. Pasquerilla, Substitute Superintendent  
Mr. Barry J. King, Director of Academics  
Mr. L. Douglas McCausland, Director of District Operations  
Ms. Megan Turnbull, Solicitor  
Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary

**V. Sunshine Law Mrs. Mueller read the following:**

The Board of School Directors held Executive Sessions on Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss:

- Personnel matter(s)
- Matters subject to attorney client privilege and other confidentiality laws

**VI. Correspondence**

**VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of:** May 13<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting

Mr. Angus moved to accept the Minutes, seconded by Mr. Campalong. Vote in favor was unanimous.

**VIII. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report dated: May, 2020**

Mr. Angus moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Mr. Campalong. Vote in favor was unanimous.

**IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda****X. Recognition/Presentation**

Mrs. Fischer would like to recognize the following 2019-2020 Retirees

Christine Petukauskas, 31 years of service  
Rosemary Darroch, 27 years of service  
Rebecca Sheline, 20 years of service  
Marian Dodsworth, 16 years of service  
Anthony Marsilio, 38 years of service  
Dr. Jo Welter, 3 years of service  
Darrell Swain, 12 years of service  
Andre' Hough, 12.5 years of service

**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.

Public Comment sent in by the following:

Stefanie Priore, Baden, PA \*attached

James Huwar, Ambridge, PA \*attached

Kasi Devinney, Economy Boro \*attached

Responses to Stefanie Priore

- The Reopening committee was made of stakeholders; parents, staff, Board members, community
- There was a survey sent to parents in regards to the reopening
- The Reopening Plan will be reviewed and voted on at the July 15<sup>th</sup> Board meeting
- Concerns will be considered
- The Reopening Plan has Red, Yellow and Green phase plans

### Responses to James Huwar

- Went with a local broker to help the District market for the insurance.
- Proposal 2% lower than prior year
- Went with a new company for Workers Compensation at a 10% savings
- The company is a larger primary dealing with school districts and is located in PA

### Responses to Kasi Devinney

- Recently moved to green phase – we are planning for buildings to reopen in July and we continue to air on the side of caution and safety
- Superintendents in the Beaver County area are collaborating a plan as a county
- The budget is a fiscal challenge and did not appear today, and the Administration along with the Board are working together to put the District in a better place financially
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we are not allowed to raise taxes
- With the Teachers' retirement incentive, looking to save some money for the District

## **XII. Committee Reports**

### **Education and Technology**

**Ms. Trimbur**

#### **1. Mission Vision Service**

It is recommended the Mission Vision Program for State Street Elementary School be approved for the 2020-2021 school year. The program provides free vision screenings and glasses to students who need them but cannot afford them. The District does not incur any expense or liability.

#### **2. On-Site Dental Care**

It is recommended to approve the Miracle Dental Association On-Site Team to provide dental care to all students with the District. This will replace the Smile Program, Mobile Dentist. This is at no cost to the District.

#### **3. Adagio Health (AHI) Memorandum of Understanding – PowerUp**

It is recommended to approve a MOU between the Ambridge Area School District and Adagio Health to implement the PowerUp Eat Right Nutrition Education Program.

#### **4. Pennsylvania School-Based ACCESS Program (SBAP)**

It is recommended to approve the Pennsylvania School-Based ACCESS Program (SBAP) Local Education Agency Agreement for the 2020-2021 school year.

5. Additional Targeted Support & Improvement (A-TSI)

It is recommended to approve the final A-TSI report for the 2019-2020 school year. This report acknowledges our student groups that face both academic and student success challenges. Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (A-TSI) schools will assist the school in supporting students during the 2020-2021 school year to meet the thresholds for academic proficiency and academic growth.

Ms. Trimbur moved to accept items 1-5, seconded by Mrs. Mylan. Vote in favor was unanimous.

**Finance and Budget**

**Ms. Pedigo**

1. School District Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly school district bills in the amount of \$704,713.84 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,985,269.61 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$8,057.67 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$61,792.90 paid.

3. Budget Transfers

It is recommended to approve budget transfers for June, 2020.

4. Final Budget for the 2020-2021 School Year

It is recommended to approve Resolution 2019-2020-8 adopting the Final General Operating Fund Budget for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year with revenues of \$49,160,992.00 and expenditures of \$51,727,933.00. This budget will utilize \$2,566,941.00 of fund balance in order to meet operational expenditures. The millage increase is zero mills.

5. Resolution – Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion

It is recommended Resolution 2019-2020-9 implementing the Act 1 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion be adopted.

6. 2020-2021 Food Service Fund Budget

It is recommended to adopt the 2020-2021 Food Service Fund Budget with revenues of \$1,819,393.00 and expenditures of \$1,709,560.00 and estimated net profit of \$109,833.00.

7. 2020-2021 Capital Reserve Budget

It is recommended to adopt the 2020-2021 Capital Reserve Budget with revenues of \$25,000.00 and expenditures of \$125,000.00 and utilization of fund balance of \$100,000.00.

8. Insurance Coverage

It is recommended the Board approve the following insurance premiums obtained through the district broker, Arthur J. Gallagher, for the 2020-2021 school year at a total cost of \$324,918.00.

Package	CM Regent	\$183,604.00
(Property/Casualty, General Liability, Auto, Legal Liability, and all Commercial Coverages)		
Cyber Coverage	ACE	\$ 10,688.00
Workers Compensation	UPMC	\$130,626.00

\*The Workers Compensation is a savings of \$14,876.00 or 10%. The overall insurance package is a savings of \$6,096.00 or 2%.

9. Student/Athletic Insurance

- a) It is recommended that United States Fire Insurance Company (PSBA endorsed) be approved for **voluntary** student insurance coverage for the 2020-2021 school term beginning August 1, 2020. Goodwin & Gruber Agency will act as the insurance broker. The medical limits are \$250,000.00 with a one year period. The rate for school-time coverage is \$22.50 and \$90.00 for 24-hour coverage.
- b) It is recommended that United States Fire Insurance Company be approved for student **athletic** coverage at a cost of \$10,915.00 to insure interscholastic athletes, band, and cheerleaders. The medical limit for sports is \$1,000,000.00 with a two year benefit period. Plan 1 which pays all medical expenses "Usual & Customary" will be used. The premium includes a field trip endorsement for all one-day field trips (in Pennsylvania) for coverage up to \$2,500.00 per student.

\*This is no increase from the prior year.

10. 2020-2021 Beaver County Career & Technology Center Operating Budget

It is recommended to approve the 2020-2021 Beaver County Career & Technology Center Operating Budget for \$6,136,989.00. It is further recommended the Board President and Board Secretary be authorized to execute the BCCTC 65 Resolution form.

11. Services Agreement Reinstatement

It is recommended to approve the Third Party Administrative Services Agreement Reinstatement for continuation of 403(b)/457(b) administration services by the Omni Group for the 2020-2021 school term as per the Fee Schedule for 2020-2021.

**12. Lease Proposal**

It is recommended to approve the addendum to the existing Master Lease Agreement and capital lease proposal dated May 21, 2020 for technology equipment in the amount of \$679,045.84 with First American Education Finance for a term of three years, with the annual payment of \$232,070.71 for the 2020-2021 school year.

**13. Ambulance Service**

It is recommended to approve an agreement with the Non-Profit Emergency Services of Beaver County, Medic Rescue, for a period of one year commencing on July 1, 2020, at an annual fee of \$3,400.00.

\*This is no increase from the prior year.

**14. Repository Settlement**

It is recommended to rescind prior action item to authorize the Sale of Property, 435 Maplewood Avenue, Ambridge, PA Tax Parcel 09-022-0127.00 and approve the Sale of Property from the Beaver County Repository of Unsold Property for the following property, subject to solicitor's review:

- a) 330 Maplewood Avenue, Ambridge, PA Tax Parcel 09-002-0511.000 for the bid amount of \$1,552.00 to Jasmine Owens.

Ms. Pedigo moved to accept items 1-14, seconded by Mr. Campalong. Ms. Gill, Ms. Pedigo and Ms. Trimbur voted against item 4. Vote in favor of items 1-3, 5-14 was unanimous.

**Comment**

Ms. Pedigo made a stated that a significant amount of the District's money is spent on paying for students who attend organizations outside of the District. We have to bring our students back to the District from the Cyber and Charter schools.

**Buildings and Grounds****Mr. Angus****Athletics****Mr. Campalong****1. Ambridge Area School District Return to Sports and Extracurricular Activities Plan**

It is recommended to approve the District's Return to Sports and Extracurricular Activities Plan. The purpose of this plan is to serve as the guidance for the students and student-athletes to return to sports and extracurricular activity in a safe and effective manner.

Mr. Campalong moved to accept item 1, seconded by Ms. Pedigo. Vote in favor was unanimous.

**Comments:**

Ms. Gill believes the plan built on hopes and dreams and is unrealistic to believe that even with facemask you can make sports/football safe.

Mrs. Mylan said this is a well thought out plan but believes there will be variable changes.

Dr. Pasquerilla thanked the group and added that most timelines are tentative, subject to change.

**Public Relations**

**Open**

**Steering and Rules**

**Mrs. Kehoe**

**Legislative**

**Ms. Young**

**Salary, Schedule and Labor Relations**

**Mrs. Mylan**

**Personnel**

**Mr. Angus**

1. **Assistant to the Superintendent**

It is recommended to approve a change of title for Mr. Barry King from Director of Academic Affairs to the Assistant to the Superintendent and Pandemic Safety Officer, as per the terms of the negotiated Act 93 Agreement.

2. **Athletic Director/Transportation**

It is recommended to appoint Addie Lucatorto, as the Athletic and Transportation Director, as per the terms of the negotiated Act 93 Agreement.

3. **Student Teacher**

It is recommended to approve the following Geneva College students, for student teaching at Economy Elementary School for the 2020 fall semester, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Julianna Ronto, to be placed with Carrie Malinich and Jennifer Shannon  
Jenae Bratton, to be placed with Beverly Galzerano

4. **Extended School Year Services**

- a. It is recommended the following teachers be approved to provide Extended School Year virtual services to students from Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup> through Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement:

Melissa Thomas  
Jamie Wellman  
Samantha King  
Patty Weale

- b. It is recommended the following speech therapist be approved to provide Extended School Year virtual services to students from Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup> through July 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement;

TBD

5. Resignation

It is recommended to accept the resignation of L. Douglas McCausland, Director of District Operations, effective June 30, 2020, with regret.

6. Resignation

It is recommended to accept the resignation of David Bobak, a teacher at the High School, effective June 30, 2020, with regret.

7. Recall of Temporary Professional Employee

It is recommended to recall Madelyn Blosser into the Special Education teaching position at the High School, as per the terms of the collective bargaining unit.

8. Retirement

It is recommended to accept the resignation due to retirement of Susan Stillwageon, a Para-Professional at Highland Elementary, effective June 5, 2020, with regret.

9. FMLA Leave

It is recommended to approve employee#2791 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave, effective May 24, 2020.

10. Separation Agreements

It is recommended to approve the separation agreements with the following administrative employees in connection with the Board approved administrative restructuring for the 2020-2021 school year, contingent upon employee approval:

AASD Employee #2739

AASD Employee #2790

AASD Employee #2548



11. 2020-2021 Spring Coaches

It is recommended the following individuals be approved to fill the designated spring coaching positions for the 2020-2021 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.

1) <u>Cheerleaders</u>	<u>Stipends</u>
a) Varsity Head Coach, Jennifer Phillips	\$4,300.00
b) Coach, Amanda Burton Palshaw	\$1,950.00
2) <u>Cross Country</u>	
a) Head Coach, Denise Duncan	\$4,300.00
3) <u>Girls Soccer</u>	
a) Head Coach, Greg Helsel	\$4,300.00
b) Assistant Coach, Sarah White	\$2,400.00
c) MS Head Coach, Scott Setzenfand	\$2,050.00
d) MS Assistant Coach, Don Ayers	\$1,350.00
4) <u>Girls Tennis</u>	
a) Head Coach, Georgia Barlamas	\$4,300.00
b) Assistant Coach, Megan Racioppo	\$1,050.00
5) <u>Girls Volleyball</u>	
a) Assistant Coach, Ashley Kittrell	\$2,400.00
b) Volunteer, Jessica Prentice	No Remuneration
6) <u>Boys Cross Country</u>	
a) Head Coach, Susan Erickson	\$4,300.00
7) <u>Boys Golf</u>	
b) Head Coach, Christian Yannessa	\$4,300.00
c) Assistant Coach, Terry George	\$1,050.00
8) <u>Boys Soccer</u>	
a) Varsity Head Coach, Rob Van Rheen	\$4,300.00
b) MS Head Coach, Don Ayers	\$2,050.00
c) MS Assistant, Scott Setzenfand	\$1,350.00
9) <u>Football</u>	
a) Equipment Manager, Ron Wilson	\$3,000.00
b) Varsity Assistant, Rod Weaver	\$5,000.00
c) Varsity Assistant, Anthony Marsilio	\$4,200.00
d) Varsity Assistant, Guy Ward	\$4,200.00
e) Varsity Volunteer, Rich Schneider	No Remuneration

f) Varsity Volunteer, JR Dempsey	No Remuneration
g) MS Coach, Marlon Kittrell	\$3,350.00
h) MS Coach, Felicia Mycyk	\$3,350.00
i) MS Volunteer, Ray Gazda	No Remuneration
j) MS Volunteer, Neil Tkatch	No Remuneration
k) Weightlifting, Douglas Lewis	\$3,500.00

Mr. Angus moved to accept items 1-11. Ms. Gill and Ms. Trimbur voted against item 11. Voted in favor of items 1-10 was unanimous.

Comment:

Ms. Pedigo thanks Mr. McCausland for his services and his professionalism.

### **XIII. Solicitor's Report**

### **XIV. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated and thanked the Retirees for their service to the District and all that they have done for the students and the community. Wishing them the best of luck.

### **XV. 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.

Comment:

The Board approved a waiver to be prepared for little leagues to begin practices on the District fields, following the CDC guidelines

Ms. Gill announced her resignation from the School Board of Directors. Ms. Gill continues her fight for positive changes across the nation in how the nursing homes have handled the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Gill thanked the Board and wished them the best of luck.

### **XVI. Motion to Adjourn**

At 7:58 p.m., Mrs. Fischer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Pedigo. All in favor.

Stefanie Priore, Baden PA

What is being done to address large class sizes, particularly at Economy, in light of the Pennsylvania Department of Education releasing information about less than 25 in a classroom? Please note this includes the instructor(s). How will students be able to social distance in classes of 25? I am specifically referencing the incoming first grade, as all three classes would be out of compliance with the less than 25 recommendation. I would appreciate it if my question was answered since my public comment last week garnered no discussion.

James Huwar, Ambridge PA

Where the Bills for # 8 under Finance and Budget put out for bid? These bills used to be insured by a local Ambridge business "WILLARD & LEWIS". Now our local companies don't even get to bid them. His prices were the same or lower as this Gallagher company. Where are they located out of?

Kasi Devinney Economy Boro

Budget questions:

In review of the minutes and listening to last week's discussion, I have some questions with the upcoming decisions that need to be made. I was also comparing some of the notes from Last year's talks and last week's discussion.

While the teachers contract has been set aside for a year, and mention of the charter school fees on hold, the sound of a strong recommendation of tax increase being needed for this year or school district will be looking for more next year - Not to mention taking money out of the fund balance again and the walmart tax reduction. Where are we making cuts? or holding off on administration raises or bonus until we have a workable budget? Does the board see a report that shows what they spent this month vs what they spent last year at this same time? Does the board see each department breakdowns as comparable to what they spent last year for the same departments?

If you are- then where are we spending money or what are we spending money on and why? Are we using the services and products that have been purchased? The reason I ask is that I attend these meetings and I hear the recommendations of items that are being requested to purchase things and the reasons that are stated on why it's recommended that they be purchased but then from a parent side we don't see any benefits for our students. In my opinion what we are seeing is raises to administration costs and cuts in our classrooms, either in teachers' increase in classroom size or support within the classroom for the students with frustration from administration not following through with administration issues. How long can the district go before really needing to address these issues?

The district is not the only one in this situation, and the district is not the only one with charter school fees, but we are seeing a lot more Beaver County Superintendent notices and projects being worked on...is a County wide school system something that may be in our future?

Plans for the new school year and Cleaning out lockers from this school year with summer sports... While I hear you say that you have a target goal for July 1st and a plan to have a plan by then- why is this something that I feel is not something that is more pressing? Why have all the other schools already completed the task of building pick up of students belongings and we are only starting to plan the plan? I feel this is one of the reasons why so many are frustrated within the district.

Thank you for listening.