

Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Voting Board meeting of the Ambridge Area school District held virtually via ZOOM on Wednesday, August 12, 2020.

- I. Call to Order Mrs. Fischer called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m.**
The Meet and Discuss Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is held on Wednesday, August 12, 2020. This meeting is being held to go over the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. and to take action that has come before the Board. All meetings have been advertised to permit legislative action as necessary.
- II. Flag Salute – Mrs. Fischer asked all present to rise for the flag salute**
- III. Notice: Mrs. Fischer reading the following statement:** 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
Mr. Chuck Campalong
Mrs. Terry Mylan
Ms. Valerie Pedigo
Ms. Valerie Young

Others President

- Dr. Joseph W. Pasquerilla, Superintendent
Mr. Barry J. King, Assistant to the Superintendent
Mr. Keith Bielby, Director of Business and 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 Session(s) on Tuesday, July 28th and Wednesday, August 12th to discuss:

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

VI. Addendum to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda**VII. Presentations and Nominations****School Board Candidate Presentations and Question and Answer**

Kathleen Curtis
James Fabrizio
Johnathan Fisher
Denise Manganello
Bill Metz
Kelly Romasco
Hannah Savage

Ms. Turnbull made a motion to open the nomination process. All in favor.

Mrs. Kehoe nominated Mrs. Manganello to fill the first Board vacancy, seconded by Mr. Campalong. Mrs. Pedigo moved to close the nominations, seconded by Mr. Campalong. All in favor.

Vote in favor was unanimous.

Mrs. Kehoe nominated Mrs. Curtis to fill the second Board vacancy. Mrs. Mylan nominated Mr. Fabrizio to fill the vacancy. Ms. Young nominated Mrs. Romasco to fill the vacancy.

Mrs. Mylan moved to close nomination, seconded by Ms. Young. All in favor.

Moved to accept Mrs. Kehoe's nomination of Mrs. Curtis. Mrs. Mylan, Ms. Pedigo, and Ms. Young voted against nomination, motion carried.

(Mrs. Manganello and Mrs. Curtis are sworn in by Solicitor Turnbull, a Notary Public)

VIII. Public Comment (Regarding Agenda Items Only)

In light of the state declared disaster emergency, the Board has adopted modified public meeting and public comment processes, consistent with the Sunshine Law. These modified rules have been published in a newspaper of general circulation and on the District's website. Public comments received in advance of this virtual meeting by the Board Secretary will now be read.

See attached.

IX. LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THIS MEETING**Education and Technology****Open**1. Revised 2020-2021 School Year Calendar

It is recommended to approve the revised 2020-2021 School Calendar, as presented.

2. Comcast Internet

It is recommended to approve an agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC to provide in-home internet services to qualifying families within the District, as presented.

3. Senior Projects

It is recommended to approve senior projects in abeyance for the 2020-2021 school year.

4. PA Pre-K Counts and Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program CARES Funding for COVID-19 Relief

It is recommended to approve the purchase of forty (40) iPads for Pre-K students, through the Pre-K CARES Fund, for an amount not to exceed \$18,000.00.

Mr. Angus moved to accept items 1-4, seconded by Ms. Pedigo. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Personnel**Mr. Angus**1. School Board Director

It is recommended to appoint Denise Manganello, a qualified elector of the District, to fill the present School Board Director vacancy.

(Action previously taken)

2. School Board Director

It is recommended to appoint Kathleen Curtis, a qualified elector of the District, to fill the present School Board Director vacancy.

(Action previously taken)

3. Act 93 Positions

A. It is recommended to eliminate the following positions, effective August 12, 2020:

1. Assistant Principal of the High School
2. Assistant Principal of the Middle School

B. It is recommended to authorize the creation of the following positions for the 2020-2021 school year and open the same to qualified applicants:

1. Assistant Principal – Split between the High School and Middle School – 10 month position

4. Assistant Principal

It is recommended to appoint David Turk, as the Assistant Principal of the High School/Middle School, as per the Act 93 agreement.

5. Rescind

It is recommended to rescind item 19 under Personnel, approved at the July 15, 2020 Board meeting, recalling Stacey Hawranko into a Long-Term Substitute position at State Street Elementary.

6. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Stephanie Bucci, a Special Education Teacher at Highland Elementary, with regret.

7. Retirement

It is recommended to ratify the resignation due to retirement of Barbara Harris, a Special Education Teacher at State Street Elementary, effective July 16, 2020, with regret.

8. Retirement

It is recommended to ratify the resignation due to retirement of Terri Ray, a teacher at Economy Elementary, effective July 16, 2020, with regret.

9. Retirement

It is recommended to approve the resignation due to retirement of Patricia Henry, a Secretary at Highland Elementary, effective August 31, 2020, with regret.

10. Recall of Temporary Professional Employees

- a.) It is recommended to recall Stacy Hawranko into the fourth grade teaching position at Economy Elementary, as per the terms of the collective bargaining unit.
- b.) It is recommended to recall Alyssa Greco into the Special Education position at State Street Elementary, as per the terms of the collective bargaining unit.
- c.) It is recommended to Courtney Parisi into the Long-Term Substitute kindergarten position at State Street Elementary.

11. KeySolution Staffing, L.L.C.

It is recommended to approve an agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and KeySolution Staffing L.L.C. to provide the District with services commensurate with the position of Director of Special Education. The term of this agreement shall end on June 30, 2021 or when position is filled, as presented.

12. Local 248 AFCME-AFL-CIO Lead Position

It is recommended to approve Ron Wilson as the Lead Position, as per the collective bargaining union.

13. Long-Term Substitute

It is recommended Amanda Leogue be approved as a Long-Term Substitute at the Middle School, at a rate of 70% of Step 1 Bachelors, \$45,101.00, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEA/PSEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

14. Custodian

It is recommended to hire Linda Hunt as a full-time custodian at Economy Elementary as per the terms of the Local 248 Ambridge Area School Employees, AFSCME – AFL – CIO negotiated agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Mr. Angus moved to accept items 3-14. Vote in favor was unanimous with Mrs. Manganello and Mrs. Curtis abstaining.

Salary, Schedule and Labor Relations**Mrs. Mylan**1. **Memorandum of Understanding**

It is recommended to hereby approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Area Education Association regarding Department Head Supplemental Positions, as presented.

2. **Memorandum of Understanding**

It is recommended to hereby approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Area Education Association regarding Professional Development, as presented.

Mrs. Mylan moved to accept items 1-2, seconded by Mr. Campalong. Vote in favor was unanimous, with Mrs. Manganello and Mrs. Curtis abstaining.

5. **Superintendent's Report**

Thank all staff for giving 110% to help get us in a position where we were able to put a reopening plan together. Thanked our parents and students for their support and for giving this new back to school a chance.

6. **Solicitor's Report**7. **Additional Business**

Mrs. Mylan tendered her resignation from the Board of School Directors effective immediately. She noted that she was uncomfortable with the direction and choices of the Board.

Ms. Young moved to accept the resignation with regret, seconded by Mr. Campalong. Vote in favor, with Mrs. Fischer voting no.

8. **Motion to Adjourn the Voting Meeting**

9. **RECONVENE THE MEET AND DISCUSS VOTING**

At approximately 9:00 p.m. Mr. Angus made a motion to end the meeting and reconvene to the Meet and Discuss, seconded by Mr. Campalong. All in favor.

Mr. Angus made a motion to open the Meet and Discuss Non-Voting, seconded by Mrs. Curtis. All in favor.

NOMINATIONS FOR SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR VACANCY

Additional Presentation:

Mrs. Addie Lucatorto, Athletic Director

Ms. Turnbull requested a motion to open nominations of School Board Director. Motion made by Mrs. Fischer, seconded by Mr. Campalong. All in favor.

Mr. Angus nominated Mr. Metz, Ms. Young nominated Mr. Fabrizio.

Mr. Angus moved to close nominations, seconded by Mr. Campalong. All in favor.

It is recommended to appoint William Metz a qualified elector of the District, to fill the present School Board Director vacancy.

Vote in favor, with Mr. Campalong, Ms. Pedigo and Ms. young voting against.

(Mr. Metz was sworn in by Solicitor Turnbull, a Notary Public)

NAME	ADDRESS	QUESTION
Judy Polachek	Ambridge	Would like to request to talk about getting football uniforms for the players especially the seniors to have their pictures taken and senior banners
Brenda Protuilipac	Economy Boro	When will grades 6-12 receive devices
Jackie Stranko	Economy Boro	Will the students attending BCCTC stay at the high school for the online learning
Janell Bell	Ambridge	Who is suppling the teachers and classrooms with hand sanitizer, lysol, and clorox wipes? I have the same questions regarding the cafeterias.
Heather Fernandez	Ambridge	I am very confused on how the ccbc program will be held. my daughter was supposed to start this year in the nursing program.. There really hasn't been much information and we are new to the program. I totally get that we have to adjust and have been totally understanding. I just want communicaton on the plan. Plus I worried about guidance on Seniors for colleges since there Junior year was interrupted. I don't want my daughter or other young adults to miss out on information or what to do to start college.
Kasi Devinney	Economy Boro	<p>I understand that this is all new and that the teachers are doing and trying their best but here are the concerns that I myself really need to know for the upcoming school year to better explain to my child and maybe some of a child's questions can help others.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why are temperatures not taken before a child gets on the bus if they are using the bus transportation? This would save time in lines entering the schools and if they have a temp before they get on the bus you would be stopping the contact before allowing them on the bus. When will bus information be sent out? 2. For students new to the district or new to the building- why would you not hold Face to face orientation for those students prior to the school starting? I have watched the online videos and those are great if a child cannot attend or someone missed something or wanted to review again but if you are not able to hold orientation for the student and at least one adult for 9th grade OR 6th grade or kindergarten then how can you open the district up as a whole? Having the face to face will help with some of the stress coming into a new building after not being in school for several months.

		<p>3. In the past there have been schedule issues for students. With the 2 days in school and 3 days online - is there going to be a step by step on to how a day to day would work for the students so that parents know how to schedule and make sure that their child is getting online when they are supposed to. The online for high shows what it would like when they were on but not the ...this is how an online day would start, you need to log in at this time, you have this many minutes in between the next class, ect."</p> <p>4. If your student is set up to do the 2 day face to face and 3 days online but would like to start out with 5 days online for the first 9 weeks- who should a parent contact to get that set up?</p> <p>5. If a student is signed up for online only - when will the instructions and schedule be sent or will it just show up on the online portal?</p>
Megan Clark	Ambridge	<p>What happens with the kids who are in the Jrotc and are doing full remote classes how is that being handled???</p>
Melinda Arlof	Baden	<p>During the last school board meeting, when parents asked if "virtual school" would be recorded and able to watched during a convenient time for the family, the answer was no. The reason for the no, we were told, was because Department of Education was not accepting it. My questions is if that rule has since changed due to other schools doing their virtual school that way. Every day, students still have to get the work done and homework done, but just not a set schedule being 8:00- 3:00 or what not. This is true in the Northgate School District as well as a few others that I have seen.</p> <p>Thanks for every one of you for putting so much time, effort, tears and sweat into our 2020-2021 school year already! I understand things change day by day, and it is frustrating to say the least!</p>

While I recognize that none of the learning options presented match the quality of five days of in-school instruction, the choices offered are limiting to families in many ways. I want to clarify that I do understand why a full five-day return to school is not possible, and I recognize the work of the committee to be extraordinarily challenging. However, I implore the school board and administrators to approach each individual situation with consideration and flexibility regarding what is best overall for the child.

I will use my own family as an example of the limitations. Out of the choices given, I feel the best option for my incoming first grader would be to send him for in-person instruction two days and complete the other three days at home. For families with other obligations during the day, will the three days of at-home learning be self-paced? I do not work outside the home, but I do have another child who attends four half-days of preschool and has recurring therapy appointments throughout the week. This puts me outside of the home daily and unable to sit with my incoming first grader as he completes his work on an actual school schedule. Other pockets of time throughout the day will allow us to complete the work fully and completely, but on terms that best fit our needs.

Additionally, sitting in front of a computer is not an ideal learning situation for most students, particularly our youngest learners.

How can we meet the needs of district families throughout the day while promoting a healthy return to school in the limited capacity being offered?

Respectfully,
Stefanie Priore
128 Willow Dr, Freedom, PA 15042

Respectfully Submitted,

June Mueller
Board Secretary