

Minutes for the Board meeting of the Ambridge Area school District held virtually via ZOOM on Wednesday, October 21, 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, October 21, 2020, is now called to order.

II. Flag Salute-Please rise: Mrs. Fischer asked all present to rise for the flag salute.

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
Mr. Chuck Campalong
Mrs. Kathleen Curtis
Mrs. Denise Manganello
Mr. William Metz
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 an Executive Session on Wednesday, October 21st 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: September 9th Meet and Discuss Voting Meeting, September 9th Meet and Discuss Non-Voting Meeting, September 16th Board Meeting, and September 28th Special Board Meeting

Mr. Angus moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Campalongo. Vote in favor was unanimous.

VIII. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report dated: September 2020

Mrs. Kehoe moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Ms. Young. Vote in favor was unanimous.

IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda

X. Recognition/Presentation

Addie Lucatorto – Fall Sports Update

MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL SPORTS WRAP UP

10/21/20

MS BOYS SOCCER

The middle school boys soccer team finished the season with a record of 5-4. The team played through the season with only 11 student-athletes and played some games a player down.

MS GIRLS SOCCER

It was a good season for the middle school girls soccer team as they won many of their games by multiple goals. They finished the season with a record of 5-2-1.

MS CROSS COUNTRY

The middle school cross country teams were able to compete in races at all the section varsity meets. The runners improved their personal best times weekly.

MS FOOTBALL

The middle school football team had one of its best seasons ever. The team finished the season with a 5-1 record. The team suffered a heart breaking 22-20 loss against Aliquippa on 10/14/20 to keep them from a perfect season. The team came back from a 20-6 deficit to pull within reach of the win.

The balanced offense attack gained ground with both its rushing and passing schemes. The defense regrouped at halftime to corral the speed of the Aliquippa offense.

We are looking forward to the 8th graders to bringing their never quit attitude, speed and "every player get to the ball" defense to the high school squad next year.

SENIOR HIGH FALL SPORTS UPDATE

10/21/20

FOOTBALL

The football team ended its season with a 1-6 record. We were not able to play the final game of the season against Quaker Valley due to the number of COVID-19 cases at our opponent's school. The team members played true iron men football much of the season with many of them playing offense/defense/special teams. Several student-athletes played the entire 48 minutes of the final two games.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The girls volleyball team faced a rebuilding year under the new head coach, Tim Buresh. With one match remaining to be played in the regular season this week, their current record is 2-8. Volleyball lost all their tournament opportunities due to COVID-19. Those early matches would have helped them to gel as a team. We hope those opportunities are available next season.

GIRLS TENNIS

The girls tennis team faced their own challenges this fall. Due to COVID-19, they were unable to play any matches at their home courts at Brady's Run Park. Their opponents had the home court advantage every match, but the girls played hard through adversity.

CROSS COUNTY

The cross country team had limited opportunities to compete this fall with many of the larger races canceled due to COVID-19. They are looking forward to competing at the WPIAL Championships on October 28th at White Oak Park.

GIRLS SOCCER

The girls soccer team finished the regular season with a strong push. With a tie against a good Beaver team and a win in double overtime over Hopewell, the girls' have advanced to the WPIAL play off tournament. The tournament bracket will be released on Wednesday, October 21st.

BOYS SOCCER

The boys soccer team finished with the regular season with a record of 9-3. They finished with a strong 3 game winning streak. The team won an important game against North Catholic on October 10th to cement a spot in the WPIAL play off tournament. The tournament bracket will be released on Wednesday, October 21st.

BOYS GOLF

The boys golf team is coming back to life at AAHS. With some new team members, the team was able to pull off two upset wins at the end of the season. We look forward to seeing the team continue to improve next fall.

GIRLS GOLF

The girls golf team continues to gain steam. Dinah Bailey led the team through the season. The team added some young players that are working to learn the game.

DINAH BAILEY

Dinah Bailey represented AAHS at the WPIAL Class AA Individual Championship. She earned her spot at the championship with a 2nd place finish at the section qualifier. She is the first female student-athlete to qualify for the golf championship since 2008. This season, Dinah consistently shot a 41 over 9 holes at the team's home course, Fox Run Golf Club. Dinah is a 4-year letter winner on the Girls Golf team. Coach Larry Knopsnyder says that "Dinah is competitive, hard-working and smart. She doesn't look for a pat on the back, she works to improve." Dinah is looking forward to choosing a college where she will continue her education and have the opportunity to play golf competitively.

Ambridge Area School District Nursing Department – Update from Stuart Rusnak and Kristine McClosky

As your Certified School Nurses, we are writing you today to share with you our experiences, concerns, and our professional opinion as we now draw near the end of the first nine weeks. As many of you know, this has and will continue to be a very unique and trying school year.

We have faced many challenges to start this year and feel that we were able to overcome them by following our reopening plan, working cohesively with all building nurses, and collaborating with administration to ensure we were all well informed as we worked to keep our students and staff safe.

We have continued to monitor updates from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and will continue to make adjustments to the literature we utilize for our own guidance, as well as the literature we send home with parents and guardians. This literature can also be found on the district website under Health Services. Going forward, it is very important for us to be able to maintain the level of safety we currently feel we have in our buildings.

Therefore, it is our recommendation we continue the hybrid and remote models that the district is currently utilizing. It is this hybrid model that allows us to safely distance our students and staff in the classrooms, cafeterias, as well as transitioning through the hallways. It is also imperative that we consider the upcoming cold and flu season, as well as the current rise in COVID-19 cases.

The nation is currently seeing new daily case reports over 58,000, with Pennsylvania reporting over a 1,000 new cases daily, for the past 15 days. With a combined 26 years experience in the district, we know what a typical cold and flu season looks like in our student population.

In a normal year, we can see upwards of 30 to 40 students a day at elementary levels during this time. With the COVID-19 virus mimicking the symptoms of the typical cold and flu viruses, we could potentially be quarantining hundreds of students each week if we push for all our students to return to in person instruction, ultimately leading to more disruptions in an already taxing learning environment.

In closing, it is our sincere hope that you will keep our concerns and opinions in mind when making the very difficult decisions in which you are consistently tasked with making. Should you need any further input, please feel free to reach out to either of us.

Dr. Pasquerilla – Staff Survey Update

XI. 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 comment will only be taken in written formats via email in advance of the meeting. Public comments received in advance will be circulated to the Board. All public comments regarding agenda items will be read during the meeting. All other comments will be summarized during the meeting. All comments must include the resident/property owner's name and address

Attached**XII. Committee Reports****Education and Technology****Mrs. Manganello**1. Student Discipline

It is recommended to ratify discipline agreement 2020-2021-01 relevant to a High School student, effective October 16, 2020.

Mrs. Manganello moved to approve item 1, seconded by Mr. Campalongo. Ms. Young voted against item 1.

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 \$980,825.17 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,272,181.77 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$30,867.27 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$38,154.01 be paid.

3. Resolution 2020-2021-04 – BVIU Joint Purchasing Program

It is recommended to approve the Resolution to participate in the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit's Joint Purchasing Program for the 2021-2022 school year, at no cost to the District. The program includes the categories of general, art, janitorial, athletic equipment, medical supplies, audio-visual and computer equipment and dual-purpose paper supplies.

4. Repository

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

- a) Lot, Beaver Road, Ambridge, PA Tax Parcel 10-004-0201.000, for the bid amount of \$1,792.00 to Foursquare Church also known as New Hope Community Church.
- b) 1399 8th Street Ext., Ambridge, PA Tax Parcel 64-002-0803.000, for the bid amount of \$2,013.00 to Teresa Bloazier.

5. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve tax exoneration regarding collection of Real Estate Tax for the following properties:

- a) 00000 Beaver Road, Ambridge, PA, Tax Parcel #10-004-0201.000, for the years of 2000 through 2019, to be purchased by Foursquare Church also known as New Hope Community Church.
- b) 540 Merchant Street, Ambridge, PA, Tax Parcel #10-002-0910.000, for the years of 2009-2019, purchased by Thomas and Adrianna Cephas.
- c) 325 Merchant Street, Ambridge, PA, Tax Parcel #09-002-0225.000, for the years of 2016-2019, purchased by Thomas and Adrianna Cephas.

Ms. Pedigo moved to approve items 1-5, seconded by Ms. Young. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Angus

1. Option Agreement

It is recommended to approve Amendment One to the Option Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Tyler Hudson. For the purchase of District property and appurtenances located at 2001 Lenz Avenue, Ambridge, PA as presented.

Mr. Angus moved to approve item 1, seconded by Ms. Young. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Athletics

Mr. Campalong

Public Relations

Mr. Metz

Steering and Rules

Mrs. Kehoe

1. Policy 146.1 – Trauma-Informed Approach – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to adopt School Board Policy 146.1 – *Trauma-Informed Approach*, to direct district staff to develop and implement a plan for trauma-informed approaches to education throughout the district.

2. Policy 203 – Immunizations and Communicable Diseases – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to update School Board Policy 203 – *Immunizations and Communicable Diseases*, to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases.

3. 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 that the student’s participation in health, safety and physical education courses meets the student’s individual needs and that the learning potential of each student is not lessened by a remediable physical disability.

4. Policy 222 – Tobacco and Vaping Products – Pupils – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to update School Board Policy 222 – *Tobacco and Vaping Products*, to prohibit student possession, use, purchase and sale of tobacco and vaping products, including Juuls and other electronic cigarettes.

5. Policy 314 – Physical Examination – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to update School Board Policy 314 – *Physical Examination*, prevent the transmission of communicable diseases in the school setting.

6. Policy 323 – Tobacco and Vaping Products – Staff – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to update School Board Policy 323 – *Tobacco and Vaping Products*, to prohibit staff possession, use, purchase and sale of tobacco and vaping products, including Juuls and other electronic cigarettes.

7. Policy 335 Attachment – Family and Medical Leaves – The Families First Coronavirus Response Act – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to revise School Board Policy 335 – *Family and Medical Leave* by adding Attachment – *The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*, to address the emergency leave entitlements, including the amount of and qualifying reasons for such leave, as established by the FFCRA through the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and the Emergency intermittent leave provision.

8. Policy 805.2 - Identification Badges

It is recommended to renumber Policy 805.2 – *Identification Badges* to Policy 805.3, to line up with the numbering of PSBA. Policy 805.2 will now become *School Security Personnel*.

9. Policy 805.2 – School Security Personnel – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to update School Board Policy 805.2 – *School Security Personnel*, to coordinate the safety and security of the district students, staff, visitors and facilities.

10. Policy 824 – Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a Second Reading, to update School Board Policy 824 – *Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries*, to direct that all adults shall be informed of conduct that is prohibited and disciplinary actions that may be applied for violation of Board policies, administrative regulations, rules and procedures.

11. Policy 103 – Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a Second Reading, to adopt School Board Policy 103 - *Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students*, to provide an equal opportunity for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs and activities offered in the schools without discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or handicap/disability.

12. Policy 104 – Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a Second Reading, to adopt School Board Policy 103 - *Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff*, to provide to all persons equal access to all categories of employment in this district regardless of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, pregnancy or handicap/disability.

13. November Meet and Discuss Board Meeting

It is recommended the Meet and Discuss Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 11, 2020 be changed to Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., due to the observation of a District scheduled Holiday.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to approve items 1-13, seconded by Mr. Metz. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Legislative

Ms. Young

Salary, Schedule and Labor Relations

Mrs. Curtis

Personnel

Mr. Angus

1. BCC&TC Joint Operation Committee

It is recommended to ratify the appointment of Mary Jo Kehoe, as the representative and Scott Angus, as the alternate representative to serve a three year term on the BCC&TC Joint Operating Committee, effective December 31, 2019.

2. Posted Positions Resignation

It is recommended to accept the resignation of the following, with regret:

- a) Grace Debona, Secondary Social Studies Department Head
- b) Amy Braund, Sixth Grade Department Head

3. Posted Positions: Department Heads and Building Heads

It is recommended to approve the following individuals who have applied for the specified posted positions for the 2020-2021 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>		
Math	Kent Withrow	\$1,365.00

4. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

It is recommended the following individuals who have applied for the specified posted positions for the 2020-2021 school year be approved at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement, provided the school year allows and Sponsors are able to hold Club Activity as normal.

<u>ACTIVITY/CLUB (High School)</u>		<u>SALARY</u>
Black Student Union Club	Jennifer Cuspard	\$470.00
JROTC Club	William Brahen	\$470.00
Science Club	Eric Harbison	\$470.00
Spanish Club	Sarah Bogan	\$470.00

5. FMLA

It is recommend to ratify employee #320 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave beginning September 16, 2020, not to exceed 12 weeks.

6. Intermittent FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #2697 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave beginning September 8, 2020, not to exceed 12 weeks.

7. FFCRA

It is recommended to approve employee #2396 for paid leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (“FFCRA”), effective October 7, 2020.

8. Penn State University Student Teachers

It is recommended to approve the following Penn State University students, for student teaching for the 2021 spring semester, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

- a) Anthony Zhang, to be placed with – TBD
- b) Isabella DeVito, to be placed with - TBD

9. Economy Elementary Before and After School Child Care

It is recommended to ratify Susan Stillwagon as a caregiver at the Before and After School Child Care Program at Economy Elementary School at a rate of \$15.00 per hour, effective August 31, 2020, 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.

10. Mentor

It is recommended to approve the following individual be approved as a mentor teacher at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement:

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>New Teacher</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Carolyn Crawford	Paige Scherer	\$250.00

11. 2020-2021 Fall/Winter Coach

It is recommended to ratify the following individual to fill the designated fall coaching position 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>Football</u>	<u>Stipends</u>
a) Equipment Manager, Craig Wiltrek	\$500.00
2) <u>Wrestling</u>	
a) Head Varsity Coach, Ronnie Wilson	\$4,300.00
b) Assistant Varsity Coach, Ron Wilson	\$2,400.00
c) Head Middle School Coach, Ron Wilson	\$1,850.00
d) Assistant Middle School Coach, Ronnie Wilson	\$1,350.00

3) Girls Basketball

a) Assistant Varsity Coach, Courtney Parisi	\$2,410.00
b) Assistant Varsity Coach, Lisa Fox	\$2,410.00
c) Volunteer Coach, Anthony Franco	No Remuneration
d) Middle School Coach, Lisa Fox	\$1,750.00
e) Middle School Coach, Leathera Harrison	\$1,750.00

12. Field Placement

It is recommended to approve Nicoletta Elolo, a Slippery Rock University student, majoring in elementary and special education, to complete observations hours at Economy Elementary, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

13. Custodian

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

14. MCJROTC Instructor

It is recommended to approve a one-year Employment Agreement, school term 2020-2021, for the position of Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) with Major Brian Trievel at a prorated salary of \$66,484.60 through June 5, 2021 and a January salary adjustment as required by Agreement with the United States Marine Corps, subject to Party and Solicitor review. Official start date will be determined pending receipt of valid PA Teaching Certificate and current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening. Final terms and conditions of health care and fringe benefits to be negotiated.

*The District will be reimbursed half the salary by the United States Marines.

Mr. Angus moved to approve items 1-14, seconded by Mr. Metz. Vote in favor was unanimous.

XIII. Solicitor's Report**XIV. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Pasquerilla thanked the students, staff and parents. Also thanks Addie and the student athletes. Thank all for their hard work.

XV. Motion to Adjourn

At 8:05 p.m. Ms. Young moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Young. All in favor.

October 21, 2020

AMBRIDGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

992

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. June Mueller
Board Secretary

Attachment

Tyler Brown
130 Sunridge Dr, Freedom, PA 15042

Complaint: Tech Support Availability

The tech support line (x4357) is not staffed by anyone until more than an hour after the start of classes. This means that there is no one available to assist our students or parents during the time when there is the highest probability of a technical problem to occur (when students initially turn on their computer and try to log in for their first class of the day). So, when the majority of problems are being encountered, the tech support line is vacant and our students sit helplessly with no assistance, involuntarily missing their classes. **We need to discuss extending the tech support hours to cover the time of day when our students are most desperate for help.**

Complaint: Middle School Front Office Availability

The Middle School front office is nearly impossible to reach, at any time of the day. We have been told that the front office is who we should contact when tech support is unavailable. Calling the Front Office for tech support, or for any other reason, has been an exercise in futility. Our repeated phone calls are left unanswered. Leaving messages for the Office just results in a phone call back in 3 hours, which is inevitably far too late to fix the problem that needed to be solved. By the time the office returns the call, the student has already missed multiple classes. **We need to discuss options for improving the responsiveness and availability of the Front Office.**

Clearly the duties of the Front Office should not include tech support, as those staff members are not particularly effective at it, nor do they have the additional time to perform that role. I believe that expanding the availability of the Tech Support department will help to solve the availability issue of the Front Office.

Summary:

Mr. Brown

Would like to see the extension of tech support hours to cover the time of day when the students are most desperate for help. For example the start of the school day.

Mr. Brown believes that expanding the availability of the Tech Support department will help to solve the availability issue of the Middle School Front Office.

Cherie Paugh
1830 Simpson Ct
Ambridge, PA 15003

- Please strongly consider providing families an option to send their children for more in-person instruction. As recommended previously, please strongly consider this at least for the younger children that require more hands on attention during the instruction. I have a kindergartener who loves to come for in-person instruction. On her virtual days she struggles with daydreaming and becoming bored and disengaged. She is doing her virtual assignments but she is not engaged in the live meetings. We are losing her attention at an age that is so critical for setting a good attitude for learning for years to come. She needs in-person instruction to thrive the way I know that she can.
- There have been a lot of comments about teacher safety with going more in-person. I am confused by this, as the teachers already see these kids twice a week. If any of the children would have covid, more in-person days would not change the risk of the teacher getting it (a symptom-free illness on a Monday is still just as contagious on a Tuesday). It would however increase the chance of other students getting it since there would be more students in a classroom on a given day (a Monday child now exposed to a Tuesday child); something that should be a risk weighed by each individual family as they choose between the options available to them.
- I understand that covid is real, and I know people first hand that have tested positive with some of them barely sick and others extremely sick. This is still an illness that the world still knows little about. What I do know is that my child likely had it back in February before testing was available when a parent at her old childcare center returned from China during the same time period when over half of her daycare room ended up all sick at the same time with symptoms that very closely aligned with covid. I also know that both of my children have been in a different child care center since June with no positive cases and parents of that center that are tested weekly for their jobs. It is possible to reduce the spread with good hygiene practices, hand washing, masks, and enhanced cleaning protocols. Please please please consider more in-person instruction for the students that so desperately need it. Keep the virtual and hybrid options available for the families that are managing virtually and have a greater risk of the virus, while providing other families the option for in-person instruction if their personal risk of poor education environment and lack of socialization is greater than the virus.
- This has been a very rough year that has no end in sight for when the pandemic may be declared over. These decisions are not easy for anyone. Thank you for taking the time to hear members of the community.

Summary:

Ms. Pugh

- Is asking the Board to provide families an option to send their children for more in-person instruction especially for the younger children that require more hands on attention.

- Provide families the option for in-person instruction if their personal risk of poor education environment and lack of socialization is greater than the virus.
- Being that teachers already see these kids twice a week, more in-person days would not change the risk of the teacher getting it