

Minutes for the Board meeting of the Ambridge Area school District held virtually via ZOOM on Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

I. Call to Order Mrs. Fischer called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m.

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District Board of Directors on Wednesday, November 18, 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 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
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, November 18th to discuss:

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

VI. Correspondence

None

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

Mr. Angus moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Curtis. All in favor.

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

Mr. Angus moved to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Ms. Young. All in favor.

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

Mr. Bielby- Presentation of Budget Timeline

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.

See attached.

XII. Committee Reports**Education and Technology**

Mrs. Manganello

1. Wilson College, Chambersburg, PA Affiliation Agreement

It is recommended to approve an Affiliation Agreement between Wilson College and the Ambridge Area School District.

2. High School Course of Studies

It is recommended to ratify the approval of the 2021-2022 Ambridge Area High School Course of Studies Book.

3. Middle School Course of Studies

It is recommended to ratify the approval of the 2021-2022 Ambridge Area Middle School Course of Studies Book.

4. Student Discipline

It is recommended to ratify discipline agreement 2020-2021-02 relevant to a High School student, effective November 16, 2020.

Mrs. Manganello moved to accept items 1-4, seconded by Mr. Angus. Ms. Young voted against item 4 only. Vote in favor of items 1-3 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 \$3,084,674.82 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,436,896.21 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$78,393.79 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$55,465.30 be paid.

3. Resolution 2020-2021-05 – AIU Joint Purchasing Program

It is recommended to approve the Resolution to participate in the Allegheny 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. Grant Acceptance

It is recommended to accept a grant award in the amount of \$56,575.95, from the Continuity of Education Grant for Additional Targeted Support & Improvement (ATSI) Schools to be used for the purchase of new technology equipment at a total amount not to exceed \$51,500.00 for equipment and ancillary devices through Dell. It is furthermore recommended to ratify the purchase of a communication service through Blackboard at a cost of \$5,680.95.

5. Swanson's Fabrication Invoice

It is recommended to approve the final payment to Swanson's Fabrication in the amount of \$11,558.70, for the High School Entrance Bridger Repair Project, to be paid from the District's Capital Projects Fund.

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

Buildings and Grounds**Mr. Angus****Athletics****Mr. Campalong****Public Relations****Mr. Metz**

Steering and Rules**Mrs. Kehoe****1. Reorganization Meeting**

It is recommended the Reorganization Meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

2. December Board Meetings

It is recommended the Meet and Discuss Board Meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2020 immediately following the Reorganization Meeting via ZOOM. The regular monthly Board Meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Via ZOOM.

3. Policy 146.1 – Trauma-Informed Approach – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final 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.

4. Policy 203 – Immunizations and Communicable Diseases – Final Reading

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

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

It is recommended, as a final 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.

6. Policy 222 – Tobacco and Vaping Products – Pupils – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final 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.

7. Policy 314 – Physical Examination – Final Reading

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

8. Policy 323 – Tobacco and Vaping Products – Staff – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final 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.

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

It is recommended, as a final 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.

10. Policy 805.2 – School Security Personnel – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final 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.

11. Policy 824 – Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final 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.

12. Policy 103 – Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final 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.

13. Policy 104 – Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final 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.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to accept items 1-13, seconded by Mrs. Curtis. All in favor was unanimous.

Legislative**Ms. Young****Salary, Schedule and Labor Relations****Mrs. Curtis****Personnel****Mr. Angus**1. **FMLA**

It is recommended to approve employee #2628 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave beginning November 23, 2020, not to exceed 12 weeks.

2. **FMLA**

It is recommended to ratify employee #1613 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave beginning October 12, 2020, not to exceed 12 weeks.

3. **FMLA**

It is recommended to ratify employee #207 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave beginning November 4, 2020, not to exceed 12 weeks.

4. **Resignation**

It is recommended to accept the resignation of Emily Maddox, a teacher at the Middle School, effective November 25, 2020, with regret.

5. **Professional School Counseling Internship**

It is recommended to approve Abbey Duco, a Professional School Counseling Intern from Geneva College, for an internship at the High School 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. Abbey will be placed with Chelsea Benedict.

6. **Student Teachers**

It is recommended to approve the following student teachers, to be placed at the High School 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.

Anthony Zhang, Penn State University – Anthony will be placed with Jodi Musser
Isabella DeVito, Penn State University – Isabella will be placed with Ken Withrow
Chase Baxa, Geneva College – Chase will be placed with Paul Hladio
Carly Gould, Geneva College – Carly will be placed with Paul Hladio
Megan Racioppo, Wilson College – Megan will be placed with Jeff Modrovich

7. Permanent Contracts

It is recommended the following professional employees, who have completed three years of satisfactory service in the Ambridge Area School District as of the effective date designated, be given permanent professional contracts:

Eliana Jorgensen	August 9, 2017
Celeste Schaltenbrand	August 9, 2017
Abigail Longwell	August 9, 2017
Samantha King	August 31, 2017
Steven Perciavalle	October 9, 2017
Kara Blumling	September 13, 2017

8. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

It is recommended the following individual who has applied for the specified posted position 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>
Bowling Shana Dowlin	\$750.00

9. 2020-2021 Winter Coach

It is recommended to ratify the following individuals to fill the designated winter 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>Boys Basketball</u>	<u>Stipends</u>
a) Varsity Assistant Coach, Rushel Shell	\$2,410.00
b) Varsity Assistant Coach, Matthew Puppich	\$2,410.00
c) MS Coach, Craig Wiltrek	\$1,750.00

10. Resignation

It is recommended to ratify the resignation of Master Gunnery Sergeant William Brahen, a JROTC Instructor at the High School, effective November 6, 2020, with regret.

11. Resignation

It is recommended to ratify the resignation of Keenan Baker, a Para- Professional at Highland Elementary, effective November 16, 2020, with regret.

12. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

It is recommended to ratify the following individuals who have applied for the specified posted positions for the 2020-2021 school year 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 (Middle School)</u>		<u>SALARY</u>
Technology Student Association – TSA	Scott Setzenfand	\$470.00
Gay-Straight Alliance Club – GSA	Karen Brecht	\$470.00

13. Student Speech Therapist

It is recommended to approve the following student speech therapists 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.

Ariana Desai, University of Pittsburgh – Ariana will be placed with Beverly Galzerano
Kodie Mateer, Clarion University – Kodie will be placed with Marie Buck

Mr. Angus moved to accept items 1-13, seconded by Ms. Young. All in favor was unanimous.

XIII. Solicitor's Report

Ms. Turnbull wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

XIV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving. He stated the following: I am very proud of students specifically the students and staff and everyone who has worked so diligently. I also really appreciate that the people bringing up concerns or feedback there is so much positivity in their email in regards to the extra effort given by our staff. We understand this is a difficult time for everyone and cannot thank the staff, as a whole enough, we are all in this together. I mean everyone who works in the school district and parents for being so patience and understanding through this difficult time and your willingness to be flexible to get the students the best possible education. Stay safe.

XV. Motion to Adjourn

At 7:42 p.m. Mrs. Fischer moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Young. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

**June Mueller
Board Secretary**

Attachment

Cherie Paugh
Ambridge, PA

While many of us would like our children attending in-person instruction, it is understandable that with case counts increasing school districts all over the county are following the state recommendations to move full virtual. This however creates complications for working families, especially as not all child care providers are equipped to handle the live meeting instruction, and even families with parents at home have struggles keeping up with live instruction if they have other children (particularly pre-school aged little ones) or are required to work from home during business hours. Many district families that I have spoken with are interested in an option to review recordings of the live meetings and self-certify that the recordings are watched, with activities being completed and turned into the teachers accordingly. During this unprecedented time, families desperately need this flexibility. It is my understanding that other school districts are providing this as an option. Please strongly consider allowing recordings in place of live meetings as an option while the school is in a completely virtual state.

To you outside of the public comment: Parents have been asking this question since before the school year started. We have had ample time to consider this request and to confirm with state officials that it is an acceptable way of tracking attendance during a pandemic. There needs to be an answer provided at the Wednesday meeting to why this is or is not an acceptable request. If it is a state rule/limitation, I am prepared to contact the department of education myself and request leniency to advocate for our families.

Michelle Walser
919 Glenwood Avenue
Ambridge pa 15003

I am going to get straight to the point as I am sure you have enough to do during these trying times. I do not believe it is the best interest of the teachers and staff personnel to have to physically leave the safety of their home during remote learning times. I have lost friends and family during this pandemic and I am telling you firsthand...this virus does NOT discriminate. Two of my friends made it off of the ventilator but now have liver and kidney damage. My friend who was a teacher will NEVER be able to return to work because she now has brain damage from oxygen deprivation. I beg you, please do not risk their safety for nothing more than a background change. Our children can learn just as easily from the teachers being at a remote sight. I tell people...you need only once to hear or see this virus in action to fully grasp just how devastating it is. We must protect the teachers now so we have teachers to come back too once this pandemic is under control. Please stay safe during these times.

Public Comments have be circulated to the Board, and to summarize:

Cherie Paugh
Ambridge, PA

Is asking the Board to consider implementing recordings of the live meetings and have guardians self-certify that the recordings are watched, with activities being completed and turned into the teachers accordingly. Families desperately need this flexibility.

Michelle Walser
919 Glenwood Avenue
Ambridge pa 15003

Does not believe it is the best interest of the teachers and staff personnel to have to physically leave the safety of their homes during remote learning times. Believes we must protect the teachers so we have teachers to come back too once this pandemic is under control.