

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held virtually via ZOOM on Wednesday, March 17, 2021.

I. Call to Order: Mrs. Fischer called the meeting to order at approximately 7:15 p.m.

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District Board of Directors on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, is now called to order.

II. Flag Salute-Please rise: Mrs. Fischer asked all present to rise for 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. Chuck Campalong
Mrs. Kathleen Curtis
Mrs. Denise Manganello
Mr. William Metz
Ms. Valerie Pedigo

Others Present

Dr. Joseph W. Pasquerilla, Superintendent
Mr. Barry J. King, Assistant to the Superintendent
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, March 17th to discuss:

- Personnel matter(s)
- Considering the purchase or lease of real estate
- Matters subject to attorney client privilege and other confidentiality laws
- Salary Schedule and Labor Relations

VI. Correspondence

VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of: February 10th Meet and Discuss Voting Meeting, February 10th Non-Voting Meeting, February 17th Board Meeting

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

VIII. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report dated: February 2021

Mrs. Fischer moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Kehoe. All in favor.

IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda

Amended Item 8 under Personnel

Mr. Angus moved to accept Amendment Agenda Item 8 under Personnel, seconded by Mrs. Curtis. All in favor.

Added Item 3 under Education and Technology

Mr. Campalong move to accept Amendment to the agenda, seconded by Mrs. Manganello. Vote in favor was unanimous.

X. Recognition/Presentation**MathCounts**

On Friday and Saturday, February 5th and 6th, fourteen students from the Ambridge Area Middle School participated in the Beaver County MathCounts Competition held online through the Art of Problem Solving (AoPS) website. The Beaver County chapter is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers. They are coached by teachers Glenn Freed and Ashley Simpson.

The final results had Ambridge students holding 3 of the 5 spots to advance to the next level for the State Competition round. Congratulations and best of luck to Aidyn Iorfido, Cody Roper, and Anthony Speicher.

Cheerleading

Congratulations to the Ambridge Varsity Competitive Cheerleaders led by Captains Caleigh Graziano and Liz Baronio and Head Coach Jenn Phillips and Assistant Coach Amanda Palshaw on their accomplishments representing our district during this difficult year. The Bridgers placed third at both the Indiana, PA and the Laurel, PA cheer competitions. They competed at the WPIAL Competitive Spirit Championships last week placing 10th out of 18 amongst a selection of a large group of schools with seasoned competitors and experience at the state competition level.

Please refer to the district's website and Ambridge Area School District Cheer Facebook page for upcoming varsity and middle school tryouts, along with further information on the program. Great job Bridgers!

Dr. Pasquerilla – Pandemic Coordinator Re-Opening Committee Presentation

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.

XII. Committee Reports**Education and Technology****Mrs. Manganello**1. Category 2 E-Rate Funding

It is recommended to approve (using Category 2 E-Rate funding) the purchase of Wireless Access Points for Economy Elementary School and Highland Elementary School. The total cost of the project is \$63,230.00. Pending Universal Service Administrative Company Schools and Library Divisions (USAC SLD) approval, the E-Rate program will pay approximately 80% (\$50,584.00) of the total cost. The Ambridge Area School District will pay approximately 20% (\$12,646.00) of the total cost.

2. Category 1 E-Rate Funding

It is recommended to approve a contract between the Ambridge Area School District and GoNetSpeed to renew our current contract for a 1 GB fiber connection. The two-year (24 month) contract will cost the District \$400.00 per month. Category 1 E-Rate funding will cover 80% (320.00) of the monthly cost.

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

3. In-Person Learning

It is recommended to approve five days a week in person learning for grades PreK-12 beginning March 24, 2021, with the option of remote learning, with flexibility for District families.

Mr. Campalong move to accept item 3, seconded by Mrs. Manganello. 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 \$1,628,047.79 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,308,860.01 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$32,450.26 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$43,944.60 be paid.

3. Repository

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

- a) 3475 Conway Wallrose Road, Freedom, PA Tax Parcel 60-185-0143.000, for the bid amount of \$1,903.00 to Kendall Liggins.
- b) 525 Glenwood Avenue, Ambridge, PA Tax Parcel 60-185-0143.000, for the bid amount of \$2,910.00 to Kendall Liggins
- c) 316 16th Street, Ambridge, PA Tax Parcel 60-185-0143.000, for the bid amount of \$1,607.00 to Kendall Liggins
- d) 2 Orchard Drive, Baden, PA Tax Parcel 60-185-0297.001, for the bid amount of \$2,700.59 to Take Hold PA Acquisition V LLC.
- e) 1008 11th Street, Ambridge, PA Tax Parcel 12-004-0702.000, for the bid amount of \$1,796.00 to Thomas and Adrianna Cephas.

4. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve tax exoneration regarding collection of Real Estate Tax for the following properties, for the years of 2020 through 2021, to be purchased by Harmony Township:

- a) Lot, Main Street, Ambridge, PA, Tax Parcel #64-003-0602.000
- b) Lot, Plum Street, Ambridge, PA, Tax Parcel #64-003-0613.000
- c) Lot, Economy Avenue, Ambridge, PA, Tax Parcel #64-003-0845.000

5. Proposed 2021-2022 Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit Budget

It is recommended the 2021-2022 Beaver Valley Intermediate unit General Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,490,231.00 be approved. It is further recommended the Board President and Secretary be authorized to execute DECO-779 Resolution form concerning the BVIU budget.

6. Audit Engagement

It is recommended to approve an agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Hosack, Specht, Muetzel and Wood LLP for School District Financial and Real Estate Tax Collector Audits, at a cost of \$20,300.00 for the Year Ended June 30, 2021; \$20,600.00 for the Year Ended June 30, 2022; \$20,900.00 for the Year Ended June 30, 2023.

7. Service Agreement Renewal

It is recommended to renew the service agreement with Associated Occupational Therapy for the 2021-2022 school year with no increase in rates.

Ms. Pedigo moved to accept items 1-7, seconded by Mrs. Curtis. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Angus

Athletics

Mr. Campalongo

Public Relations

Mr. Metz

Point of Information

Hall of Honor

Hall of Honor nominations are now being accepted. The District will accept applications until **April 30, 2021**. Selected recipients will be recognized at the Graduation Ceremony on June 11, 2021.

Applications forms may be obtained on the district’s website at www.ambridge.k12.pa.us.

Steering and Rules

Mrs. Kehoe

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

It is recommended, as a final reading, to revise 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.

2. Policy 113.1 – Discipline of Students with Disabilities – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final reading, to revise School Board Policy 113.1– *Discipline of Students with Disabilities*, to develop and implement Positive Behavior Support Plans and programs for students with disabilities who require specific interventions to address behaviors that interfere with learning.

3. Policy 113.2 – Behavior Support – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final reading to revise School Board Policy 113.2 – *Behavior Support*, to ensure students with disabilities shall be educated in the least restrictive environment in accordance with their Individualized Education Program.

4. Policy 113.4 – Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final reading to adopt School Board Policy 113.4 – *Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information*, to protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information in the education records of students with disabilities.

5. Policy 122 – Extracurricular Activities – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final reading, to revise School Board Policy 122 - *Extracurricular Activities*, to recognize the educational values inherent in student participation in extracurricular activities and supports the concept of student organizations.

6. Policy 123 – Interscholastic Athletics – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final reading, to revise School Board Policy 123 - *Interscholastic Athletics*, to recognize the value of a program of interscholastic athletics as an integral part of the total school experience for all district students.

7. Policy 123.2 – Sudden Cardiac Arrest – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final reading, to revise School Board Policy 123.2 - *Sudden Cardiac Arrest*, to ensure the safety of students participating in the district’s athletic program.

8. Policy 218.3 – Discipline of Student Convicted/Adjudicated of Sexual Assault – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final reading, to adopt School Board Policy 218.2 - *Discipline of Student Convicted/Adjudicated of Sexual Assault*, to recognize the importance of a safe school environment for students who are victims of sexual assault.

9. Policy 252 – Dating Violence – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final reading, to adopt School Board Policy 252 – *Dating Violence*, to maintain a safe, positive learning environment for all students that is free from dating violence.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to accept items 1-9, seconded by Mr. Angus. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Legislative

Ms. Young

Salary Schedule and Labor Relations

Mrs. Curtis

Personnel

Mr. Angus

1. Administrative Layoffs

It is recommended to hereby approve the following administrative layoffs, effective June 30, 2021, in order to realign the District’s administrative staff to meet its institutional and budgetary objectives for the 2021-2022 school year.

AASD Employee #2782

2. Rescind

It is recommended to rescind Brittany McKittrick as the Varsity Assistant Softball Coach, approved at the February 17, 2021 Board Meeting.

3. 2020-2021 Spring Coaches

It is recommended to ratify the following individuals 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, provided the school year allows and coaches are able to hold spring sports as normal.

<p>1) <u>Baseball</u></p> <p> a) Chris Conover, Assistant Coach</p> <p> b) Mike Mellor, Middle School Coach</p>	<p><u>Stipends</u></p> <p>\$2,400.00</p> <p>\$1,350.00</p>
<p>2) <u>Softball</u></p> <p> a) James Huwar, Head Coach</p> <p> b) Brittany McKittrick, Middle School Coach</p> <p> c) Joe Georgakis, Volunteer</p> <p> d) Danielle Droz, Volunteer</p>	<p>\$4,300.00</p> <p>\$2,050.00</p> <p>No Remuneration</p> <p>No Remuneration</p>
<p>3) <u>Track</u></p> <p> a) Nicole Laquatra, Assistant Coach</p> <p> b) Logan Erickson, Volunteer Coach</p>	<p>\$1,900.00</p> <p>No Remuneration</p>
<p>4) <u>Volleyball</u></p> <p> a) Jason Benkowski, Assistant Coach</p> <p> b) Jorge Bojorquez, Volunteer Coach</p>	<p>\$2,400.00</p> <p>No Remuneration</p>

4. 6th Grade Accelerated Mathematics Program

It is recommended to approve the following individuals as instructors for the 6th Grade Accelerated Mathematics Program. The program will run from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM every Tuesday and Thursday, June 15, 2021 through July 29, 2021. Instructors will be compensated as per the collective bargaining agreement.

Lauren Mawhinney, Facilitator
Ashley Simpson, Substitute

5. 2020-2021 Musical Staffing

It is recommended to ratify the following volunteers for the 2020-2021 musical at no remuneration, pending receipt of current clearances and TB testing:

Jared Davis	Toni Dunlap
Walker Martz	Kristi Indovina
Jean Fritsch	Jennifer Setzenfand
Scott Setzenfand	Nicole Pucci

6. Slippery Rock University Student Teacher

It is recommended to approve Alyson Williams, a Slippery Rock University student, for student teaching at Economy Elementary, 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. Alyson will be placed with Kelly Bischak.

7. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #2508 taking an unpaid leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave beginning April 30, 2021, not to exceed 12 weeks.

8. Varsity Head Football Coach

It is recommended to approve Sherman McBride for a three-year agreement as the High School Head Football coach. The agreement will commence 2021-2022 school year and end 2023-2024 school year, with a stipend of \$9,000.00 per year, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening, **pending final review of the Solicitor.**

Mr. Angus moved to accept items 1-8, seconded by Mr. Metz. Vote in favor was unanimous.

XIII. Solicitor's Report

XIV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla thanked everyone as always. Dr. Pasquerilla also stated that it's been over a year we have been dealing with this difficult situation and thanked staff, parents, students and the whole community for everything that they do and appreciates it.

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated the new Football Coach and welcomed him to the Bridger Team.

XV. Motion to Adjourn

At 9:01 p.m. Mrs. Fischer moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Campalong. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted

**Mrs. June Mueller
Board Secretary**

ATTACHMENT

Nicole Pucci

First and foremost i am pleading with the board to approve the option for 5 day in person learning for the remainder of the school year, as almost all of our neighboring districts have already done. I feel that the option should be given for those of us who feel it would benefit our children to be in person five days. (Summarize only this part) – Requesting the Board to approve 5 day in person learning.

My second question pertains to the up coming musical. I do not understand why the children were not able to perform the show live with a limited audience and have it lived streamed as well. I believe ALL the athletic have been handled this way. Why not the arts? I feel that all the Arts, including band, jazz ensemble, choirs, and steel drums have suffered the most during this shut down not being allow to perform together at all. I just feel that the district doesn't value the arts or the students who are interesting in them. You need a blend of academics and extracurricular activities to make a well rounded student. And I feel as though the music and arts program have been put on the back burner especially during this pandemic.

I was grateful that the kids got to do a musical performance this year, I'm just not understanding why we as parents were not able to view a live show as well as have at live stream for family and friends to see. If it's good enough for the Athletics it's good enough for the arts.

I know these are trying times and difficult decisions to make. But I urge you to consider letting the students perform a musical that at least the parents should be able to view live. There are 12 seniors in the musical cast this year and it will be nice to be able to see them one last time perform on stage live.

Jennifer Setzenfand
152 Mary Reed Road
Baden, PA 15005
Economy

Please explain why the school musical cannot be performed for an audience, following the state guidelines, but sports can have spectators following the state guidelines. Please do not answer that is was decided in October how the school musical would be performed because much has changed regarding COVID regulations since October.

The school musical currently does not have a Teacher sponsor and the budget was dramatically cut this year. Is there a board member or committee that can commit to working with the school to make sure that the musical is a priority going forward? These students come alive on stage and deserve the same level of care that is given to sports. Can the board please appoint someone to oversee the musical, an important extracurricular activity, going forward?

Danielle Young

- With situations and new things always changing, I fully understand this is a fluid situation, but would like to express the importance of trying to get these children back to school, to have more face/face learning and experiences.
-

Lori Hrinko
ParkHill Road
Economy Borough

As guidelines and restrictions continue to lessen, as well as the declining number of covid cases combined with the increased number of population that has been vaccinated, what is the timeline to get our students back in person five days a week?

Sarajane Hill
161 Mary Reed Rd. Baden PA

I have three children in the Ambridge school district in grades 9, 6 and 4. I am requesting the students return to school full time, in person and 5 days a week in all grades, K-12.

My son is in 9th grade and attends in person on hybrid days. For over half of his academic classes, he is in the classroom with the teacher, himself and 1 student. Many times he is the only student. Not only do we need to focus on K-8 for return to the classroom, the high school students need immediate attention also.

Please consider sending the Ambridge area students back full time and in person. Our children need a consistent schedule for educational and social growth. Our students need in person learning to be engaged and to meet their academic goals.

Amanda Brisco
Baden

I'm writing to see what the plans are for getting our students back into the classroom, full time. With the teachers vaccinated and the new recommendation of 3ft of social distancing, there is no reason why we do not have the option to have our children back in the classroom. I realize there are some families that wish to keep their children home, which is their choice. What about those of us who wish to have our children back? Where is our choice?

The ability to keep our own children engaged in online learning is becoming increasingly difficult. They are given unlimited access to features on the iPad where we as a family do not allow in our own household. Why do we not have a say in this? Expecting students, especially elementary school students, to learn on an iPad is completely unrealistic and it's no longer working in our household. How far behind are you going to allow them to get in their education?

You will allow student athletes to participate in sports, masked, but not allow them to be in the classroom full time, masked. If those who voted in favor of that could explain that logic publicly, perhaps it would help us to understand where your reasoning is. If it is because of classroom sizes, again, please explain the logic behind

continuing to furlough teachers. It is my understanding that those were both voted on in the last meeting. Other districts have been able to get their kids back in school with no issues, with no spread of Covid. There is no reason why we cannot do the same.

Vicky Freed
Economy

I am asking that you lift the no field trip ruling as it pertains to school groups that have activities relating to their organization off of school property.

For example, steel drum usually performs many times outside of school during and after school hours which are classified as field trips. Therefore, they are not permitted to attend these functions at this time due to the no field trip ruling.

This is a small group of students who often provide their own transportation to these functions. Masks will be worn and social distancing will not be an issue.

It is not fair to keep groups such as these from "playing their sport" when all high school sports have opened. If sports teams can board the bus and travel to play away games then these other school groups should be able to participate in their activities off of school property.

Students need this interaction with their peers. It is great for the kids who play sports to be allowed to have their season. But, we are leaving out the students who do not play sports but have performances/activities/competitions relating to their organization off of school property that are not permitted to attend because of the field trip ruling.
