

Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Voting Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held virtually via ZOOM on Wednesday, March 10, 2021.

- 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, March 10, 2021. This meeting is being held to take action that has come before the Board. All meetings have been advertised to permit legislative action as necessary.
- 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 Young
- 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 Executive Session(s) on Wednesday, March 10th to discuss:
- Personnel matter(s)
 - Matters subject to attorney client privilege and other confidentiality laws
 - Litigation or threatened litigation matters
- VI. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda**
Add Item 1 under Education and Technology

VII. Presentation

Presentation by Mrs. Addie Lucatorto – Athletic and Extracurricular Health and Safety Plan review of spectators, and masks requirements.

The Board of School Directors agreed on:

4 tickets per player

Home team will mask

Allowing team to play opponents that do no mask

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 Attachment

VIII. LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THIS MEETING

Finance and Budget

Ms. Pedigo

1. On The Stage Contract

It is recommended to approve a contract with On The Stage to provide production management platform for the Ambridge Area High School Musical with options of virtual streamed performances and online ticket sales. This will reduce staffing and technology components. The company will take a percentage from each transaction as follows:

\$0.75 ticket fee

4% cc fee

\$.30 per transaction (regardless of how many tickets are purchased in a single transaction.)

\$1.00 streaming fee for all streaming options (live stream, virtual and video on demand)

Mrs. Manganello made a motion to accept item 1, seconded by Mr. Angus. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Personnel**Mr. Angus**1. Resignation

It is recommended to ratify the resignation of Eliana Jorgensen, a Social Worker at Highland Elementary and State Street Elementary, effective March 12, 2021, with regret.

2. Resignation

It is recommended to ratify the resignation of Nicole Hoegerl, an English Language Learner Teacher at the Middle School and Economy Elementary, effective March 12, 2021, with regret.

3. Long-Term Substitute

It is recommended to retroactively approve Zane Adiyeh as a Long-Term Substitute Teacher at the High School, at a prorate of 70% of \$45,101.00, Step 1 Bachelors, effective September 22, 2020, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Mr. Angus made a motion to accept items 1-3, seconded by Mr. Metz. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Salary Schedule and Labor Relations**Mrs. Curtis**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 the Social Worker position.

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 the extension of Unpaid Leave.

Mrs. Curtis made a motion to accept items 1-2, seconded by Ms. Young. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Education and Technology

Mrs. Manganello

1. **Musical**

It is recommended to permit one ticket to one night performance to every performing arts student.

Mrs. Manganello made a motion to accept item 1, seconded by Mrs. Curtis. Vote in favor was unanimous.

IX. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla thanked staff, parents, and everyone for making the transition back to hybrid successful. It has gone the best that it could possibly go. And for the staff, parents that help to make sure this was successful.

X. Solicitor's Report

XI. Motion to Adjourn the Voting Meeting

At 7:28 p.m. Mrs. Fischer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Angus. All in favor.

RECONVENE THE MEET AND DISCUSS

Respectfully Submitted,

**Mrs. June Mueller
Board Secretary**

ATTACHMENT

Kelly Olenic
Economy Twp.

Ambridge Area school board - I am writing as a concerned parent and teacher that the elementary students need to go back to school 4 days/week. My youngest son is a first grader and is on the grey rotation. He will only have one extra Friday to attend in the whole month of March! The school calendar was not set up for Fridays to be additional school days. There are too many Fridays off.

I am a biology teacher at Central Valley high school and our district is comparable to Ambridge. CV has been open 5 days a week since Jan. 26th with students having the option to do virtual. We have not closed any buildings since that time. It's so frustrating to me leaving for work each morning and leaving my own children behind at home to learn.

There was a study done by the CDC that there is not significant spread of COVID in schools. I will link the article to my letter. If students and teachers are wearing masks and hand washing the disease should be avoided.

If there are elementary classes with too many children to social distance, then those classes should be moved to the library or auditorium. Parents always have the option to keep their children home if they are uncomfortable with the situation. You should give the parents the option of whether their children attend in person or not. The COVID numbers are steadily decreasing and will continue to do so with the vaccine roll out and weather turning warmer. Please make a plan to have all elementary students back full time by April 1st.

Thank you for your continued support.

Jennifer Setzenfand, Economy

Dear School Board Members,

I am urging you to get involved and analyze the school musical program. Myself, and the parents of the cast, have many questions regarding viewing and financing of the school musical. This year we have been told, we are not allowed to attend performances and that they will be recorded. Then the school has informed us that we will have to buy tickets to watch the recording online at set times on March 26,27,28th. I reiterate, we have to pay to watch a video of our children's performance. Meanwhile sports have been free to attend this year, often in person, and if not via live stream, due to the pandemic.

Additionally, there are many discrepancies as to the budget for the school musical. Prior to 2019, the school paid for the rights and the directors salaries and then the musical boosters ran the ticket sales and used the money to pay for the many expenses which include, musician, backdrops, sets, set rentals, costumes, and props. I was pleased to work with the former business manager in 2019 to bring the ticket money to the school under the understanding that they would take over the expenses and that is what happened in 2019 and 2020.

This year we were made aware that there is no budget for the school musical beyond the salaries of the directors. The directors have asked the boosters to help and pay for over \$2000 in expenses that the school has refused to pay this year. The boosters traditional methods of fundraising rely on in person performances. We do not have an audience to have 50/50s, concession stands, and Chinese auctions so we are limited in our ability to fundraise this year. I am asking how is it possible that the school had a budget for the rights, directors, and expenses in 2019 and 2020 and this year there was no budget for the musical beyond the directors salaries? Ticket sales were \$22,800 last year. Why was funding taken away from the school musical? I urge you to make reviewing the school musical a top priority, we cannot lose any more students to Lincoln Park because of our lack of support of the arts.

Here are my questions:

Are all activities self-funding? Does every sport sell enough tickets to cover their expenses? In the school budget under student activities there is over \$900,000 allocated, is none of that allocated to the school musical? The musical can only exist if there are enough tickets sold to pay for itself?

Why can we not attend performances with limited attendance like sports?

Why are sports free to attend this year but the musical parents must buy tickets?

The musical is set to film next week. We really need answers now. Please help.