

Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, September 15 2021.

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, September 15, 2021, 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
Mr. Chuck Campalongo
Dr. Denise Manganello
Mr. William Metz

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

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, September 15th to discuss:

- Personnel matter(s)
- Information, strategy and/or negotiation session relating to the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement
- Matters subject to attorney client privilege and other confidentiality laws
- Litigation or threatened litigation matters

VI. Correspondence

VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of: Wednesday, August 11th Meet and Discuss Voting Meeting, Wednesday, August 11th Meet and Discuss Non-Voting Meeting and Wednesday, August 18th Board Meeting.

Mr. Angus made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Metz. All in favor.

VIII. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report dated: No Treasurer's Report**IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda**

Amended Item 6 under Personnel

Mr. Metz made a motion to accept the amendment, seconded by Dr. Manganello. All in favro

X. Recognition/Presentation**XI. Public Comment (Regarding Agenda Items Only)**

At this time, DISTRICT RESIDENTS may come forward to comment on agenda items only. Each person must state their first and last name and address prior to speaking. Each resident will be allowed three minutes and can speak only once. This period for public comment prior to the standing committee reports will be limited to one-half hour. Although not required, board members desiring to address questions or concerns may do so after the residents' comments/questions or at the conclusion of the committee reports. There will still be an opportunity for residents to comment on any business relevant to the Ambridge Area School District under Old and New Business at the end of the meeting.

Desiree Conrad, Ambridge, PA

- Questioned Items 1-2 under Steering and Rules
 - Ms. Turnbull, this is to comply with the new sunshine law for transparency

Rachel Sutton, Baden

- Who decides the de minimis
 - Ms. Turnbull, we need to be respectful of the sunshine law and we have never had a motion from the floor. And if we would we would have to figure out how to do that lawfully.

Desiree Conrad, Ambridge, PA

- Concerns with who decides the importance of the de minis of what goes on the agenda

XII. Committee Reports**Education and Technology****Dr. Manganello**1. Smile Program

It is recommended to amend the approval of the Smile Program, approved at the August 18th Board meeting, to note that the mobile dentist will be offered to all elementary buildings.

2. Student Discipline 2021-2022-05

It is recommended to ratify discipline agreement for student #7701615822 relevant to a High School student, effective September 2, 2021.

3. Student Discipline 2021-2022-06

It is recommended to ratify discipline agreement for student #8698994393 relevant to a High School student, effective September 14, 2021.

Dr. Manganello moved to accept items 1-3., seconded by Mr. Mets. 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 \$1,470,728.12 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$947,885.59 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$7,822.84 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$12,595.53 be paid.

3. PA-Educator

It is recommended to approve the contract of service between the Ambridge Area School District and Pennsylvania Educators' Clearinghouse, (PA-Educator.net) for the 2021-2022 school year at a cost of \$2,175.00.

4. Grant Acceptance

It is recommended to accept the 2021-2022 Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts expansion grant in the total amount of \$175,000.00, from the Office of Child Development and Early Learning. The funds will be used to expand the number of slots to serve eligible children by opening an additional Pre-K classroom at Economy Elementary. Mrs. Jo Ann Hoover was instrumental in securing this grant.

5. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve a tax exoneration regarding collection of Real Estate Tax for the years of 2013 through 2020 relevant to Tax Parcel #09-002-0511.000, 330 Maplewood Avenue, Ambridge, PA 15003 to be purchased by Jasmire Owens, conditioned upon mutual municipal and county reciprocal exoneration for the same years.

6. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve a tax exoneration regarding collection of Real Estate Tax for 2016 relevant to Tax Parcel #60-185-0297.001, 2 Orchard Drive, Baden, PA 15005 to be purchased by Bradley Garrone, conditioned upon mutual municipal and county reciprocal exoneration for the same years.

7. Repository

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

- a) 316 6th Street, Ambridge, PA Tax Parcel 10-002-0937.000, for the bid amount of \$1,607.00 to KA Merchant Property, LLC.
- b) 4 Rear Glenwood Drive, Ambridge, PA Tax Parcel 09-005-0706.000, for the amount of \$1,729.00 to Rhaumauri Campbell, Ramon Campbell and Tania Reddick.

Ms. Pedigo move to accept items 1-7, seconded by Dr. Manganello. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Buildings and Grounds**Mr. Angus**1. Western PA Natural Gas Consortium

It is recommended to approve a three (3) year extension agreement with Direct Energy Business Marketing through WPA Natural Gas Consortium at an 18% savings. The three year extension will commence on September 1, 2022 and end August 31, 2025.

2. Trane U.S. Inc.

It is recommended to approve a one (1) year service agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Trane U.S. Inc. to provide HVAC maintenance, at a total cost of \$6,707.00, pending solicitor review.

3. ThyssenKrupp Elevator Corporation

It is recommended to approve a three (3) year maintenance agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and ThyssenKrupp Elevator Corporation for service and maintenance of elevators in district buildings beginning in October 1, 2021, at a cost of \$1,600.00 per month. This is at a discounted price.

Mr. Angus moved to accept items 1-3, seconded by Mrs. Kehoe. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Athletics**Mr. Campalong****Public Relations****Mr. Metz****Steering and Rules****Mrs. Kehoe**1. Policy 006 – Local Board Procedures – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to update School Board Policy 006 – *Local Board Procedures*, to assist with compliance with Sunshine Act Amendments, Act 65 of 2021, which requires public notice of board business by posting agendas of open board meetings with the intent to facilitate transparency.

2. Policy 903 – Public Participation in Board Meetings – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to update School Board Policy 903 – *Public Participation in Board Meetings*, to assist with the compliance with the Sunshine Act Amendments, Act 65 of 2021, which requires public notice of board business by posting agendas of open board meetings with the intent to facilitate transparency.

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

Legislative

Ms. Young

Salary Schedule and Labor Relations

Mrs. Curtis

1. Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association Agreement

It is recommended to approve the agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026.

2. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Area Educational Support Personnel Association determining joint determination on a position exclusion from the bargaining unit.

3. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Area Education Association regarding the Janus v. AFSCME, Fare Share shall be removed from the contract.

4. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Area Education Association to amicably resolve wage overpayment.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to accept items 1-4, seconded by Mr. Metz. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Personnel

Mr. Angus

1. 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 school psychologist services, as per the terms of the agreement, **pending solicitor’s review of the final agreement.**

2. Cafeteria Food Service Assistant/Substitute Non-Bargaining Unit Employee

It is recommended to hire Kathryn O’Keefe as Food Service Assistant/Substitute non-bargaining unit employee for the 2021-2022 school year, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

3. Retirement

It is recommended to approve the resignation due to retirement of Stephanie Jacob from her position as a Para-Professional at Economy Elementary, effective September 15, 2021, with regret.

4. Retirement

It is recommended to approve the resignation due to retirement of Debra Ferguson from her position as a Para-Professional at the middle school, effective October 8, 2021, with regret.

5. FMLA

It is recommended to approve employee #2715 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave beginning September 22, 2021, not to exceed 12 weeks.

6. Payroll Secretary

It is recommended to re-hire Marcy Adams as the Payroll Secretary at Step 15 of the negotiated agreement and with benefits as accrued through June 30, 2021, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

7. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

It is recommended the following individuals who have applied for the specified posted positions for the 2021-2022 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 activities as normal.

<u>ACTIVITY/CLUB (High School)</u>		<u>SALARY</u>
Sophomore Class	Greg Helsel	\$1,150.00
Teen Leadership	Kim Bogati	470.00

8. Para-Professionals (Teaching Assistants)

It is recommended to approve the following individuals as Para-Professionals (Teaching Assistants) at the High School, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association (ESPA/PSEA/NEA), pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Sameh Rafla, High School
Barbara Friez, Economy Elementary

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

XIII. Solicitor's Report

Ms. Turnbull reported that the PDE sent out the attached communications that was to all school entities in the Common Wealth of Pennsylvania on September 10th

XIV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla introduced Mrs. Bethann Eyth, the new Director of Business and Operations.

XV. Old and New Business

It is now time for old and new business. Any DISTRICT RESIDENT who desires to comment on any business relevant to the Ambridge Area School District should now come forward. Each person must state their first and last name and address prior to speaking. Each person will be allowed three minutes and can speak only once.

Desiree Conrad, Ambridge, PA

- Expressed concerns about the masking mandate and correspondences from PDE
- Thanked the Board for listening to her concerns

Meagan Trimbur, Economy

- Thanks the Board for hiring the appropriate number of football coaches.
- Expressed concerns of students who were quarantined being able to work remotely from home and why they are being marked truant.
 - Dr. Pasquerilla said that students that are quarantined should be given the opportunity to logon from home and would research on why these students would be marked truant. Encouraged parent to reach out to building Principal to ask why this would happen.
- Expressed concerns about the Middle School SRO no longer being in the building.

Christine Paxton, Economy

- Expressed concern about the Middle School SRO no longer being in the building and feels the SRO should have exemption on wearing his mask due to interference of his job as an SRO.

Mary Green, Economy

- Expressed concerns about the mask mandate and feel that it should be the parents' choice.
 - Dr. Pasquerilla said prior to the mandate, whether he recommended or not, the Board made it optional until PDE made the mandate. The most recent correspondence from PDE did say it would be the 504 plan for mask exemption. Expressed that he is trying to follow the mandate to be fair and consistent to everyone.
 - Ms. Turnbull said that not everyone who goes through the 504 plan process, because it is an individualized process, not everyone end up with 504 plan. We will not miss a child under our child find obligations. is going to be eligible for the 504 plan.

Cindy Warden, Economy

- Expressed concerns about students being sent home to be tested or quarantined for the common cold or sinus infection.

Lisa Patton, Economy

- Expressed concerns with parents, such as herself, are following if your child exhibits symptoms you should keep your child at home but their child has not been quarantined they are unable to work remote.
 - Dr. Pasquerilla said if your child exhibits symptoms you should go through the nurse and principal and should be allowed to login remotely, if they are showing symptoms.

Stacey Chalupiak, Baden

- Asked if Board member were ever asked to sign a nondisclosure agreement.
 - Board answered "no".
- Asked why masking is not on the agenda.
 - Dr. Pasquerilla answered that back in June the Board did vote to make masking optional and that following the district health and safety plan, if there was a mandate they would follow the mandate.
 - Dr. Manganello good decision to reach out to the local legislatures. Explains the Board voted to give parents the choice and that was taken away when the mandate went into place.

Emily Maddox, Baden

- Expressed concerns about the mask mandate and students having to wear masks.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At 9:08 p.m., Mrs. Kehoe made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Pedigo. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary

ATTACHMENT

Dear Chief School Administrator:

I hope this letter finds you, your family, and community safe and your schools secure. The start of this school year has been extraordinarily challenging and your continued leadership is appreciated.

A few brief updates ahead of the weekend --

- Late yesterday, [President Biden announced a series of additional federal measures Opens In A New Window](#) to help bring the pandemic under control. The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and our partners in the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services are working to digest the Path Out of the Pandemic Action Plan; its implications for the commonwealth, including personnel who work under Federal programs; and next steps in our implementation role.
- On Wednesday, PDE [issued a communication to a school district](#) that has exhibited significant noncompliance with the [Acting Secretary of Health's Face Coverings Order](#). While this letter responds to a specific set of circumstances in a single school entity, the cautions and conditions are broadly applicable to all school entities – both public and nonpublic.
- Relatedly, this Order is not a mask optional policy. Any school entity simply permitting a parent's sign-off without evidence that the student has a medical or mental health condition or disability that precludes the wearing of a face covering is not in compliance with the Order. Under the Order, and as set forth in [PDE's Answers to FAQs](#), school entities must require all individuals, two years of age and older, to wear face coverings unless the individual has a medical or mental health condition or disability that precludes the wearing of a face covering. In accordance with Section 3 of the Order, before an individual is excepted from the Order, all alternatives to a face covering, including a face shield, are to be exhausted. It is recommended that any exception be in accordance with eligibility under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA for such medical or mental health condition or disability. School entities should follow their established processes for determining student eligibility under those laws, including any medical documentation that they would normally require. There are exceptions to the Order; however, a parent's opposition to the Order is not one of them.

Thank you for your continuing efforts during this challenging time.