

Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Voting Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, September 8, 2021.

I. Call to Order: Mrs. Fischer called the meeting to order at approximately 7:20 p.m.

The Meet and Discuss Voting Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is held on Wednesday, September 8, 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
Mr. Chuck Campalong
Mrs. Kathleen Curtis
Dr. 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

Nothing to report

VI. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda

Tabled items 2-5 under Education and Technology until meeting reconvened at conclusion of hearings

Dr. Manganello made a motion to accept the amendment to the agenda, seconded by Mr. Campalong. All in favor.

VII. Recognition/Presentation

Presentation by Principals – Field Trips and Specials

VIII. 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.

Lisa Podolac, Baden pa

- Being that Principals were talking about social distancing for field trips, specials, and open house. Why wouldn't the district make sue out of the now empty 5th grade classroom at Economy Elementary?
 - Mrs. Fischer agrees on the importance of keeping these events for the socialization of the students.

IX. LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THIS MEETING**Education and Technology****Dr. Manganello**1. Middle School Handbook

It is recommended to amend the Middle School handbook to change the bell schedule transition time from two (2) to three (3) minutes.

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

2. Student Discipline 2021-2022-01

It is recommended to ratify discipline agreement for student #5438315299 relevant to a High School student, effective September 2, 2021.

3. Student Discipline 2021-2022-02

It is recommended to ratify discipline agreement for student #1374035157 relevant to a High School student, effective September 2, 2021.

4. Student Discipline 2021-2022-03

It is recommended to affirm the recommended discipline for student 2911075749, as recommended by the superintendent after the hearing.

5. Student Discipline 2021-2022-04

It is recommended that the Board take no further action to extend the exclusion of Student 3907674847 beyond the 10 day suspension with the following conditions: (1) Student shall not bring pepper spray or similar weapon on school property or at school activities, and (2) If Student commits a Level 2, 3 or 4 offense, Student will be brought to the School Board for review and further proceedings.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to accept items 2-5, seconded by Mr. Campalong. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Personnel**Mr. Angus**1. Middle School Principal

It is recommended to hire Ronnell Heard as the Ambridge Area Middle School Principal at a salary of \$97,000.00, effective date to be determined, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

2. Temporary Athletic Program Assistant

It is recommended to ratify the approval of Matthew LaPorte as the Temporary Athletic Program Assistant, effective Monday, August 30, 2021, to provide support for the Athletic Director, to be paid as per the agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Area Education Association, until the position of Middle School Principal is filled.

3. Professional Employee

It is recommended to approve Ashley Schmidt as an Ambridge Area High School Life Skills Teacher, at a salary of \$46,101.00 (Bachelor, Step 1 +24), effective date to be determined, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEA/PSEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

4. 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.

ACTIVITY/CLUB (High School)

		<u>SALARY</u>
Spanish Club	Sarah Bogan	\$ 470.00

ACTIVITY/CLUB (Middle School)

		<u>SALARY</u>
Technology Student Association – TSA	Scott Setzenfand	\$ 470.00
Student Council	Samantha King	\$ 470.00
Science Explorers Club	Don Ayers	\$ 470.00
Interact	Amy Braund	\$ 470.00

5. Posted Position: Department Head

It is recommended the following individual who has applied for the specified posted position for the 2021-2022 school year be approved at the salary designated in the negotiated agreement:

<u>DEPARTMENT HEADS</u>		<u>SALARY</u>
<u>K-12:</u>		
Guidance	Chelsea Benedict	\$1,365.00

6. 2021-2022 Fall Coach

It is recommended to approve the following individual to fill the designated fall coaching position for the 2021-2022 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 fall sports as normal.

1) <u>Girls Varsity Soccer</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
David Smith, Head Coach	\$4,300.00

7. Technology Integrator

It is recommended to approve the following individual to serve as the Technology Integrator in their assigned buildings for the 2021-2022 school year, to be paid a stipend of \$1,200.00, as per the collective bargaining agreement:

Middle School
Amy Fedorek

Mr. Angus moved to accept items 1-7, seconded by Mr. Angus.. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Salary Schedule and Labor Relations

Mrs. Curtis

1. 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, PSEA/NEA regarding the collective bargaining agreement, Article XVII, "Hours of Work", Section A, "Work Year".

Mrs. Curtis moved to accept item 1, seconded by Mr. Metz. Vote in favor was unanimous.

X. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla reviewed the Principals presentation on Field Trips and Specials during presentation.

XI. Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report

XII. 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.

Desire Conrad, Ambridge PA

- Expressed concerns about the masking mandate and students having to wear masks in school.

Christine Paxton, Economy PA

- Expressed concerns about the masking mandate and students having to wear masks in school

Justin Buchanan, Economy PA

- Expressed concerns with quarantining students – now that we are masking will students still be quarantined? Will the COVID calls continue? Will classroom still be disrupted and moved around due to COVID exposures?
 - Dr. Pasquerilla said that if all parties have mask the will not be quarantined but if they are exposed at lunch, Physical Education or sports and they would be in close contact they would have to quarantine, furthermore, these things change and are out of the district's control. Answering today to the best of his knowledge but that may change due to health department.
 - As far as calls, the intention will be to continue to send to be transparent and informative for folks that want that information.
 - The district will continue to sanitize classroom after an exposure.

Stacey Chalupiak, Baden, PA

- Expressed concerns about the masking mandate and students having to wear masks in school. Feels this should be the parents' choice not the district's choice.

Rachel Nish, Baden, PA

- Expressed concerns about the masking mandate and students having to wear masks in school, there are studies that have shown by wearing masks ant the levels of concentration of carbon dioxide exposure causes fatigue, headache and loss of concentration. Feels facemasks should not be required upon students, it is against the PA Constitution and this is listed under child abuse by interfering with the child's breathing.

Adrianna Cephas, Ambridge, PA

- Expressed the seriousness of COVID and the importance of wearing masks.
- Feels Open House is allowed to be open for all family members to get these children back to some normalcy.

Kasey ProKop Economy PA

- Acknowledge the Board for their difficult choices they had to make this year.
- Speaks on behalf on the children who cannot represent themselves against mask mandates
- Masks should be optional and should be the parents or the legal guardians choice

XIII. Motion to Adjourn the Voting Meeting

At approximately 8:41 p.m. Dr. Manganello made a motion to adjourn until later in the evening for conclusion of discipline hearings, seconded by Ms. Young. All in favor.

RECONVENE THE MEET AND DISCUSS

At approximately 11:26 p.m. Mr. Angus motioned to reconvene the Meet and Discuss Voting meeting for the conclusion of the discipline hearings, seconded Mrs. Kehoe. All in favor.

At approximately 12:00 a.m. there was a motion to adjourn. All in favor.