

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, October 20, 2021.

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, October 20, 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: 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
 Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe, Treasurer
 Mr. Chuck Campalong
 Mrs. Kathleen Curtis
 Dr. Denise Manganello
 Mr. William Metz
 Ms. Valerie Pedigo
 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 an Executive Session on Wednesday, October 13th and October 20th to discuss:

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

VI. Correspondence

No Correspondence

VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of: Wednesday, September 8th Meet and Discuss Voting Meeting, Wednesday, September 8th Meet and Discuss Non-Voting Meeting and Wednesday, September 15th Board Meeting

Mrs. Curtis moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Ms. Young. All in favor.

VIII. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report dated: August and September, 2021

Mrs. Kehoe 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****Mrs. Fischer would like to recognize the following Student Athletes for their accomplishments:****Adam Fernandez, Football Team, 9th Grader**

Ambridge Bridgers freshman Wide Receiver/Kick Returner/Punt Returner Adam Fernandez scored on a 60 yard punt return for a touchdown, 80 yard kick return for a touchdown and added one catch for 50 yards. In total, Adam had 210 all-purpose yards en route to a 35-9 victory over the Hopewell Vikings. Adam's play helped the Bridgers break a 28 game losing streak! Adam's accomplishments earned him a nomination for PA player of the week. Adam finished second with 24% of the votes (17,961) total votes.

Will Gruca, Boys Soccer Team, 11th Grader

Through just 12 games (as of 10/10/2021), Will Gruca has tallied 24 goals, 16 assists, and played in 96% of the total minutes this year. Will has lead his team to clinch 2nd place in the section, putting the Ambridge Bridgers en route to a strong seed for playoff position. Will has also been the subject of a Beaver County Times article for his outstanding achievements. Will is our only junior captain, and is on pace to be selected for All-Section and All-WPIAL.

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
 - Concerns with Comprehensive Plan and math test scores, and common core math also concerns with there not being an SRO at the Middle School
- Cindy Morgo, Economy Boro
 - Concerns with common core math
- John Carpenter, Ambridge, PA
 - Who conducts the evaluation measures used to determine the increase for the Superintendent and Administrators
 - ✓ For the Act 93 members there is a baseline document for the Administrators increases.

- ✓ For the Superintendent, all Board members complete an evaluation form and on the superintendent as evaluation tool for percentages of increase.
- ✓ A broad area of the evaluation of the Superintendent is posted on the website. And after the evaluation a statement of the evaluation is to be placed on the website under the Superintendent's page.

XII. Committee Reports

Education and Technology

Dr. Manganello

Point of Information

The Baden Memorial Library is presenting a new book club entitled Eleventh Hour Book Club for grades 2-5, for reluctant, struggling, and stubborn readers. Please contact the Baden Memorial Library for more information.

1. Comprehensive Plan

It is recommended to approve the Ambridge Area School District Comprehensive Plan after the 28 days of public display. The plan is on display for public review at the Administration Office and online on our website.

2. Economy Elementary Before and After School Child Care

It is recommended to adjust the hours of the before school child care to accommodate parents and students. The recommended hours are 6:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and the current hours are 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

3. Student Agreement 2021-2022-09

It is recommended to ratify discipline agreement for student #9304655102 relevant to a high school student, effective October 15, 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 \$2,773,583.27 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,253,109.82 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$62,162.90 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$55,498.34 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) 525 Glenwood Avenue, Ambridge, PA Tax Parcel 10-003-0328.000, for the bid amount of \$2,955.00 to Michael Cowan.
- b) 1622 Church Street, Ambridge, PA Tax Parcel 12-005-0327.000, for the bid amount of \$1,311.00 to Michael and Barbara Knecht.
- c) 1008 11th Street Ambridge, PA Tax Parcel 12-004-0702.000, for the bid amount of \$1,841.00 to Dale Management, LLC.

4. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve the request for real estate tax exoneration for 2021 and prior years for Parcel No. 10-002-0937.00, 316 6th Street, Ambridge, PA purchased by KA Merchant Property, LLC.

5. Grant Acceptance

It is recommended to accept the Emergency Connectivity Fund in the approximate amount of \$140,000.00, from the Universal Service Administrative Company. The funds will be used for students who cannot afford internet services and also to purchase approximately 350 new iPads to replace the used ones. Mrs. Lori Heim was instrumental in securing this grant.

6. Disabled Veterans Tax Exemption

It is recommended to approve a Disabled Veterans Tax Exemption for property located at 162 Jordan Street, South Heights, PA 15081 ("Property") effective July 1, 2021, subject to State Veterans' Commission continued certification of eligibility and continued use as the applicant's homestead.

7. Grant Acceptance

It is recommended to accept the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Bureau of Special Education 2021-2022 Competitive Integrated Employment Grant. This grant will be used for Life Skills and Transition in the high school. Dr. Amy Filipowski and Mrs. Teresa Brewer were instrumental in securing this grant.

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

Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Angus

1. Parking Lot Light Replacement

It is recommended to accept a proposal from Economy Electric Supply Co. to replace approximately 114 parking lot lights throughout the district. The light fixtures will cost \$5,692.02. It is furthermore recommended to accept the proposal from Ambridge Do It Best Home Center for a month rental of a boom lift for parking lot light replacement. The boom lift monthly rental will cost \$2,596.00.

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

Athletics

Mr. Campalongo

Public Relations

Mr. Metz

1. Library Contributions

It is recommended to approve the distribution of budgeted allotments for 2021-2022 school year as follows:

Baden Memorial Library	\$4,250.00
Laughlin Memorial Library	\$5,250.00

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

Steering and Rules

Mrs. Kehoe

1. Policy 006 – Local Board Procedures – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final 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 – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final 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.

3. Policy 146.1 – Trauma Informed Approach – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to revise School Board Policy 146.1 – *Trauma Informed Approach*, to ensure coordination among teams for implementation of trauma-informed approach, to include the district's threat assessment team.

4. Policy 218.2 – Terroristic Threats – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to revise School Board Policy 218.2 – *Terroristic Threats*, to ensure coordination of handling terroristic threats with the threat assessment team, including assessment of the student, communication and disposition of the threat.

5. Policy 247 Hazing – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to revise School Board Policy 247 – *Hazing*, to include a statement directing staff to report the student to the threat assessment team in cases where the behavior of a student indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others.

6. Policy 249 – Bullying/Cyberbullying – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to revise School Board Policy 249 – *Bullying/Cyberbullying* to include a statement directing staff to report the student to the threat assessment team in cases where the behavior of a student indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others.

7. Policy 252 – Dating Violence – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to revise School Board Policy 252 – *Dating Violence* to include a statement directing staff to report the student to the threat assessment team in cases where the behavior of a student indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others.

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

Legislative

Ms. Young

1. PSBA Officer Elections

It is recommended the Board Secretary be directed to cast the vote of the Ambridge Area School Board for election of the following PSBA Slate of Candidates for 2021:

President-elect David Schaap, Brentwood Borough School District

Vice President Allison Mathis, North Hills School District

Insurance Trust Richard Frerichs
 William LaCoff
 Nathan Mains

Section Advisor Justin Warren, Central Dauphin School District

Ms. Young moved to accept item 1, seconded by Mr. Campalongo. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Salary Schedule and Labor Relations**Mrs. Curtis****Personnel****Mr. Angus**1. Tutoring

It is recommended to approve the following teachers for tutoring at all grade levels to address the learning gaps due to COVID 19. The Tutoring Program will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Tuesday, November 9, 2021 through Thursday, April 21, 2022. The teachers will be paid 1.5 hours per day at the contracted rate. This is funded through the ESSERS III grant.

High School

Greg Mell
Steve Hrvatin
Greg Helsel

Middle School

Brenna Wandel

Elementary

Kim Roppa
Jaclyn Cosky
Tammy Kennedy
Stacey Brock
Jennifer Shannon
Susan Manuppelli
Missy Thomas
James Huwar

2. Field Observation

It is recommended to approve Jennifer Ingram, a Point Park University Student, to complete her field observation for a Reading Specialist at Economy Elementary for the fall 2021 semester, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening. Jennifer will be placed with Carrie Malinich.

3. Field Observations

It is recommended to approve the following Ambridge Area School District teachers to complete field observations, on their own time, for their ESL certification program within the district.

Jessica Scerbo
Michelle Druga
Amy Wass
Dana Burns
Brandie Skonieczny

4. Mentor Teacher

It is recommended to ratify the following mentor teacher assignment for the 2020-2021 school year, be approved as per the negotiated agreement:

Mentor Teacher

Tracy Parsons

New Teacher

Nicole Hoegerl, ESL

5. Mentor Teachers

It is recommended to approve the following mentor teachers' assignments for the 2021-2022 school year, as per the negotiated agreement:

Mentor Teacher

Shelly Traupman

Ashley Simpson

Chelsea Benedict

Teresa Brewer

New Teacher

Michelle Hooten, Pre-K Teacher

Mary Lu Schluep, Middle School 6th Grade All Subjects

Mia Gantz, Guidance Counselor

Ashley Schmidt, High School Life Skills Teacher

6. MCJROTC

It is recommended to ratify the following Carnegie Mellon University NROTC Instructors to serve as volunteer support for Ambridge High School MCJROTC, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Major Robert Paugh, USMC

Gunnery Sergeant Keith Porter, USMC

7. Cadet Club

It recommended to approve the following to serve as volunteers for Cadet Club, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Mary Jo Kehoe

Marissa Carey

8. Student Teachers

It is recommended to approve Jonathon Dellicarpini, a Slippery Rock University student for student teaching, to be placed at the High School for the 2021 fall semester, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening. Jonathon will be placed with Chris Yannessa.

9. Resignation

It is recommended to ratify the resignation of Jill Creese, a Para-Professional at Economy Elementary, effective October 12, 2021, with regret.

10. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Marci Shaffer, a Para-Professional at Highland Elementary, effective October 22, 2021, with regret.

11. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Naomii Harris, a Para-Professional at Highland Elementary, effective October 29, 2021, with regret.

12. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Nicolette Petroval, Ambridge Area High School Math Teacher, effective October 14, 2021, with regret. The district reserves the right to retain the employee for the sixty (60) days statutory period or until the position is filled, whichever occurs first.

13. FMLA

It is recommended to approve employee #2402 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave beginning November 3, 2021, not to exceed 12 weeks.

14. FMLA

It is recommended to approve employee #631 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave beginning November 3, 2021, not to exceed 12 weeks.

15. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #1855 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave beginning September 29, 2021, not to exceed 12 weeks.

16. Consideration for Salary Increase

It is recommended that Administrators receive consideration for a salary increase for the 2021-2022 school year based on their evaluation for the 2020-2021 school year.

17. Administrator Equity Adjustments

It is recommended that the Superintendent, Dr. Joseph W. Pasquerilla, receive consideration for a 3% (three percent) increase in salary for the 2021-2022 school year based on his evaluation for the 2020-2021 school year.

18. Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent

It is recommended that June Mueller, the Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent, receive a 4% increase for the 2021-2022 school year.

19. Confidential Secretary to the Assistant to the Superintendent

It is recommended that Rebecca DeMase, the Confidential Secretary to the Assistant to the Superintendent, receive a 4% increase for the 2021-2022 school year.

20. Director of Special Education

It is recommended to hire Dr. Amy Filipowski as the Director of Special Education at a salary of \$116,000.00, effective July 1, 2022, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

21. Alternative Education Coordinator Stipend

It is recommended to create an Alternative Education Coordinator stipend for \$4,000.00, effective July 1, 2022.

22. Alternative Education Stipend

It is recommended to hire Dr. Amy Filipowski as the Alternative Education Coordinator to be paid a stipend of \$4,000.00 annually, effective July 1, 2022, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

23. Credit Recovery

It is recommended to approve the following individuals as instructors for the Credit Recovery Program at the Ambridge Area High School. Teachers will be paid as per the collective bargaining agreement.

Christina Briola	Kim Bogati
Karen DeMarco	Shad Greco
Greg Helsel	Paul Hladio
Greg Mell	Jodi Musser
Shane Newhouse	Jenn Phillips
Veronica Simunick	

24. 2021-2022 Fall Coaches

It is recommended to approve the following individual to fill the designated fall coaching position for the 2021-2022 school years 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>Wrestling</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Larry Knopsnyder, Varsity Head Coach	\$4,300.00
b) Ron Wilson, Varsity Assistant Coach	2,400.00

- c) Ron Wilson, Middle School Coach 1,850.00
- 2) Girls Basketball
 - a) Courtney Parisi, Assistant Coach \$2,410.00
 - b) Lisa Fox, Assistant Coach 2,410.00
- 3) Boys Basketball
 - a) Nick Campalong, Assistant Coach \$2,410.00
 - b) Mike Mott, Assistant Coach 2,410.00
 - c) Matt Puppich, Middle School Coach 1,750.00
- 4) Middle School Girls Volleyball
 - a) Ashley Kittrell, Coach \$2,050.00
 - b) Jessica Prentice, Coach 1,350.00

25. Homeless Liaison Coordinator

It is recommended to approve Jo Ann Hoover as a Homeless Liaison Coordinator to be paid a stipend of \$2,833.00 per year for the 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school year, pending approval of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) ESSER (Homeless) fund through the eGrants. The stipend will end upon completion of the grant.

26. Student Teacher

It is recommended to approve Drew Cramer, a Geneva College student, for student teaching for the 2021-2022 spring semester, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening. Drew will be placed with Lauren Mawhinney.

27. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

It is recommended to ratify 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 (Middle School)</u>		<u>SALARY</u>
Yearbook	Paige Scherer	\$235.00
Yearbook	Gianna Sinatra	235.00

28. Posted Position: Club / Activity

It is recommended the bowling sponsor stipend be amended to \$750.00, previously approved at \$700.00 at the October 13, 2021 Board meeting.

29. Para-Professional (Teaching Assistant)

It is recommended to approve the following individual as Para-Professional (Teaching Assistant) 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.

RaeAnn Smedley, Economy Elementary Pre-K Classroom

30. Department Head Resignation

It is recommended to ratify the resignation of Brenda Antoline from her position as Third Grade Department Head, effective October 12, 2021, with regret.

Mr. Metz moved to accept items 1-30, seconded by Mrs. Kehoe. Mr. Campalong abstained from items 1-30, Mr. Metz voted against items 17, 18 and 19.

XIII. Solicitor's Report

XIV. Superintendent's Report

Congratulated Dr. Filipowski and applauded her for all of her hard work and looks forward to working with her.

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
 - Requested the COVID calls be limited
 - Concerns with Masking and has reached out to local legislatures
- Daniel Merrit
 - Concerns with mask mandate in schools
- Jordan Gullish, Ambridge, PA
 - Concerns with masking mandate
 - Concerns with the Middle School SRO
- Kristine Gullish, Ambridge, PA
 - Concerns with masking mandate
 - Concerns with following policy across the board and not pick and choose when to follow the policies.

- Randy Dawson, Ambridge, PA
 - Concerns with the SRO program and the staffing shortage the police departments are experiencing.
 - Feels it is time for the district to bring on their own school security.

- Christine Paxton, Economy Boro
 - Concerns with not having an SRO at the Middle School and the district needs to find other alternatives.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 8:15 p.m. Mrs. Cutis moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Young. All in favor.

Sincerely,

June Mueller, Board Secretary