

**Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, November 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, November 17, 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:** 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**

**Mrs. Mueller read the following statement:**

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday November 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss:

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

**VI. Correspondence**

**VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> Meet and Discuss Voting Meeting, Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> Meet and Discuss Non-Voting Meeting and Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.**

Dr. Manganello moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Ms. Young. All in favor.

**VIII. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report dated: October 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**

*Welcome Mr. Ronnell Heard, Ambridge Area Middle School Principal*

**Mrs. Fischer would like to recognize the following athletes****The Ambridge Varsity Cheerleaders**

The Ambridge Varsity Cheerleaders attended two competitions this past weekend. On Saturday, the girls competed at Laurel High School, placing 2<sup>nd</sup>. On Sunday, November 14 they attended the UCA Regional Competition where they placed 6<sup>th</sup> out of 15 teams and received a score high enough to receive a bid to nationals. This is the first time in over 20 years that the AAHS Cheerleaders have received a bid and will have the opportunity to compete in February 2022 at Walt Disney World in Florida.

**Boys Varsity Soccer Team**

The Ambridge Area School District and its board of directors would like to congratulate the Ambridge Area Boys Soccer team on an outstanding season. The boys made it to the WPIAL semifinals and the PIAA state quarterfinals, which is further than the Ambridge Boys Soccer team has accomplished since 2005. The team finished 2nd in the section and had a record 14-7 (which includes WPIAL and state playoffs). The district and board of directors would also like to congratulate students Niko Manos, Will Gruca and Hayden Hohman for earning 2A All Section Honors and 2A All WPIAL Honors. Nathan Lambert and Ryan Conover are recognized for earning 2A All Section Honors. Tyler Simms is also recognized for earning honorable mention for 2A All Section Honors. Lastly, we are proud to recognize head coach Ben Fiore for achieving 2A WPIAL coach of the year. Coach Fiore is in his first year with Ambridge as the boy's head coach and has done an excellent job at coaching and leading our student athletes.

**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

- Congratulated the student-athletes
- Concerns with agreements on the agenda at no cost to the district
- Asked if there would be vaccine clinics held in the district
  - ✓ Dr. Pasquerilla said at this time he would not recommend holding clinics in the district schools

**XII. Committee Reports****Education and Technology****Dr. Manganello**1. Caring Foundation Agreement

It is recommended to approve the agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Caring Foundation for School-Based Peer Support Groups for Grieving Children. This agreement will be at no cost to the district.

2. Student Agreement 2021-2022-10

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student #7078946863 relevant to a high school student, effective November 1, 2021.

3. Pennsylvania Education Technology Expo and Conference (PETE&C)

It is recommended Lori Heim be approved to attend the Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo and Conference. The event is being held from February 6<sup>th</sup> through February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, PA. The purpose of this conference is to provide quality programs focused on technology in the educational field. All expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, meals) will be paid as per Board Policy 331 Job Related Expenses. The approximate cost per person is \$1,000.00.

4. Comprehensive Plan

It is recommended to approve the Ambridge Area School District Comprehensive District Level Plan for the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2024.

5. Ambridge Area High School Course Selection

It is recommended to approve the 2022-2023 Ambridge Area High School Course Selection Book.

6. Ambridge Area Middle School Course Selection

It is recommended to approve the 2022-2023 Ambridge Area Middle School Course Selection Book.

7. Additional Targeted Support & Improvement (A-TSI)

It is recommended to approve the revisions to the High School A-TSI Improvement in regards to committee membership and Title I funding.

### 8. Middle School Credits

It is recommended that any Ambridge Area Middle School student that has taken Middle School Spanish I, Spanish II, Italian I, Italian II, Plane/Solid Geometry, Honors Plane/Solid Geometry, Algebra II and Honors Algebra II, or Advanced English 9, College Preparatory English 9 and has passed these course(s) since the inception of the accelerations program will receive high school credit on their transcript without adding the grade for these given classes onto the High School Transcript Grade Point Average. Students must achieve an 80% or better as a prerequisite to continue with the acceleration opportunities in each academic area of study. Students not meeting this prerequisite can complete a parent/guardian waiver form. With the understanding that, NCAA may calculate the grades into the final GPA as they are at the High School level even if separate from our policy. The courses must be included at the High School level Course of Studies book as the NCAA approved courses.

Any student that utilizes the above mentioned acceleration opportunity understands that no additional courses beyond the courses listed in the course description book will be created. Furthermore, the Ambridge Area School District will not be responsible for any post-secondary costs incurred.

Dr. Manganello moved to accept items 1-8, seconded by Mr. Metz. The 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 \$3,122,542.48 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,299,205.66 be paid.

#### 2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$87,735.51 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$57,255.81 be paid.

#### 3. Berkone Act 80 Proposal

It is recommended to accept the proposal from Berkone to review the Act 80 tax jurisdiction by the school district to determine if there are taxpayers who reported an incorrect school code on their tax returns. This is at a cost of approximately \$840.00.

#### 4. Gifts in Kind – Ambridge Area High School

It is recommended to accept a memorial scholarship awarded to the Ambridge Area High School Guidance Office on behalf of the Angelus L. Iwanczyk Memorial Scholarship – Business Post-Secondary Education Pathway in the amount of \$5,000.00 in honor of Mrs. Angelus Iwanczyk, with appreciation. The scholarship will be awarded to a senior exploring post-secondary education in the area of Business.

5. Option Agreement

It is recommended to approve the Second Amendment to the Option Agreement with Tyler Hudson for the sale of Anthony Wayne Elementary School.

6. Budget Transfer

It is recommended to approve a budget transfer of \$250.00 from the School Library Services Fund/Economy Elementary to the Music Fund/Economy Elementary.

7. Request for Proposal

It is recommended to approve the Administration to advertise a request for proposal (RFP) in consideration of student transportation services.

Mr. Angus moved to accept items 1-7, seconded by Dr. Manganello. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Buildings and Grounds**

**Mr. Angus**

1. School Safety Mutual Aid Agreement

It is recommended to approve the School Safety Mutual Aid Agreement, subject to the finalization of the parties.

Mr. Angus moved to accept item 1, seconded by Mr. Metz. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Athletics**

**Mr. Campalong**

Nothing to report.

**Public Relations**

**Mr. Metz**

Nothing to report

**Steering and Rules**

**Mrs. Kehoe**

1. Reorganization Meeting

It is recommended the Reorganization Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

2. December Board Meetings

It is recommended the Meet and Discuss Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, immediately following the Reorganization Meeting and the regular monthly Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

3. Policy 146.1 – Trauma Informed Approach – Final Reading

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

4. Policy 218.2 – Terroristic Threats – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final 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 – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final 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 – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final 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 – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final 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. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Legislative**

**Ms. Young**

**Salary Schedule and Labor Relations**

**Mrs. Curtis**

1. Common Assessment Resolution

It is recommended to approve the resolution between the Ambridge Area Education Association and the Ambridge Area School District to divide the common assessment science stipend between the Middle School Science Department (Don Ayers, Brad Olenic, and Abby Longwell) for 1.5 hours each for each of the three (3) science common assessment creations for the 2021-2022 school year only.

Mrs. Curtis moved to accept item 1, seconded by Ms. Young. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Personnel****Mr. Angus**1. Rescind

It is recommended to rescind the approval of Mike Mott as the Boys Basketball Assistant Coach, approved at the October 20, 2021 Board Meeting.

2. Food Service Workers

It is recommended to hire the following individuals as Food Service Workers 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.

Lisa Loskoch – three and a half hour cook at Economy Elementary School

Kathryn O’Keefe – four and a quarter-hour cook at the Middle School

3. Cafeteria Food Service Substitute Non-Bargaining Unit Employee

It is recommended to approve Joanie Ondrako as a Food Service Assistant/Substitute, a 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.

4. Clinical Practicum

It is recommended to approve Elizabeth Porter, a Slippery Rock University student, to teach one lesson in a special education setting at State Street Elementary as part of her clinical practicum 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. Elizabeth will be placed with Paul Hrvatin.

5. Slippery Rock University Student Teachers

It is recommended to approve the following Slippery Rock University student teachers, for student teaching at Economy Elementary for the 2022 spring semester, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Gabrielle Mayer – to be placed with Carrie Malinich

Rachel Becker – to be placed with Brenda Antoline and Kelly Bischak

Cortney Lambert – to be placed with Tammy Kennedy and Jennifer Shannon

Abby Green – to be placed with Lisa Kovach and Diane Long

6. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #2167 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave beginning October 13, 2021, not to exceed 12 weeks.

7. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #2583 taking an intermediate leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave beginning November 17, 2021, not to exceed 12 weeks.

8. Stipend Split

It is recommended to approve the following amended prorated stipends related to resignations and approved leaves.

Brenda Antoline	Third Grade Department Head	\$ 151.67
Caitlin Bajgier	Technology Integrator	\$ 533.33
Noel Santini	K-12 Guidance Department Head	\$ 303.33
Chelsea Benedict	K-12 Guidance Department Head	\$1,061.67
Greg Mell	K-12 Library Department Head	\$ 910.02

9. Resignation

It is recommended to ratify the resignation of Matt Puppich, from his position of Middle School Boys Basketball Coach, effective November 5, 2021, with regret.

10. 2021-2022 Winter/Spring Coaches

It is recommended to approve the following individuals to fill the designated winter/spring coaching positions 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 winter/spring sports as normal.

1) <u>Track</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Felicia Mycyk, Head Coach	\$4,300.00
b) Denise Duncan, Assistant Coach	2,400.00
c) Ryan Budny, Assistant Coach	2,200.00
d) Nicole Laquatra, Assistant Coach	2,000.00
e) Marlon Kittrell, Assistant Coach	1,900.00
2) <u>Baseball</u>	
a) Matt LaPorte, Head Coach	\$4,300.00
3) <u>Softball</u>	
a) James Huwar, Head Coach	\$4,300.00
b) Dennis Szymoniak, Assistant Coach	2,400.00
c) Regis Kiliany, Assistant Coach	2,200.00
4) <u>Boys Volleyball</u>	
a) Glenn Freed, Head Coach	\$4,300.00



5) Boys Basketball

- a) Matt Puppich, Assistant Coach \$2,410.00
- b) Craig Wiltrek, Middle School Coach 1,750.00
- c) Jordan Rapp, Middle School Coach 1,750.00

11. 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 teachers will be paid 1.5 hours per day at the contracted rate. This is funded through the ESSERS III grant.

Kent Withrow, High School  
Christine Fishel, State Street Elementary  
Hannah Jozwiak, Highland Elementary

12. After-School Detention

It is recommended to approve Steven Hrvatin as a supervisor for the after-school detention at the Ambridge Area High School. The teacher will be paid as per the collective bargaining agreement.

13. Appointment

It is recommended to appoint Bethann Eyth as the FEMA Certification Applicant Agent. This is necessary in order for the Ambridge Area School District to receive FEMA reimbursement due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

14. Rescind

It is recommended to rescind the following mentor teaching assignments:

<u>Mentor Teacher</u>	<u>New Teacher</u>
Missy Thomas	Brittany Cejer
Jason Gerle	Gianna Sinatra

15. Mentor Teachers

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

<u>Mentor Teacher</u>	<u>New Teacher</u>
Missy Thomas	Rachael Hughes
Jason Gerle	Brittany Cejer
Samantha King	Gianna Sinatra

16. Retirement

It is recommended to approve the resignation due to the retirement of David Zalewsky from his maintenance position, effective November 26, 2021, with regret.

**17. 2021-2022 Musical Staffing**

It is recommended to approve the following musical staffing position for the 2021-2022 musical at the designated stipend, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening:

Music Director	Robert Armstrong	\$1,800.00
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**18. Professional Employee Salary Correction**

It is recommended to approve a salary correction for Michelle Hooten, a Pre-K Teacher hired at the October 13<sup>th</sup> Meet and Discuss Voting Meeting, from a rate of \$45,671.00 (Bachelors, Step 1) to \$46,101.00 (Bachelor, Step 1+24).

Mr. Angus moved to accept items 1-18, seconded by Mrs. Curtis. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**XIII. Solicitor's Report**

Nothing to report.

**XIV. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Pasquerilla thanked the outgoing Board members for their hard work during this unordinary time. Being faced with such challenges you did you're very best for the students and the community and I appreciate everything you have done and wish you all the best.

**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
  - Asked if new teachers were required to join the teachers' union
    - ✓ Teachers have the option to opt-out of the union
  - Questions to the Solicitor on the Stay being lifted
    - ✓ Ms. Turnbull – December 4<sup>th</sup> is the next Administrative Regulation Publication in which the stay could possibly be lifted, but the health secretary could impose a new requirement. But there are still these decisions to be made and an option to appeal. If the stay is lifted we would fall the district's health and safety plan, which is the parent's choice.
- Daniel Marek, Economy Borough
  - Concerns with the PATHS curriculum and would like to preview the materials in which are being presented to the students and is getting a push back. Referred to policy 105.1 and it is the right of the parent to view this material.

- Would like to reviewed, approved and it was it voted on by the Board
  - ✓ Dr. Pasquerilla stated that the program has been around for many years and he cannot answer the question of the original approval.
  - ✓ Suggested to set up an appointment through the Principal to review the material of the program.
- Elizabeth Fisher, Economy Borough
  - Concerns with the PATHS Program and would like to know did the Board interview the Prevention Specialist Laurel Baker
  - Feels her children are not at risk so not sure why they are being taught by a Prevention Specialist, this should not be taught to all students collectively unless there is a need.
  - Why was there not a permission slip for her children to participate in this program? Parents have the right to know what their children are being taught and to choose rather or not they would like their children to participate.
    - ✓ Dr. Pasquerilla stated they did not interview the specialist personally but they do have the right to observe and intervene, and air concerns if necessary.
    - ✓ Dr. Pasquerilla said if the parent has specific questions about the agency, you should start with the Principal for contact information.
    - ✓ Dr. Pasquerilla said parents were notified
- Dawn Butich, Baden, PA
  - Asked how mental health based organizations are chosen.
  - Requested information on how to have the Lacrosse Team recognized as a school sport and to become a school-sponsored sport.
  - Questions on getting the Cheer Team approved to go to Disney.
    - ✓ Dr. Pasquerilla the mental health based was picked through the county but was not a part of the choosing.
    - ✓ Dr. Pasquerilla asked that the parent reach out to the Athletic Director, Mr. Turk.
    - ✓ The Principal and AD will propose the field trip to Dr. Pasquerilla and ultimately the Board would vote on that.
- Rebecca Peirce
  - Concerns with the PATHS questioner and the content within that questioner being inappropriate.
- Mrs. Fischer thank the outgoing Board for their service during these multiuse times. Stated that they the all have served with the outmost respect and dignity towards the community and their fellow Board members and it is my pleasure to have served by your side. Would like to welcome the new Board members.

**XVI. Motion to Adjourn**

At 8:35 p.m. Dr. Manganello moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Young. All in favor.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Mrs. June Mueller**