

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, November 10, 2021.

I. Call to Order: At approximately 7:10 p.m. Mrs. Fischer called the meeting to order.

The Meet and Discuss Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is held on Wednesday, November 10, 2021. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

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 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. Correspondence

No Correspondence

VI. Student/Teacher Recognition

Mrs. Fischer will recognize the following athletes:

2021 WPIAL Class 3A Section 4 All-Stars for Girls Volleyball

Ava Timmons, 2nd Team
Angelena Bratton, 3rd Team
Annabella Hrinko, 3rd Team

CCBC Player of the Game

Congratulations to Sedrick Seymour, Senior, who received the CCBC player of the game for the October 22nd win over Quaker Valley. Sedrick had 138 rushing yards on 16 carries and scored 2 touchdowns. The win earned the team a playoff spot. Congratulations to the team and to the coaches on their playoff spot.

2021 WPIAL Class 3A High School Football

Trent McKnight, 1st Team

Congratulations to our outstanding athletes!!

VII. Presentations**Presentation by Mr. Barry King – 8th Grade Credits at Ambridge Area High School****Presentation by Principals – 2022-2023 Course Selection Book****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.

➤ Meagan Trimbur, Freedom, PA

- Concerns with weapons being brought into the Middle School
- Feels there are not enough adults to secure the building with no SRO present and no metal detectors
- Questioned why the bag checks were not done after a blast went home stating they would do random bag checks.
- Stated the district needs to be proactive and not reactive.
 - ✓ Mrs. Fischer stated they have been in communication with Economy Borough to resolve this and get an SRO back into the building, they are trying and continue to work on a plan to get an SRO back into the middle school as soon as possible.

➤ Kelly Romasco, Economy Borough

- Questioned if MS language credits would show on high school transcripts.
 - ✓ The Administration will work on this to show the credit on the transcript but now count toward GPA.
- Asked if there was a backup plan to get an SRO in the middle school
 - ✓ Through grant funding there is an option of bringing in an SRO from another community within the district and they will continue to work to get an SRO into the middle school.

➤ Jessica Kamanu, Ambridge, PA

- Concerns with fights happening in the middle school.
- Asked if there were weapons found in the middle school and were parents made aware.

- ✓ Dr. Pasquerilla said if there were to be a threat made against a school there would be a letter sent home.
- Works in the mental health field and wants to know what resources is out there to help the students, are there people to deescalate situations and talk to students to deescalate and help children preventatively rather than reactively.
 - ✓ Dr. Pasquerilla said we have guidance and part time social workers there and school based mental health services to work with students. We are being mindful of the resources and use them wisely. Our goal is to fill the position of the SRO as soon as possible.
- Cindy Wargo, Economy Borough
 - Questions on college courses being taken in schools and if they count toward college credit.
 - ✓ Dr. Pasquerilla, yes the district does partner with colleges and students can earn college credits while in high school.
- Isaac Elias, Economy Borough
 - Encourages people to send a RTK to Economy Borough to send all communications regarding the communications between the borough and district.
 - With the SRO no longer at the middle school, he hops that the district is looking toward mental health resources to help students.
 - Would like to hear more about what happens with the mask mandates ends and what will be the process.
 - ✓ If the mask mandate is lifted the district will follow their health and safety plan and masking will be optional.
- John Carpenter, Ambridge, PA
 - Asked what is Plan B for the SRO
 - ✓ Ms. Turnbull said the district can turn to other municipalities in the jurisdiction for help with the SRO.
 - Asked to clarify if random bag checks were held at the middles school as the communications state that went out to the community saying this would be done.
 - ✓ Dr. Pasquerilla indicated that at this given point Mr. King and he have been substituting at the middle school and to their knowledge bag checks have not been done. This could be due to the building being shut down for a little while and a shortage of folks due to quarantine. The goal out of it is to do it.
- Mary Jane Jones, Ambridge, PA
 - Where are the parents behind the problems that we are having in the school. Do resources allow for the district to engage parents? Parents need to be held accountable.

IX. 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 6th through February 9th, 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.

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 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.

Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Angus

Athletics

Mr. Campalong

Public Relations

Mr. Metz

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 – Third Reading

It is recommended, as a third 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 – Third Reading

It is recommended, as a third 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 – Third Reading

It is recommended, as a third 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 – Third Reading

It is recommended, as a third 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 – Third Reading

It is recommended, as a third 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.

Legislative

Ms. Young

Salary, Schedule and Labor Relations

Mrs. Curtis

X. Sunshine Law

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, November 10th to discuss:

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

XI. Motion to Adjourn

At 9:14 p.m. Mrs. Fischer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Manganello. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. June Mueller
Board Secretary