

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, December 15, 2021.

I. Call to Order: Mrs. Romasco called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District Board of Directors on Wednesday, December 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 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. Kelly Romasco, President
Miss Amy Fitsko, Vice President
Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe, Treasurer
Mr. John Carpenter
Mrs. Cathy Fischer
Mr. Matt Zatchey

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 reading the following:
The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, December 15th to discuss:

- Personnel matter(s)
- Matters subject to attorney-client privilege and other confidentiality laws
- Litigation or threatened litigation matters

VI. Correspondence

Letter in support of the Provident Charter School West

VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of: Wednesday, November 10th Meet and Discuss Non-Voting Meeting and Wednesday, November 17th Board Meeting.

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. All in favor.

VIII. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report dated: November 2021

Mrs. Kehoe moved to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda**Under Recognition/Presentation**

Appointments to School Board vacancies

Under Education and Technology, amend item 2 as follows:**2. Cheer Team Field Trip**

It is recommended that the high school varsity cheerleaders, be authorized to travel to Walt Disney World to participate in the Universal Cheerleaders Association National High School Cheerleading Championship from February 10th through February 14th. Students who attend the competition will be reimbursed as per Board Policy 240 (50% of travel cost or \$250.00 per student, whichever is less) for a maximum total of \$3,000.00. Parents and/or guardians will be required to sign permission and release forms. Chaperones will be required to have current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Under Salary Schedule and Labor Relations, add item 1 as follows:**1. 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 authorized club stipends in Appendix B of the collective bargaining agreement.

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept the Addendums to the agenda, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

X. Recognition/Presentation**Mrs. Romasco would like to recognize the following:****MLK Jr. Oratorical Contest**

Congratulations to the following students who placed in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay/Oratorical Competition:

Jayda Palmer, a 4th grader at Economy Elementary – 1st Place

Braden Vukovcan, a 5th grader at State Street Elementary – 1st Place

Mackenzie Sutton, a 10th grader who won 1st Place in the 10th and 11th Grade Division

Student-Athletes

Congratulations to our Bridger Football players who made the Class 3A Northwestern 6 All-Stars. The team’s all-conference players are:

First Team Offense

Desmond Drew
D’Saun Harmon
Sedrick Seymour

First Team Defense

D’Saun Harmon

Second Team Specialists

Ryan Conover

Honorable Mention

Blaize Kolar
Stacy Jones

Finalist for the Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year Award

The Pennsylvania Teacher of the year Program recognized Mrs. Nicole Darroch for her outstanding academic contributions to Pennsylvania’s school-aged children.

Congratulations and thank you for all you do for our students!!

School Board Candidate Presentations and Question and Answer

Thomas Cephas
Robert Keber
Danielle Marek
Matthew Montell
Nadine Palichat
Kelly Smith
Valerie Young

Mrs. Romasco will open the floor for nominations of appointees.

Mr. Zatchey moved to nominate a slate of candidates, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Keber, and Mr. Cephas, seconded by Mrs. Romasco.

Miss Fitsko moved to vote on each candidate separately, seconded by Mrs. Fischer.

Mr. Carpenter voted against the motion.

1. School Board Director

It is recommended to appoint Kelly Smith, a qualified elector of the District, to fill the present School Board Director vacancy.

Mrs. Romasco made a motion to accept item 1. Mrs. Kehoe and Mrs. Fischer voted against item 1.

2. School Board Director

It is recommended to appoint Robert Keber, a qualified elector of the District, to fill the present School Board Director vacancy.

Mrs. Romasco made a motion to accept item 2. Mrs. Kehoe, Miss Fitsko, and Mrs. Fischer voted against item 2.

3. School Board Director

It is recommended to appoint Thomas Cephas, a qualified elector of the District, to fill the present School Board Director vacancy.

Mrs. Romasco made a motion to accept item 3. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mrs. Romasco – Discussion Points

- District COVID Related Calls – There will be only one call a day at 6:00 P.M. reporting all confirmed COVID cases for that day.
- Creation of a School Safety Committee – Mr. Zatchey will lead the School Safety Committee

Mr. Carpenter made a motion in favor of COVID-related calls, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. All in favor.

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

- Comments regarding Bele framework - against metal detectors. Because the federal grant money sets guidelines on what the school district can and cannot do. And moved traditional education to outcome-based education.

➤ Savannah Fischer, Ambridge, PA

- Concerns with appointing two new board members that were previously named in a lawsuit against the district. Feels this is failing the students of the district. Feels the board should bring assets to the district and this is not good for the district.
- Concerns with the board lacking diversity.

XII. Committee Reports

Appointment of Board and Committee Representatives:

1. Appointment of Committee Chairs

Education and Technology	Mrs. Kelly Smith
Finance and Budget	Mr. John Carpenter
Building and Grounds	Mr. Robert Keber
Athletics	Mr. Matt Zatchey
Public Relations	Mrs. Amy Fitsko
Steering and Rules	Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe
Legislative	Mr. Thomas Cephas
Salary Schedule and Labor Relations	Mr. John Carpenter
Personnel	Mrs. Kelly Smith

Mrs. Romasco appointed the above committees.

Education and Technology

Point of Information - Kindergarten and Pre-K Registration

Kindergarten Registration will be held on the following dates from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the following locations:

January 11	Economy Elementary
January 12	Highland Elementary
January 13	State Street Elementary

Evening appointment available:

February 8 – from 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the High School Media Center

Please reach out to Cathy Hopkins at 724-266-2833, ext. 1273, via fax at 724-266-8459, or via email at chopkins@ambridge.k12.pa.us with any questions.

1. Club Formation

It is recommended to approve the formation of the Ski Club at the High School with the sponsor to be paid a stipend of \$470.00. This club will be student-funded, excluding the payment of the sponsor.

2. Cheer Team Field Trip

It is recommended that the high school varsity cheerleaders, be authorized to travel to Walt Disney World to participate in the Universal Cheerleaders Association National High School Cheerleading Championship from February 10th through February 14th. Students who attend the competition will be reimbursed as per Board Policy 240 (50% of travel cost or \$250.00 per student, whichever is less) for a maximum total of \$3,000.00. Parents and/or guardians will be required to sign permission and release forms. Chaperones will be required to have current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

3. Wrestling Field Trip

It is recommended to approve the student attendance and application of the student discipline code for the Varsity Wrestling team to travel to Morrisdale, PA on January 28-29, 2022 to participate in the West Branch School District's wrestling tournament. No additional cost to the district.

4. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Robert Morris University to include the Advanced Placement Literature and Composition – RMU ELIT 1050.

5. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between Central State University and the Ambridge Area School District for the purpose of field and clinical experiences for Central State University students.

6. Student Agreement 2021-2022-11

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student #9926952933 relevant to a high school student, effective December 13, 2021.

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept items 1-6, seconded by Miss Fitsko. Vote in favor with Mrs. Romasco abstaining from item 2, Mrs. Smith abstaining with an extension from items 4,5,6, and Mr. Keber and Mr. Cephas abstaining with an extension from all items.

Finance and Budget

1. School District Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly school district bills in the amount of \$2,880,194.23 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,348,147.58 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$76,476.53 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$50,098.37 be paid.

3. Budget Transfers

It is recommended to approve budget transfers for December 2021.

4. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve a tax exoneration regarding the collection of Real Estate Tax for 2010 to present, conditioned upon mutual municipal and county reciprocal exonerations for the same years, relevant to the following properties:

- a) Tax Parcel 60-185-0143.000, 3475 Conway Wallrose Road, Sewickley, PA, and purchased by Christopher Bucuren.
- b) Tax Parcel 60-185-0127.003, Lot Conway Wallrose Road, Sewickley, PA, and purchase by Christopher Bucuren.

5. Budget Transfer

It is recommended to approve a budget transfer of \$1,149.00 from New Equipment-Grades 7-8 to Repairs of Equipment-Grades 7-8, for repairs on the laser engraver at the Middle School.

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept items 1-5, seconded by Miss Fitsko. Vote in favor with Mrs. Smith abstaining with an extension of items 3,4,5, Mr. Keber, and Mr. Cephas abstaining with an extension of all items.

Buildings and Grounds

Athletics

Public Relations

Steering and Rules

Legislative

Salary Schedule and Labor Relations

1. 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 authorized club stipends in Appendix B of the collective bargaining agreement.

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept item 1, seconded by Miss Fitsko. Vote in favor with Mrs. Smith, Mr. Keber, and Mr. Cephas abstain with an extension on all items.

Personnel

Appointment of Committee Representatives

1. Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit Board of Directors

It is recommended Kelly Romasco be appointed as the representative to serve, with the term expiring June 30, 2022.

2. Reorganization Ballot

It is recommended to approve the 2021 ballots be cast for the 2022-2023 officers of the Beaver Valley Joint School Board, the Beaver Valley Joint School Committee, and The Beaver County Career & Technology Center Joint School Board. The term of office for this reorganization is a one-year term beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023.

3. Laughlin Memorial Free Library

It is recommended that Thomas Cephas and Matt Zatchey be appointed to serve as Ambridge Area School Board representatives for the Laughlin Memorial Library for the 2022 term.

4. Baden Memorial Library Appointment

It is recommended that Amy Fitsko be appointed to the Baden Memorial Library Board of Directors for the 2022 term.

5. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Rachel Shannon from her position as a Learning Support/Autistic Support All Grades at Highland Elementary, effective December 21, 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.

6. Credit Recovery

It is recommended to ratify Pamela Green as an instructor for the Credit Recovery Program at the Ambridge Area High School. Teachers will be paid as per the collective bargaining agreement.

7. 2021-2022 Winter Coach

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

1) Basketball

a) Keenan Baker, Volunteer Coach

Stipend

No Remuneration

- 2) Middle School Wrestling
 - a) Larry Knopsnyder, Coach \$1,350.00
- 3) Cheer Team
 - a) Aleski Kulesza, Volunteer Coach No Remuneration
 - b) Nicole Baldwin, Volunteer Coach No Remuneration

8. Student Teacher

It is recommended to approve Erica Brozich, a Slippery Rock 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. Erica will be placed with Shelly Traupman.

9. Field Observation

It is recommended to approve Sara Demilio, a Central State University student, to complete ten hours of observation in the kindergarten through third-grade classrooms at Economy Elementary 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.

10. 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 can hold activities as normal.

<u>ACTIVITY/CLUB (High School)</u>		<u>SALARY</u>
National Honor Society	Greg Mell, Co-Sponsor	\$475.00
National Honor Society	Mia Gantz, Co-Sponsor	\$475.00

11. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #21 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave beginning December 3, 2021, not to exceed 12 weeks.

12. Cafeteria Food Service Substitute Non-Bargaining Unit Employee

It is recommended to approve Lucina Vallecorsa as a 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.

13. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Cody Gaus, a custodian at the High School, effective December 9, 2021, with regret.

14. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Glenn Copenhaver, a custodian at the High School, effective January 5, 2022, with regret.

15. Rescind

It is recommended to rescind the approval of the Homeless Liaison stipend of \$2,833.00 per year for 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 school years, approved at the October 20, 2021 Board meeting.

16. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Priscilla Shotter, a food service assistant at the Middle School, effective December 22, 2021, with regret.

17. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Darla Karas, a food service cook at Economy Elementary effective December 14, 2021, with regret.

18. Hall Monitor

It is recommended to hire the following individual as Hall Monitor 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.

Samuel Rosatone, Middle School

Mr. Carpenter moved to accepted items 1-18, seconded by Mrs. Romasco. Vote in favor, with Mrs. Smith abstaining with an extension on items 5,6,8,9, and 11-18, Mr. Keber abstaining with an extension on items 5-18, and Mr. Cephas abstaining with an extension on item 15.

XIII. Solicitor's Report

Have a safe and happy holiday.

XIV. Superintendent's Report

Congratulate new Board members and thank all of the teachers and students who were recognized and the student who read the speech. We have had some excellent holiday concerts. Happy Holidays.

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.

- Randy Dawson, Ambridge, PA – Band Booster President
 - Will the district afford the band the same thing afforded to the Cheer Team and reimburse.
 - ✓ Dr. Pasquerilla because this is a competitions Board Policy allows and qualifies for reimbursement.
- Desiree Conrad, Ambridge, PA
 - State funding and curriculum – talk about it and let people know what is required by the government.
- Danielle Marek, Economy Boro
 - Would like the board to revamp the COVID quarantine process.
- Christine Paxton, Economy Boro
 - Concerns with SRO not being replaced at the middle school
 - ✓ Dr. Pasquerilla stated an MOU was recently approved which allows the district to use neighboring police departments to fill the SRO position at the middle school. The district is working with the Ambridge Police Department to get an SRO in place.
- Elizabeth Fischel,
 - No action being taken on student discipline on the bus.
 - Concerns with COVID contract tracing and it not being specific.
 - Not sure why rules are different based on vaccinated and unvaccinated.
 - ✓ Dr. Pasquerilla – the district is following the CDC rules and guidelines and the district’s Health and Safety Plan
- Cathy Fischer, Board member
 - Concerns with the dis-service to the district with the newly appointed board members
 - Concerns about the lack of diversity on the current Board
 - Tendered resignation
- Amanda Palshaw, Freedom, PA
 - Thanked and welcomed new board members.
 - Pointed out the benefits of the district looking into a PR company.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 8:42 p.m. Mrs. Romasco moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. All in favor.