

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held via ZOOM on Wednesday, January 19, 2022.

I. Call to Order: Mrs. Romasco 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, January 19, 2022, is now called to order.

II. Flag salute-please rise: Mrs. Romasco asked all present to rise

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
 Mr. Thomas Cephas
 Mrs. Cathy Fischer
 Mr. Rob Keber
 Mrs. Smith
 Mr. Matt Zatchey

Others Present

Dr. Joseph W. Pasquerilla, Superintendent
 Mr. Barry J. King, Assistant to the Superintendent
 Mrs. Bethann Eyth, Director of Business and Operations
 Ms. Megan Turnbull, Solicitor
 Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary

V. Sunshine Law

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, January 19th to discuss:

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

VI. Correspondence

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

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

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

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

IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda**X. Recognition/Presentation****XI. Public Comment (Regarding Agenda Items Only) Mrs. Romasco read the following.**

Public comment will only be taken in written formats via email in advance of the meeting. Public comments received in advance will be circulated to the Board. All public comments regarding agenda items will be read during the meeting. All other comments will be summarized during the meeting. All comments must include the resident/property owner's name and address.

Michael Winne
233 Foxglove Dr.
Baden, PA 15005
724-777-0681

In regards to the masking policy that is up for vote this evening. Some members of this board ran on the platform of parental choice. Many people voted based on that concern. As has been voiced by many before, no matter what side of the mask debate you are on and what data comes out from either side, this should remain a choice for parents to make for their own households.

Heather Fernandez
826 Beaver Road Ambridge PA 15003
330 284 1426

I understand it's hard to have all bases covered with surge of covid on raised. My concern is I feel the kids should still be able to go votech. I understand your waiting on response. If my child has been fully vaccinated is not part contact trace of positive individuals. Why should these kids not be able to attend. My other concern is mistletoe dance being change. Alot of our kids work some might not be able to attend now will there be refunds? Also if there date is not able to go because of date change can they take someone to replace there spot?

Nicole Kurash
980 Anthony Wayne Dr, Baden, PA 15005

Could the Board clarify if the district will be implementing online learning for a snow day or using the snow days that are in the calendar for this year (2/21, 4/13,4/14, 5/27). Also, if online learning will occur, will snow days be built into the calendar for next year?

Jordan Voloch, Harmony Township

Here we are again, another shut down, more of our children being robbed from your decisions from unlawful, unconstitutional, misguided guidelines. I have mentioned this before, from masks that dont work and cause more harm and still trying to remove our freedoms as a human being. Contact tracing does not work, sending children home just because of a "what if scenario", pushing online formats that do not teach is proving these conspiracies to be true. Everyone that tested positive can now be known as natural immunity counts, look at what you school board members are doing, I'm calling all of you accountable for violating again our constitutional rights, civil rights and failing your oath to office (again) my children are suffering mentally, physically (when masked) and educationally. Solicitor was wrong last time, no difference this time! I still haven't heard back about Mr. Turk holding my passenger car door from my son to open and not allowing him out until he puts a mask on! Then threatens me to be banned from A.A.S.D. When I put everything together, its showing your choosing to disobey laws and the constitution and choose evil. These are our children, not yours. This is up to parents, not board members. Your repeating history of 1933 Germany, and oath to office you all sworn to. Time to stop before you keep making it worse on us parents and our children, all children.

Kristin Paxton
Hickory Dr.
Sewickley (Economy)

Regarding the new proposed Masking requirement that is on the agenda:
I want to voice my strong support for continuing the pro-choice policy that's currently in place. I am opposed to instituting mandates of any kind. There is increasingly more evidence showing that loose-fitting cloth facemasks provide little to no benefit to the wearer or those near them. And in fact, can cause a host of other health issues. Even the CDC is walking back its previous claims of effectiveness.

The choice should reside solely with the parents/guardians and/or the students themselves. My high school-age daughter chooses not to wear one in school. My middle school daughter prefers to wear one. That's their choice, and one that should not be revoked by a school board.

Ann Lewis, Baden, PA

Feels following the CDC guidelines is the best option and wearing masks should not be a personal option it should be to keep others safe.

Desire Conrad, Ambridge, PA

Asked why the meeting was not held at another building.

- ✓ This was due to it being moved last minutes and maybe some could not make arrangements to get to another building.

XII. Committee Reports**Education and Technology****Mrs. Smith and Mr. Zatchey****Point of Information**

The board would like to recognize the dedication of all of the staff and administrators who are doing their best to keep our kids safe, engaged, and in school. The time they are giving to our district does not go unnoticed.

1. 2022-2023 Proposed School Calendar

It is recommended the Proposed 2022-2023 School Year Calendar be approved, as presented.

2. Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials Annual Conference

It is recommended Bethann Eyth be approved to attend the PASBO Annual Conference at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA on March 8-11, 2022. The conference has a line-up of educational sessions that will address critical school finance issues. The registration fee for Mrs. Eyth to attend is paid for by a scholarship received.

3. Pittsburgh Technology College Articulation Agreement

It is recommended to approve an articulation agreement between Ambridge Area School District and Pittsburgh Technology College (PTC) to provide secondary students with a continuum of education without unnecessary duplication of instruction.

4. Scouts BSA

It is recommended to approve the Scouts BSA Adult Leaders to come in and give "Prepared for Life" lessons to our high school students, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening, as applicable.

5. Technology Purchase

It is recommended to authorize the purchase of 29 new technology equipment and licenses (laptops) at an approximate cost of \$18,507.80, via state-contracted pricing through direct purchase for our high school students with disabilities to give them more accessibility through technology. This will be paid for by the ESSERS ATSI 2.5% Grant and is at no cost to the district.

6. Student Agreement 2021-2022-12

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student #8684297946 relevant to a middle school student, effective January 7, 2022.

7. Student Agreement 2021-2022-13

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student #2598140024 relevant to a middle school student, effective January 5, 2022.

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

Finance and Budget and Building and Grounds

Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Keber

Point of Information

The board would like to recognize the hard work that the maintenance department achieved in keeping our facilities clear and open for school after the snowstorm.

1. School District Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly school district bills in the amount of \$2,716,596.46 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,267,931.62 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$50,335.62 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$52,248.92 be paid.

3. Budget Transfers

It is recommended to approve budget transfers for January 2022.

4. 2020-2021 Final Auditor's Report

It is recommended to accept the 2020-2021 final auditor's report.

5. Proposed Preliminary Budget

It is recommended the Administration be directed to have a proposed preliminary budget available for public inspection by January 19, 2022, and further, the Administration take all steps necessary to apply for Act 1 exceptions including making the preliminary budget available, making all submissions to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and compliance with all advertising requirements including giving notice as required by Act 1 of the District's intention to adopt a budget that includes exceptions and publishing notice of intent to file for exceptions.

6. Gifts in Kind

It is recommended to accept the donation from the Beaver County Committee for the Veteran's Day Parade, with appreciation. The donor has received no goods or services in return for this gift. The donation was in the amount of \$300.00 to each of the following for their participation in the 2021 Veteran's Day Parade:

- Ambridge High School Marching Band
- Ambridge High School MCJROTC

7. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve the exoneration and the abatement of taxes for Parcel No. 64-002.0803.000 for the period of 2007 up through and including 2019. Purchased by Grant and Betsy Miller from the Beaver County Repository and the Board of Commissioners authorized the sale on April 21, 2001. The owners, Grant and Betsy Miller shall be responsible for all taxes for tax years 2020, 2021, and each year after.

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

Athletics and Public Relations

Mr. Zatchey and Miss Fitsko

1. Overnight Tournament Participation Request

It is recommended to approve the high school Boys' Varsity Volleyball Team to attend the following overnight tournaments:

Northeastern High School, Manchester, PA – April 2, 2022

Miss Fitsko moved to accept item 1, seconded by Mrs. Smith. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Steering and Rules and Legislative

Mrs. Kehoe and Mrs. Fischer

1. Masking

It is recommended to approve that when 4% of the building's students and staff test positive within a 14-day rolling window, that building would be required to mask, including guests and indoor sports spectators, with the exception of lunch periods, athletes participating in their sport, and physical education classes. This will stay in effect until that building's positive case numbers fall below 3%.

Mrs. Kehoe made a motion to accept item 1, seconded by Mr. Keber.

Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Keber, and Mrs. Zatchey voted against item 1.

2. COVID-19 Dashboard

It is recommended to approve the creation of a dashboard posted on the district’s website with the number of all positive cases by building in a 14-day rolling window to be posted each day by 3:00 p.m.

Mrs. Kehoe made a motion to accept item 2, seconded by Miss Fitsko.

The vote in favor was unanimous for item 2.

3. Water Fountains

It is recommended to re-open water fountains in all buildings.

Mrs. Kehoe made a motion to accept item 3, seconded by Miss Fitsko.

Mr. Carpenter, Miss Fitsko, Mrs. Kehoe, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Zatchey and Mrs. Romasco voted against item 3. With Mr. Cephas and Mrs. Fischer abstained from item 3.

4. Quarantine and Isolations

It is recommended the district follows the CDC COVID quarantine and isolations guidelines.

Mrs. Kehoe made a motion to accept item 4, seconded by Miss Fitsko.

Mr. Keber and Mrs. Smith abstained from item 4.

Personnel and Salary Schedule and Labor Relations

Mr. Cephas and Mrs. Smith

1. 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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2. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #1950 taking an intermediate leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave beginning January 11, 2022, not to exceed 12 weeks.

3. Slippery Rock University Student Teachers

It is recommended to approve Gabby Mayer, a Slippery Rock University student teacher, 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. Gabby will be placed with Jen Shannon and Carrie Malinich.

4. Cafeteria Food Service Assistant/Substitute Non-Bargaining Unit Employee

It is recommended to hire Darlene Lang 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.

Mr. Cephas made a motion to accept items 1-4, seconded by Mrs. Smith. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XIII. President's Address

Thanked all for their understanding during the school closure and hopes that the data-driven approach will help avoid a future shut down.

Announced that those who have shown interest in the committees, those committee meetings will begin sometime in February

The winter dance has been rescheduled for January 29th.

Hall of Honor applications will be accepted in February and April.

Thanks to all who participated in the surveys. 489 parents participated and 113 teachers.

XIV. Solicitor's Report

The Charter Public Hearing held on January 12th will be continued at the February 9th meeting.

XV. Superintendent's Report

Gave an update on the metal detectors, the order was placed and anticipated to come in the near future, and are looking toward the end of the month at the latest.

Thank you to our staff, parents, and students for being flexible with going virtual.

XVI. 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.

XVII. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 8:19 p.m. Mrs. Romasco made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. All in favor.