

Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Voting Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, January 12, 2022.

I. Call to Order: Mrs. Romasco called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m.

The Meet and Discuss Voting Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is held on Wednesday, January 12, 2022. This meeting is being held to take action that has come before the Board. All meetings have been advertised to permit legislative action as necessary.

II. Flag salute-please rise

Economy Elementary Students

Alyssa Walker

Abigail Howell

Alex Pompeo

III. Notice: Mrs. Romasco 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. 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. Rebecca DeMase, Substitute Board Secretary

V. Sunshine Law

Mrs. DeMase read the following:

The Board of School Directors held Executive Session(s) on Wednesday, January 12th to discuss:

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

VI. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda

VII. Recognition/Presentation

The Board of School Directors would like to recognize Mrs. Orth and the high school art students for their work on the Bridger Hall of Honor Mural.

Audit Presentation – Peter Vancheri**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. 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.

- Jodi Gill, Ambridge PA
 - Concerns with the newly appointed board members with past litigation and questionable behaviors in the past.
- Desiree Conrad, Ambridge, PA
 - Questions regarding Prevention Network and attendance.
 - Asked if there could be another way of notifying the community of public hearings.
 - ✓ Dr. Pasquerilla stated Prevention Network is being paid for by ESSERS funds. The grant needs to be used for certain things. These funds were supposed to be used for mental health.

IX. LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THIS MEETING**Steering and Rules****Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe**1. Policy 610 - Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation

It is recommended, to waive the second and third readings of School Board Policy 610 - *Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation* and update the policy on the first reading to obtain competitive bids and price quotations for products and services where such bids or quotations are required by law or may result in monetary savings to the school district.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to accept item 1, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Education and Technology**Mrs. Kelly Smith**1. Prevention Network

It is recommended to approve a contract between the Ambridge Area School District and the Prevention Network for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year to provide Student Assistance Programming (SAP) Support for attendance. The amount for one day per week from January to June is \$5250.00. The funding is secured by the ESSERS A-TSI 2.5% Set Aside Grant.

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

Buildings and Grounds**Mr. Robert Keber**1. Metal Detectors

It is recommended to accept the proposal from Grainger for the purchase of two or three Metal Detectors for the Middle School in an amount not to exceed \$11,500.00.

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

Personnel**Mrs. Kelly Smith**1. Professional Employee

It is recommended to hire Sarah Burns as an Ambridge High School Math Teacher, at a salary of \$46,581.00 (Masters, Step 1), as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEA/PSEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

2. MCJROTC Senior Military Instructor

It is recommended to approve an Employment Agreement, for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year, for the position of Senior Military Instructor of the Ambridge Area Marine Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MJROTC) with Lieutenant Colonel Jeffery Tisak at a prorated salary of \$35,164.40 effective on or about February 1, 2022 – through June 30, 2022. Official start date will be determined pending receipt of valid PA Teaching Certificate and current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening. Final agreement pending solicitor review.

*The District will be reimbursed half the salary by the United States Marines.

3. 2021-2022 Spring Coach

It is recommended to approve the following individual to fill the designated spring coaching position 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 are able to hold spring sports as normal.

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| 1) <u>Track</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Raeffon Ruskin, Middle School Coach | \$1,550.00 |
| 2) <u>Softball</u> | |
| a) Michelle Hooten, Middle School Coach | \$2,050.00 |

4. 2022-2023 Fall Coach

It is recommended to approve the following individual to fill the designated fall coaching position for the 2022-2023 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 are able to hold fall sports as normal.

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| 1) <u>Girls Soccer</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| Varsity Head Coach, Brittany Cejer | \$4,300.00 |

5. Para-Professionals (Teaching Assistants)

It is recommended to ratify the following individuals as Para-Professionals (Teaching Assistants), 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.

Michelle Archibald, Highland Elementary
 Kim Buglak, Economy Elementary

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept items 1-5, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous with Mrs. Romasco abstaining from item #1.

X. President’s Address

Mrs. Romasco: Cathy Fischer resigned and then decided to stay on the Board.

Mrs. Kehoe: Before scheduling another special board meeting, can we check with everyone’s schedule first to be sure it works for everyone?

Mrs. Romasco: Yes, we can check calendars next time. Thanks to the admin and teachers and staff for working so hard to keep kids in school.

The committees will be changing. She will be combining the groups. There will be 5 instead of 9.

Mrs. Romasco will give us a list of the new committees and the members

XI. Superintendent's Report

It is recommended to add a voting item to the January 19, 2022 Board meeting but allows for public comment discussion tonight. The motion to be added will be masking requirements will go back to the most recent guidance to making for instruction time, guest, guests at sports but not in the cafeteria or during physical activity, pending the building reaches 4% positivity during a 14 day rolling period.

XII. Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report.

XIII. 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
 - Concerns with who sees the parent survey results.
 - Feels it is odd to group the committees.
 - Would like to see the statistics on metal detectors and their effectiveness and whether or not they are false security.
 - Would like to be a part of the committees being formed.
 - Possibility that the un-vaccinated people are afraid to be around the vaccinated people.

- Fabriola Gargorich, Harmony Twp., PA
 - Metal detectors are a false sense of security.
 - PCR tests are not good at detecting the virus.
 - Immunocompromised people can get a false positive or false negative/
 - Masks are not effective.
 - 2020 graduates had a lot taken away from them.

XIV. Motion to Adjourn the Voting Meeting

At approximately 9:01 p.m. Mrs. Romasco moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Smith. All in favor.

RECONVENE THE MEET AND DISCUSS

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Rebecca DeMase, Substitute Board Secretary

Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary