

**Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Voting and Non-Voting Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, February 9, 2022.**

**I. Call to Order: Mrs. Romasco called the meeting to order at approximately 7:15 p.m.**

The Meet and Discuss Voting Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is held on Wednesday, February 9, 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**

**Highland Elementary Students**

Rhys Kittrell  
 Yasmine Avia-Gbedu  
 Ryan Sweitzer  
 LaRhiya Bacon  
 Alena Strong  
 Micheal Kirby  
 Camarra Clemons

**II. Highland Elementary Student Council Report**

Yasmine Avia-Gbedu

**III. Notice: Mrs. Romasco read the following statement:** 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****Mrs. Mueller read the following:**

The Board of School Directors held Executive Session(s) on Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss:

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

**VI. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda****VII. Recognition/Presentation****The Board of Directors would like to recognize the District's Holiday Greeting Card, Winners**

Yesmine Avia-Gbedu, 5<sup>th</sup> grade Highland Elementary  
Mia Paganie, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Economy Elementary  
Alena Strong, 5<sup>th</sup> grade Highland Elementary

**The Board of Directors would like to recognize the following student:**

Adrianna Seltz, 2<sup>nd</sup> grader at Economy Elementary.

Adrianna and her family raised \$1,300.00, through bake sales, and donated the money for cancer research.

We are so pleased with Adrianna's accomplishment!

**Beaver County Career & Technology Center (CTC)****Future Business Leaders of America Regional Leadership Conference**

Ceara Tenney, 11<sup>th</sup> Grader, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Business Law

Jocelyn Mahmoud, 11<sup>th</sup> Grader, 5<sup>th</sup> Place – Human Resource Management

**Parent Survey Results Presentation – Dr. Pasquerilla****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.

Melinda Arlof, Baden, PA

- Thanked Principal Heard for his positivity in the Middle School and the positive change
- Appreciates all of the safety measures put into place at the middle school such as the metal detectors and the State Police being present in the building.
- Concerns with State Street closure.
- Would like to see more transparency from the Board.
- Feels there is not enough time to express adequate concerns with the Public Hearing being scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - Mrs. Romasco stated voting item to approve advertisement for the Public Hearing is the first step in the process to begin the collection of data and research. The scheduled Public Hearing will give the Board and Administration the opportunity to share the collected data

Dorothy Trautman, Baden, PA

- Concerns with the State Street Elementary Public Hearing.
- Stated that State Street helped to change her grandchildren's lives in a positive way.
- State Street helped her grandchildren academically and socially.
- Concerned with the possibility of State Street closing her grandchildren would lose their stability and would have to move around to four different schools.

Brittani Hysong, Baden, PA

- Concerns with the possible State Street Elementary Closure.
- Ask if there was a feasibility study done to determine the possible closure of State Street.
- Why would the Board think of a possible closure?
- How would this financial help.

Fabiola Gerg, Harmony Township, PA

- Looking at the survey feedback, what is the breakdown by schools on the safety answers?
- Why is item 6 under Personnel retroactive from September
- Under Education and Technology, item 1 and 2, what does disability mean, physical disability?
- Under Steering and Rules Policy 137.1– Extracurricular Participation, what is the requirement?
  - Dr. Pasquerilla, as far as Personnel, will not speak on that.
  - Survey results are district results, will look at breaking down the results.
  - The BVIU money is yearly funding for special education that goes through the BVIU. It is allocated to be used for special education students and early intervention students.
  - Dr. Filipowski touched on the BVIU Funding question – every student that has an IEP, the district receives money for them if the student qualifies for Special Education.
  - The Extracurricular Policy - PSBA recommends updates and adoptions of policies to the school district. The major update to this particular policy is to add the JROTC students. The students would comply with policy rules and regulations

**IX. LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THIS MEETING**

**Finance and Budget and Building and Grounds**

**Mr. John Carpenter and Mr. Keber**

1. Adoption of the 2022-2023 Preliminary Budget

It is recommended that the Board adopt the 2022-2023 Preliminary Budget in the amount of \$53,457,865.00, as presented, and file notice of the same with the Pennsylvania Department of Education on form PDE 2028 or other as required by Act 1, including applications for applicable Act 1 exceptions.

2. Public Hearing

It is recommended that the Board authorize the legal advertisement for a public hearing to be held on Monday, February 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria, on the potential closure of State Street Elementary.

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept items 1-2, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Personnel and Salary Schedule and Labor Relations**

**Mr. Cephas and Mrs. Smith**

1. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

It is recommended that 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.

<b><u>ACTIVITY/CLUB (High School)</u></b>		<b><u>SALARY</u></b>
Ski Club	Pam Green	156.66
	Deborah Steiving	156.66
	Jason Roos	156.66

2. Long-Term Substitute

It is recommended Christine Fishel be approved as a Long-Term Substitute at State Street Elementary, at a prorate of 70% Step 1 Masters, \$46,581.00, effective December 10, 2021, 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.

3. Intermittent FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #488 taking an intermittent leave of absence under Board Policy 335, Family and Medical Leave beginning January 20, 2022, not to exceed 12 weeks.

4. Intermittent FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #1791 taking an intermittent leave of absence under Board Policy 335, Family and Medical Leave beginning January 3, 2022, not to exceed 12 weeks.

5. Intermittent FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #2365 taking an intermittent leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave beginning February 1, 2022, not to exceed 12 weeks.

6. Intermittent FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #1247 taking an intermittent leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave beginning September 27, 2021, not to exceed 12 weeks.

7. Intermittent FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #833 taking an intermittent leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave beginning February 10, 2022, not to exceed 12 weeks.

8. Custodian

It is recommended to hire Timothy Hartwick as a custodian at the high school as per the terms of the Local 248 Ambridge Area School Employees, AFSCME – AFL – CIO negotiated agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

9. Mentor Teachers

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

Mentor Teacher

Jeffrey Modrovich

New Teacher

Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey Tisak

10. Resignation

It is recommended to ratify the resignation of Brenda Fink, from her position as a Para-Professional at Highland Elementary, effective February 1, 2022, with regret.

Mr. Cephas moved to accept items 1-10, seconded by Mr. Keber. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**X. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)****Education and Technology****Mrs. Kelly Smith and Mr. Zatchey**1. BVIU 2021-2022 IDEA Allocation

It is recommended to accept the 2021-2022 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Allocation to the Ambridge Area School District, in the amount of \$496,252.40 and it is furthermore recommended to accept the additional amount of \$21,257.93 from ARP IDEA.

2. BVIU 2021-2022 619-IDEA B Funds

It is recommended to accept the 2021-2022 Section 6196 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Allocation to the Ambridge Area School District, in the amount of \$9,666.00, for children ages three through five.

3. K-12 Guidance Plan (339)

It is recommended to approve the submission of the K-12 Guidance Plan (339) to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The Plan was vetted through the Act 339 Advisory Council that included all stakeholders.

**Finance and Budget and Building and Grounds****Mr. John Carpenter and Mr. Keber****Point of Information**

We would like to thank McDonald's for its donation of 37,090 cups. We would also like to thank an anonymous donor for donating 1,000 cups. This is greatly appreciated!

1. School District Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly school district bills in the amount of \$2,702,874.81 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,209,556.84 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$57,310.11 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$42,117.73 be paid.

3. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve the request by the Borough of Baden for the real estate tax exoneration for the years 2011 through 2016 for Parcel No. 13-003-0608.000, 672 State Street, Baden, PA. To be purchased by Eichhorn Enterprises.

4. Repository

It is recommended the Board approve the Sale of Property from the Beaver County Repository of Unsold Property for the following properties:

- a) 672 State Street, Baden, PA Tax Parcel 13-003-0608.000, for the bid amount of \$1,865.00 to Eichhorn Enterprises.

5. BCWAN Consortium

It is recommended the Ambridge Area School District should participate in the BCWAN Consortium for Telecommunications and Internet Access Services. Pricing through the Beaver County Intermediate Unit, which is approximate \$\_\_\_\_. The District has participated in this Consortium in the past.

**Athletics and Public Relations****Mr. Matt Zatchey and Miss Fitsko****Points of Information****Girls Flag Football**

The athletic department would like to acknowledge the “Steelers & Girls High School Flag Football” program. The program is brand new and is still being developed by the Pittsburgh Steelers Youth Football & Player Relations Manager. The program will be at no cost to the district and will act as a clubs and activities program sponsored by Coach Felicia Mycyk. The next step in the process will be gauging student interest to move forward in their development process.

**Hall of Honor**

Annually, Ambridge Area School District proudly recognizes graduates to induct into the Bridger Hall of Honor. The Bridger Hall of Honor was established to commend those outstanding graduates for their accomplishments, successes, service to others and/or state and national awards. Applications to complete the 2022 nominations are available on the district website.

1. Baseball Batting Cage

It is recommended to approve the Ambridge Baseball Booster Organization to construct a batting cage at the School Street baseball field, at no initial cost to the district.

**Steering and Rules and Legislative****Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe and Mrs. Fischer**1. Policy 137.1 – Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to adopt School Board Policy 137.1 – *Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students*, to approve participation in the district’s extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletic programs by a student enrolled in a home education program who meets all the conditions stated in Board policy.

2. Policy 150 – Title 1 Comparability of Services – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to revise School Board Policy 150 – *Title 1 Comparability of Services*, to remove the language “Method of Determination” based on changes to the online tool used to create the Comparability Assurance Form for submission to the PA Department of Education, Division of Federal Programs.

3. Policy 800.1 – Electronic Signatures/Records – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to adopt School Board Policy 800.1 – *Electronic Signature/Records*, to outline guidelines for the use and acceptance of electronic signatures and records in connection with school entity programs and operations, as well as electronic recordkeeping requirements for compliance with state and federal laws and regulations and the school entity’s Records Management Plan.

**Salary Schedule and Labor Relations and Personnel**

**Mr. Cephas and Mrs. Smith**

1. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association ESPA/PSEA-NEA regarding a four-day workweek for the summer of 2022 be approved.

2. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Local 248 Ambridge Area School Employees AFSCME-AFL-CIO regarding a four-day workweek for the summer of 2022 be approved.

**XI. President’s Address**

Mrs. Mueller read correspondence from the Wrestling Boosters thanking Dr. Pasquerilla and the administration for going above and beyond by helping move the scheduled tournament to another district building due to the high school being closed due to COVID numbers.

**XII. Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. Pasquerilla stated:

I want to thank all the students that were recognized. Recognizing students starts the meeting in a positive manner and reminds us why we are all here. When we get this opportunity to recognize the students it brings the best out of everyone. In regards to the hearing, I have concerns with it and the Public Hearing is a chance to share our thoughts. I have stated and will state that I have concerns with the possible closure, it was not my recommendation. With that being said if the Board makes that decision to move forward I along with the Administrative Team will try and make it as smooth as possible. I will state my concerns at the Public Hearing.



**XIII. Solicitor's Report****XIV. 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. This period for public comment prior to the standing committee reports will be limited to one-half hour.

Nicole Pucci, Economy Borough

- State she has been in this district for 13 years and would like to know why the possible of State Street Elementary is even being considered.
  - Mrs. Romasco stated that to close a building there is a timeline to follow and the board had to approve the advertisement of the Public Hearing to give the Public notice and inform them of the Public Hearing that will be held on February 28<sup>th</sup>. And this will give a period of 3 months to investigate and talk with the community and staff to then make a decision whether or not this would become a voting item.

**XV. Motion to Adjourn**

At approximately 8:15 p.m., Mrs. Romasco moved to adjourn, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Mrs. June Mueller**  
**Board Secretary**