

**Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, April 20, 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, April 20, 2022, is now called to order.

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

**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**

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss:

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

**VI. Correspondence**

No Correspondence

**VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, March 9, 2022, Meet and Discuss Non-Voting and Voting Meeting, and Wednesday, March 16, 2022 Board Meeting.**

Mr. Keber made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

**VIII. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report dated: March 2022**

Mrs. Kehoe made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Mrs. Smith. All in favor.

**IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda**

Tabled item 1 under Finance and Budget and Building and Grounds

**X. Recognition/Presentation**

**Beaver County Career & Technology Center Student Accolades**

**Brooklyn Colon, 11<sup>th</sup> Grader**

Brooklyn Colon is a first-year student in the Graphic Arts and Printing program at the Beaver County CTC. Brooklyn's logo was picked by Knock 'em Down Tree and Crane Service as part of their rebranding. The Graphic Arts students worked with the owners of Knock 'em Down to better understand their creative needs, those meetings helped students to better visualize how to improve their existing designs. Brooklyn's design was one of two picked and received \$150.00 from Knock 'em Down for the design. Brooklyn's design will be part of their new uniform and some marketing materials.

*Congratulations Brooklyn!*

**The Highmark Caring Place Poster Contest**

In November, students had the opportunity through the High School and Middle School Guidance Department and the Highmark Caring Place to enter a Poster Contest to support all students' grief awareness! The High School and Middle School Art Department, Mrs. Orth and Mrs. Ax worked hard with all students to help make this opportunity possible! As a result, Lydia Mycyk's poster was chosen as the 2021 Caring Team Poster Contest Winner for our High School category and High School students Angelina Probst and Ricardo Lopez were chosen as Finalist! Lydia's poster will be replicated and printed next year as part of our Children's Grief Awareness Day school resources and shared through the Middle and High School Guidance Department! Lydia, Angelina and Ricardo will be recognized for their contributions to the Caring Place for their posters! On behalf of the Ambridge Area School District and Guidance Department in collaboration with the Caring Place, please give a round of applause and congratulations to Lydia, Angelina and Ricardo for your amazing artwork and contributions to the Caring Place!

*Congratulations Lydia Mycyk, Angelina Probst, and Ricardo Lopez!*

**Champion Force Ambridge Intensity Cheer Team**

*We would like to recognize our district athletes who participate in the Champion Force Ambridge Intensity cheer team for their accomplishments at their regional competition at Robert Morris University in January.*

**Division 1 taking 2nd place:**

Brooklynn Kelly, Highland Elementary  
Juliet Racioppo, Economy Elementary  
Sadie Pielin, Economy Elementary  
Samarah Finney, Highland Elementary

**Division 2 taking 3rd place**

Alexa McFarland, State Street Elementary  
Mikennly Johnson, State Street Elementary  
Celina Hank, State Street Elementary  
Isabella Iorio, State Street Elementary  
Myla Zubik, Economy Elementary  
Alivia Zubik, Economy Elementary

**Division 3 taking 3rd place**

Britney Fodor, State Street Elementary  
Savanah Finney, AAMS  
Sahara Finney, Highland Elementary  
Aowyn (Winnie) Cogley, Economy Elementary  
Emily Kinkade, Economy Elementary  
Madison Whitman, Highland Elementary

**Division 4 took 4th place and headed to Grand Rapids Michigan for Nationals in July**

Mia Wayne, Economy Elementary  
Mckenzie Waters, Economy Elementary  
Marissa Waters, Economy Elementary  
Tianna Cephas, Highland Elementary  
Aunia Gazda, AAMS  
Alayna Gazda, AAMS

**Division 5 took 1st place and headed to Myrtle Beach for Nationals in July**

Alison Bittner, AAMS  
Alayna Velasco, AAHS  
Molly-Anna Cephas, AAMS

We would also like to recognize head coach, Kelly Lockwood, and her assistants Mariah Forsythe and Shelly Polk. *Congratulations everyone!!*

**High School Student of the Month**

12th- Jaina Ilko  
11th- Ivan You  
10th- Natajha Alexander  
9th- Savanna Jones

**High School Extra Effort**

12th- Akiyah Hines

11th- Amanda Palmer

10th- Kylie Bedillion

9th- Anthony Seymour

**Middle School Student of the Month**

8th Janna Rusnak

7th Colin Meadows

6th Kayla Schwerin

**Middle School Extra Effort**

8th Justin Bishop

7th Bella Spencer

6th Deonte McIntosh

**Economy Elementary Student of the Month**

5th Grade – Kylie O’Lare

**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.

Vince Fernandez, Ambridge, PA

- Asked when the newly hired boys basketball would be starting being he is from out of town.
- Why not hire an Ambridge guy.
  - Dr. Pasquerilla responded it is anticipated the new coach will start before July and that an assistant coach will be approved to carry on the program now.
  - Stated there was a committee for the search and interviewing for this position and then the committee recommended the best person for the job.

Mrs. Fischer stated

- Stated Coach Hughes had only 6 months and that was not enough time to rebuild the program.
- Agreed with the Superintendent’s recommendation to give Coach Hughes another year.
- Recognized and thank all of the Alumni that are presently coaching in the district and thanked them for their commitment and hard work.
- Wishes the basketball team the best of luck.

**XII. Committee Reports****Education and Technology****Mrs. Smith and Mr. Zatchey****1. McGraw Hill**

It is recommended to approve the adoption of the My Math, for grades K-5. The total cost will be \$92,714.15, for the 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026, and 2026-2027 school years.

**2. McGraw Hill 2020 Wonders**

It is recommended to approve the adoption of the McGraw Hill 2020 Wonders reading series, grades K-6. The total cost will be \$189,043.28, for the 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026, and 2026-2027 school years.

**3. Transmath Intervention Materials**

It is recommended to approve the purchase of Transmath Intervention materials focused on meeting the needs of students with disabilities in Learning Support Math classes' in grades 6-8 and Algebra 1A and 1B at the High School. The cost is \$15229.50 for resources and \$1800 for one day of training to be purchased using ESSER funds.

**4. Student Agreement 2021-2022-21**

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student # 3953617648 relevant to a high school student, effective April 11, 2022.

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

**Finance and Budget and Building and Grounds****Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Keber****TABLED 1. Proposed Final Budget for the 2022-2023 School Year**

It is recommended to approve the Proposed Final General Operating Fund Budget for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year with Expenditures of \$53,121,066.00. The Proposed Final Budget is on display for public inspection at the Administration Office and online on our website.

**2. School District Monthly Bills and Salaries**

It is recommended that the monthly school district bills in the amount of \$3,795,098.08 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,239,543.29 be paid.

3. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$64,177.92 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$49,769.05 be paid.

4. 2022-2023 Beaver County Career & Technology Center Operating Budget

It is recommended to approve the 2022-2023 Beaver County Career & Technology Center Operating Budget for \$6,445,645.00. It is further recommended the Board President and Board Secretary be authorized to execute the BCCTC Resolution form.

5. Service Agreement Renewal

It is recommended to renew the service agreement with Associated Occupational Therapy for the 2022-2023 school year with no increase in rates.

6. Repository

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

- a) 3190 Bradbury Drive, South Heights, PA Tax Parcel 51-002-0101.000, for the bid amount of \$1,669.00 to Albert Charles Borgia.

Mr. Keber moved to accept items 2-6. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Keber moved to table item 1, seconded by Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Fischer and Mrs. Kehoe voted against tabling item 1.

**Athletics and Public Relations**

**Mr. Zatchey and Miss Fitsko**

**Bridger Hall of Honor 2022 Inductees**

Congratulations to the 2022 Bridger Hall of Honor Inductees:

Dana Donati, 1999 Graduate, Chief Executive Officer – United Aviate Academy  
Shawn Holman, 1982 Graduate – Professional Baseball Player

**Steering and Rules and Legislative**

**Mrs. Kehoe and Mrs. Fischer**

1. Policy 218 – Student Discipline - First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to revise School Board Policy 218 – *Student Discipline* to update the language regarding off-campus activities to clarify the circumstances under which the Code of Student Conduct and board policy applies to student behavior that occurs both on and off-campus and to include language on reports to the threat assessment team.

2. Policy 220 – Student Expression/Dissemination of Materials – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to change the title of School Board Policy 220 - *Student Expression/Dissemination of Materials* to *Student Expression/Dissemination of Materials* and to update and streamline terminology and section headings throughout the policy to address this change. The policy now defines dissemination as a term that includes both distribution and posting.

3. Policy 227 – Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to revise School Board Policy 227 - *Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia* to update the off-campus activities section in this policy to refer to Policy 218 - Student Discipline which is where school administrators should be directed when considering consequences for a student's conduct that occurred off school property or during non-school hours.

4. Policy 237 – Electronic Devices – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to revise School Board Policy 237 - *Electronic Devices* to keep pace with technology used in educational settings, revisions to this policy provide an updated definition and additional options for school entities that allow students to use electronic devices during the school day in approved locations for educational purposes.

5. Policy 808 – Food Services – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to revise School Board Policy 808 – *Food Services* to make provisions to the language related to alternative meals being served to students if the student is not eligible for free-reduced-price school meals and the student's account reaches a negative balance of more than fifty dollars (\$50) in a school year was removed from this policy, based on recent food service audits conducted by the PA Department of Education (PDE).

6. Policy 801.1 – Records Retention and Disposition – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to revise School Board Policy 801.1 – *Records Retention and Disposition* to outline various statutory and regulatory requirements for documents retention and disposition.

Mrs. Fischer moved to accept items 1-6, seconded by Mrs. Kehoe. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Personnel and Salary Schedule and Labor Relations****Mr. Cephas and Mrs. Smith****1. 2022-2023 District Course and Section Adjustments**

A. It is recommended to hereby approve the following position curtailments at the close of the 2021-2022 school year:

1. Ambridge Area Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher-All Subjects
2. Ambridge Area Middle School Learning Support and Emotional Support Teacher-All Grade Levels
3. Learning Support Teacher at Ambridge Senior High School
4. Special Education Teacher at the High School
5. High Special Education 9-12 Teacher
6. Special Education/English Teacher at the High School
7. Learning Support-High School Reading Teacher
8. Ambridge Area High School Life Skills Teacher
9. Senior High Transition

B. It is recommended to approve the alterations of the following position for the 2022-2023 school year:

1. Economy Elementary Grade 5 – All Subjects
2. Ambridge Area High School Learning Support/Emotional Support/Autistic Support/Life Skills/Transition/Special Education Teacher
3. Ambridge Area High School Learning Support/Emotional Support/Autistic Support/Life Skills/Transition/Special Education Teacher
4. Ambridge Area High School Learning Support/Emotional Support/Autistic Support/Life Skills/Transition/Special Education Teacher
5. Ambridge Area High School Learning Support/Emotional Support/Autistic Support/Life Skills/Transition/Special Education Teacher
6. Ambridge Area High School Learning Support/Emotional Support/Autistic Support/Life Skills/Transition/Special Education Teacher
7. Ambridge Area High School Learning Support/Emotional Support/Autistic Support/Life Skills/Transition/Special Education Teacher
8. Ambridge Area High School Learning Support/Emotional Support/Autistic Support/Life Skills/Transition/Special Education Teacher

**2. Professional Employee**

It is recommended to approve Miranda Speakman as School Psychologist for grades K-4 at a salary of \$53,533.16 (Step 1 Masters+30), effective June 6, 2022, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEEA/PSEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.



### 3. Extended School Year Services

- a. It is recommended the following teachers be approved to provide Extended School Year services to students from Monday, July 11, 2022, through Thursday, July 14, 2022, and Monday, July 18, 2022, through Thursday, July 21, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Highland Elementary and the High School at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement:

Jamie Wellman  
Missy Thomas  
Jen Shannon  
Ashley Schmidt  
Patty Weale  
Mara Bartholomew

- b. It is recommended the following para-educators be approved to provide Extended School Year services to students from Monday, July 11, 2022, through Thursday, July 14, 2022, and Monday, July 18, 2022, through Thursday, July 21, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Highland Elementary and the High School at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement:

Lacey McCullough  
Jen Kamzelski  
Melissa Holcomb  
Carlyn Humphries

- c. It is recommended to the following teachers be approved to work in elementary summer school from Monday, July 11, 2022, through Thursday, July 14, 2022, and Monday, July 18, 2022, through Thursday, July 21, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Highland Elementary and the High School at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement.

Michelle Wilson  
Carrie Keber

### 4. Varsity Boys Basketball Coach

It is recommended to hire Jonas Ankrom as the Varsity Boys Basketball Head Coach at a salary of \$6,000.00, for the 2022-2023 season, 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 winter sports as normal.

### 5. Varsity Girls Basketball Coach

It is recommended to hire Lethere Harrison as the Varsity Girls Basketball Head Coach at a salary of \$6,000.00, for the 2022-2023 season, 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 winter sports as normal.

**6. MCJROTC Military Instructor**

It is recommended that a one-year Employment Agreement for the 2022-2023 school year, for the position of Military Instructor of the Ambridge Area Marine Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MJROTC) with SSgt. Michael J. Liberty at a net salary of \$23,978.08 through December 31, 2022, and the appropriate salary adjustment for the period between January 1, 2023 and June 30, 2023, which will be determined in part by the District Agreement and in accordance with the notification from Marine Corps Training and Education Command regarding the annual increase to minimum instructor pay (MIP) entitlements for JROTC instructors.

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

**7. FMLA**

It is recommended to ratify employee #1922 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave beginning April 12, 2022, not to exceed 12 weeks.

**8. Student Teacher**

It is recommended to approve Doug Nazar a Slippery Rock student, for student teaching for the 2022 fall semester, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening. Doug will be placed with Ashley Simpson.

Mrs. Smith moved to accept items 1-8, seconded by Mr. Cephas. Mrs. Fischer voted against item 4, Mr. Keber voted against item 1 and abstained from item 3. Mrs. Kehoe voted against item 4. Mrs. Smith voted against item 1. Mr. Zatchey voted against item 1.

**XIII. President's Address****XIV. Solicitor's Report****XV. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Pasquerilla gave an update on the Middle School SRO. Officer Phan started at the Middle School on April 20<sup>th</sup> and will be in the building until the end of the year

Mr. Carpenter thanked the Administration and the Solicitor for putting in long hours into getting the SRO in place.

**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.

Brittani Hysong Baden, PA

- Asked if the State Street appraisal expenditure going to be retroactively approved by the Board.
- What is the dollar amount that needs to be Board approved?
  - Ms. Turnbull will provide that information to Mrs. Hysong.
- State that the State Street PTO has been trying to retain and gain new students.
- Announced a district-wide event at State Street.
- Asked if the number of students stays up will State Street remain open?

Mr. Carpenter stated:

- He does not have a predisposition to close State Street
- Stated that serious financial problems do exist
- At this time the closure of State Street would not impact this year
- No need right now for the closure of State Street
- He has serious financial concerns for the next five-year projection
- Thanked the State Street PTO for taking this seriously and continuing to support the school
- Believes the district will land on its feet because it is a great school district

Tony Hubbard, Ambridge, PA

- Why wasn't Coach Hughes recommended for a second year?
- Coach Hughes took a team to WPIAL section finals, why go against him as the coach?
- Will there be an assistant hired now in the event that the newly hired coach is not available to start.
  - Ms. Turnbull stated that the varsity level coaches are hired on a one-year term and it is the prerogative of the Board to proceed on a year-to-year basis is how they feel best serves the district.
  - Dr. Pasquerilla stated the next steps will be to hire an assistant coach and the assistant coach will be allowed to run practices until the newly hired coach begins.

Adrianna Cephas, Ambridge, PA

- Thanked the Board for honoring and recognized the student athletes.

## **XVII. Motion to Adjourn**

At approximately 8:16 p.m., Miss Fitsko moved to adjourn and reconvene to Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. All in favor.