

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, May 18, 2022.

- I. Call to Order: Mrs. Romasco called the meeting to order at approximately 7:15 p.m.**
The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District Board of Directors on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, is now called to order.
- II. Flag salute-please rise: Mrs. Romasco asked all present to rise for the flag salute.**
- 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 an Executive Session on Wednesday, May 18th to discuss:

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

Point of Information

The annual School Safety and Security Board Report was reviewed, consistent with Act 44 of 2018.

VI. Correspondence

No correspondence

VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Tuesday, April 12th, Meet and Discuss Non-Voting and Voting Meeting, and Wednesday, April 20, 2022 Board Meeting.

Mr. Zatchey moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Keber. All in favor.

VIII. Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report dated: April 2022

Mrs. Kehoe moved to accept the treasurer’s report, seconded by Mrs. Smith. All in favor.

IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda

Item 3 under Education and Technology was removed from the agenda.

Field Trip

It is recommended to grant permission to JROTC cadets, Lance Bobak and Elise Propst, with parental permission, to travel to Kerrville, Texas from July 6th through July 12th to participate in the Sports Network International drill camp conducted at Schreiner University. The purpose of this trip is to build teamwork, enhance camaraderie amongst the cadets, develop leadership skills, and increase unit cohesion. All student costs will be paid for by the Marine Corps and the chaperone cost to be determined. Chaperones will be required to have current clearances, and TB testing.

Added Item 8 under Steering and Rules and Legislative

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept the addendum, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. All in favor

X. Recognition/Presentation

Beaver County Career and Technology

Congratulations to Kensy Lopez, 12th Grade, for her induction into the National Technical Honor Society.

Varsity Ambridge-Avonworth Hockey Co-op

Mark Rauenswinter, 10th Grade, was selected to the PIHL All-Star team.

Middle School Ambridge-Avonworth Hockey Co-op

Winning back-to-back championships with a record of 12-2.

Alexa Best, 7th Grade

Charlie Stefanik, 7th Grade

Congratulations to the Student-Athletes!

Ambridge Area Musical

Congratulations to Emily Deane, 11th grader, for receiving a Henry Mancini Musical Theatre Award nomination for “Best Supporting Actress” as Aunt Eller in the school musical, Oklahoma!

High School Student of the Month

April Students of the Month

12th- Brandon Streb

11th- Norah Best

10th- Ava Timmons

9th- Madeleine Gelinas

High School Extra Effort

April Extra Effort

12th- Christian Davis

11th-Elise Propst

10th- Pietro Pucci

9th- Anthony Speicher

Middle School Student of the Month

April Students of the Month

8th- Halle Prozenski

7th- Eleni Bratton

6th- Olliver Powell

Middle School Extra Effort

April Students of the Month

8th- Justin Bishop

7th- Jackson Kozak

6th- Rosie Lodovico

Economy Elementary Student of the Month

April Student of the Month

5th Emma Pinchot

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.

No Comment

XII. Committee Reports**Education and Technology****Mrs. Smith and Mr. Zatchey**1. High School Senior Projects

It is recommended the Administration be approved to adapt the senior project to align with service learning projects according to Act 158 of 2018, Graduation Pathways.

2. JROTC

It is recommended that the tuition share for Non-District Students enrolled in the JROTC Program are as follows:

- \$200.00 - per class
- \$2,000.00 – all day Leadership Academy (Regular Education)
- \$6,000.00 – all day Leadership Academy (Special Education)
- Transportation to be paid by the student's home district

4. Adventures in Education Club Field Trip

It is recommended that Larry Knopsnyder, an American Cultures Teacher at the High School, be authorized to take 10th-grade students in the Adventures in Education Club to Charleston, South Carolina from November 7th through November 10th. The students will be visiting historical sites such as Boone Hall Plantation, Patriots Point, and Fort Moultrie. There will be no cost to the District, with the exception of the cost for the substitute teacher. Parents or guardians will be required to sign permission and release forms. Chaperones will be required to have current clearances, and TB testing.

5. Field Trip

It is recommended permission be granted to Todd Hartman and Stephen Rogers, to take The High School Band, Chamber Choir, and Steel Drums to Florida from January 19th through January 23rd to participate in the Universal Parade and the Chamber Choir will participate in the Candlelight Processional at Epcot. All expenses will be obtained through fundraising. Parents or guardians will be required to sign permission and release forms. Chaperones will be required to have current clearances, and TB testing. This is at no cost to the district, with the exception of the cost for the substitute teachers.

6. Student Agreement 2021-2022-23

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student #4372813961 relevant to a high school student, effective May 6, 2022.

7. Student Agreement 2021-2022-24

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student #7078946863 relevant to a high school student, effective May 3, 2022.

8. Student Agreement 2021-2022-25

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student #1877914312 relevant to a high school student, effective May 16, 2022.

9. Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) Interpreter Agreement

It is recommended to ratify an Interpreter Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit 3 for services provided by the AIU Deaf and Hard of Hearing Support Program to support the parents who require ADA Accommodations, at the cost of \$90.00 per hour with a minimum of two hours. Agreement pending solicitor review.

Mr. Zatchey moved to accept items 1-9, seconded by Mrs. Smith. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Finance and Budget and Building and Grounds**Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Keber**1. School District Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly school district bills in the amount of \$1,502,138.04 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,255,686.32 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$62,718.71 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$54,146.29 be paid.

3. Student/Athletic Insurance

a) It is recommended that the United States Fire Insurance Company (PSBA endorsed) be approved for **voluntary** student insurance coverage for the 2022-2023 school year beginning August 1, 2022. Goodwin & Gruber Agency will act as the insurance broker. The medical limits are \$250,000.00 with a one-year period. The rate for school-time coverage is \$22.50 and \$90.00 for 24-hour coverage.

b) It is recommended that United States Fire Insurance Company be approved for student **athletic** coverage at a cost of \$10,915.00 to insure interscholastic athletes, band, and cheerleaders. The medical limit for sports is \$1,000,000.00 with a two-year benefit period. Plan 1 which pays all medical expenses "Usual & Customary" will be used. The premium includes a field trip endorsement for all one-day field trips (in Pennsylvania) for coverage up to \$2,500.00 per student.

*This is at no increase in cost.

4. Berkheimer

It is recommended to authorize the Per Capita Tax Collection Agreement with Berkheimer through December 31, 2024 with associated terms and to adopt the related Resolutions appointing Berkheimer as the current Collector, Delinquent Collector and Tax Hearing Officer pursuant to the Local Taxpayers Bill of Rights, and adopting an Act 20 Schedule of Fees.

5. Ambulance Service

It is recommended to approve an agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Non-Profit Emergency Services of Beaver County, Medic Rescue, for a period of one year commencing on July 1, 2022, at an annual fee of \$3,400.00, at no increase in cost.

6. Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA)

It is recommended to approve the renewal dues for the Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA) membership for a total cost of \$13,948.02, at no increase in cost to the District.

7. Repair Economy Elementary Elevator

It is recommended to approve TK Elevator Corporation to repair the elevator at Economy Elementary at a cost of \$42,874.00.

8. Early Head Start of Beaver County Program

It is recommended to approve a Lease Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Private Industry Council of Westmoreland/Fayette, Inc., operating its Early Head Start of Beaver County Program (PIC) to use a classroom in Economy Elementary, effective June 1, 2022 and end on May 31, 2023 at a cost of \$1,000.00 per month. Pending district's solicitor review and the funding of the Private Industry Council of Westmoreland/Fayette, Inc to Head Start of Beaver County program for the lease of the classroom.

9. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve a tax exoneration regarding the collection of Real Estate Tax for 2016 to 2021, conditioned upon mutual municipal and county reciprocal exoneration for the same years, relevant to the following property:

- a) Tax Parcel 51-001-0812.000, 2227 Hill Road, South Heights, and purchased by Kendall Liggins.

10. Assessment Settlement

It is recommended to approve the tax assessment settlement in the matter of PZ Northern Limited Partnership v. Beaver County Board of Assessment Appeals.

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

Athletics and Public Relations**Mr. Zatchey and Miss Fitsko****Steering and Rules and Legislative****Mrs. Kehoe and Mrs. Fischer**1. Board of School Directors of the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit (BVIU) Mail Ballot

It is recommended the 2022 mail ballot be cast for the 2022-2023 Board of School Directors of the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit. The term of the Board of School Directors of the BVIU elected by this ballot shall be for three (3) years beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2025 as provided in the School Code.

2. Policy 218 – Student Discipline – Third and Final Reading

It is recommended, as a third and final 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.

3. Policy 220 – Student Expression/Dissemination of Materials – Third and Final

It is recommended, as a third and final reading, to change the title of School Board Policy 220 - *Student Expression/Distribution and Posting 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.

4. Policy 227 – Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia – Third and Final

It is recommended, as a third and final 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.

5. Policy 237 – Electronic Devices – Third and Final Reading

It is recommended, as a third and final 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.

6. Policy 808 – Food Services – Third and Final Reading

It is recommended, as a third and final 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 foodservice audits conducted by the PA Department of Education (PDE).

7. Policy 801.1 – Records Retention and Disposition – Third and Final Reading

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

8. Policy 218.1 – Weapons – Suspend Policy

It is recommended to approve the temporary suspension of the relevant portions of School Board Policy 218.1 – *Weapons*, relative to the simple possession of pepper spray, mace, and other chemical propellant and to make simple possession of the same a Level I offense subject to confiscation, effective and including May 18, 2022, until the conclusion of the 2021-2022 school year.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to approve items 1-7, seconded by Miss. Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Carpenter moved to approve item 8, seconded by Mrs. Romasco. Mr. Carpenter, Mrs. Fischer, Miss Fitsko, and Mrs. Kehoe voted against item 8.

Personnel and Salary Schedule and Labor Relations

Mr. Cephas and Mrs. Smith

1. Employee Agreement

It is recommended to approve the employment agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and June Mueller. The agreement will commence on July 1, 2022 and expire on June 30, 2025.

2. MCJROTC Military Instructor

It is recommended that a one-year Employment Agreement for the 2022-2023 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 net salary of \$42,197.28 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.

3. 2022-2023 Fall Coaches

It is recommended to approve the following individuals to fill the designated fall coaching positions for the 2022-2023 school years 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 fall sports as normal.

- 1) Football
 - a) Kenny Carlisle, Assistant \$5,000.00
 - b) Tom Baranyk, Assistant 4,200.00
 - c) Ron Wilson, Equipment Manager 3,500.00
 - d) Keith Olden, Middle School Coach 3,350.00

- 2) Boys Soccer
 - a) Ben Fiore, Head Coach \$4,300.00
 - b) Don Ayers, Middle School Coach 2,050.00

- 3) Girls Soccer
 - a) Gianna Sinatra, Middle School Coach \$2,050.00

- 4) Girls Tennis
 - a) Georgia Barlamas, Head Coach \$4,300.00
 - b) Megan Racioppo, Assistant Coach 1,050.00
 - c) Ryan Racioppo, Volunteer Coach No Remuneration

- 5) Boys Golf
 - a) Chris Yannessa, Head Coach \$4,300.00
 - b) Terry George, Assistant Coach 1,050.00

- 6) Girls Golf
 - a) Larry Knopsnyder, Head Coach \$4,300.00
 - b) Terry George, Assistant Coach 1,050.00

- 7) Boys/Girls Cross Country
 - a) Denise Duncan, Head Coach \$4,300.00

4. Solicitor

It is recommended to reappoint Weiss Burkardt Kramer, LLC as Solicitor for the 2022-2023 school year consistent with their August 9, 2019, three-year proposal rates.

5. Retirement

It is recommended to approve the resignation, due to retirement, of Cathy Wyman, from her position as a head cook at the middle school, effective May 31, 2022, with regret.

6. Remedial Summer School Program (Tentative upon student enrollment to ensure no cost to the District)

It is recommended the following teachers be approved to provide Summer School Program services to students from Thursday, June 9, 2022 through Wednesday, June 22, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Ambridge Area High School. Teachers will be compensated at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement.

Christina Briola - English
Greg Mell – Social Studies
Shad Greco – Math

7. Common Assessment Authors

It is recommended to ratify the following individuals to serve as the Common Assessment Authors for the 2021-2022 school year. Teachers will be compensated at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement. Not to exceed 15 hours to develop three (3) common assessments.

Lauren Taormina, 4th Grade ELA

8. Cafeteria Food Service Assistants/Substitutes Non-Bargaining Unit Employees

It is recommended to hire the following individuals listed as Food Service Assistants/Substitutes non-bargaining unit employees 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.

Kathy Taylor, High School

9. Retirement

It is recommended to approve the resignation due to the retirement of Catherine Kuharsky, a Para-Professional at the Middle School, effective June 6, 2022, with regret.

10. Elementary Summer School

It is recommended 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.

Christine Fishel
Greta Bible

Mrs. Smith moved to approve items 1-10, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XIII. President's Address

Nothing to report

XIV. Solicitor's Report

Ms. Turnbull thanked the Board and looks forward to continuing working with the district.

XV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated the students who were recognized and recognized the concerts and art shows for their work. Proud of the students, staff and community.

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.

- Tammy Girardi, Baden PA
 - Requested pepper spray under the Weapons Policy be revised.
 - Spoke in regards to her daughter using pepper spray for protection after leaving work the night before late. Her daughter accidentally left the pepper spray on her key chain and entered the school the next morning.
 - Feels her daughter deserves to walk for graduation for all of her accomplishments and not be punished for one mistake.
 - Requested in this situation that the incidents be reviewed on a case-to-case base.
 - Expressed that punishing her daughter and now allowing her to walk is no way to reward her for all of her accomplishments and no way for her daughter to leave her a.ma mater.
 - Asked the Board to consider voting to revise the policy.
- Brittani Hysong, Baden, PA
 - Asked if there was a decision was made on the BVIU Insurance Group proposal.
 - ✓ Dr. Pasquerilla noted proposals are being reviewed by the Board and the Board would recommend going with the best price and that this is an annual contract and will be reviewed annually.
 - Expressed how she is doing all that she can to keep State Street open.
 - Concerns with rumors of State Street closing in the future.
 - ✓ Mrs. Romasco stated that the administration along with Board members have spent countless hours on the budget working on ways to save and will continue to look at other ways to save. Said that since the public hearing for possibly closing State Street Elementary was canceled there has not been any more talk of the possible closure. Stated that the Board could not say this would never happen but the closure of State Street is not on their radar now.
 - ✓ Mr. Cephas, Mrs. Fischer and Mrs. Kehoe all agreed this was not something the Board was looking to do.

- Questioned if the State Street appraisal was approved by the board
 - ✓ Solicitor, Ms. Turnbull, explained that the appraisal was ordered by their office and it was approved when the WBK legal invoice was approved on the check registry sent to the Board as the monthly bills.
- Laura Shakespeare, Baden PA, State Street PTO
 - Concerns with security and volunteers in the building roaming the halls
 - ✓ Dr. Pasquerilla, stated that the concerns should be brought to the building principal and that unless there are major concerns volunteers are welcomed in the buildings.
 - ✓ Mrs. Fitsko stated that she was the volunteer and stated her reason for going to the library and this was to check on possible book carts for the students so that students could access books.
- Katie Sipes, Baden PA, State Street PTO President
 - Safety Concerns with volunteers.
 - ✓ Dr. Pasquerilla reiterated what was discussed about the chain of command to discuss the concern.
- Debbie Conover, Economy PA
 - Asked the Board to consider letting the student who accidentally brought pepper spray into school with no ill intentions and who has a very bright future ahead be allowed to walk with her graduating class.
- Board and Solicitor Turnbull had a discussion on the School Board Policy 218.1 – *Weapons*
- Dr. Pasquerilla recommended consistency and staying with the Policy. Dr. Pasquerilla stated for all students' safety, consistent discipline should be followed according to school policy.

XVII. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 9:30 p.m., Mr. Carpenter moved to adjourn and go back into Executive Session, seconded by Mrs. Romasco. All in favor.