

**Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, March 16, 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, March 16, 2022, is now called to order.

**II. Flag salute-please rise**

**High School Students**

- Anita Szymoniak
- Morgan McKay
- Francis Aguirre
- Ashleigh Mickle
- Amiracle Emerson
- Serina Seligman

**III. High School Student Council Report**

**IV. 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.

**V. 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

**VI. Sunshine Law**

Mrs Mueller read the following:

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss:

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

**VII. Correspondence**

No Correspondence

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

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

**IX. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report dated: February 2022**

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

**X. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda****XI. Recognition/Presentation****Ashley Simpson and Glenn Freed- MathCounts Winners**

On Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, eleven students from Ambridge Area Middle School participated in the Beaver County MathCounts Competition held online through the Art of Problem Solving (AoPS) website. The Beaver County chapter is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers. Coached by teachers Glenn Freed and Ashley Simpson, the competing students were Alison Bittner, Eden DeMuth, Parker Eisel, Noah Fabrizio, Owen Hammond, JR Koster, Colin Meadows, Janna Rusnak, Cooper Scheidemantle, Abby Smith, and Hannah Thear. The competition featured 43 students from schools across Beaver County. Students independently competed in the Sprint round of 30 no calculator questions within 40 minutes and the Target round of four sets of 2 calculator questions within 6 minutes for each set. Then Janna Rusnak, Hannah Thear, JR Koster, and Parker Eisel worked together on the Team round of 10 questions. The final individual results had four Ambridge students in the top 10 in the county level. Alison Bittner ranked 5th overall, JR Koster ranked 6th, Janna Rusnak ranked 8th, and Hannah Thear ranked 10th. Only the top 4 ranked students from this county competition are invited to the state competition.

*Congratulations to all who competed and thank you to the students and families for their hard work!*

**High School Student of the Month**

Leah Fritsch, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Will Gruca, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

Zoe Elias, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

Sheridan Olenic, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

**High School Extra Effort**

Morgan McKay, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 Kemagne Phillips, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 Trinity Stubbs, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 Lillian Ruckert, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Middle School Student of the Month**

McKayla Lebeck, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 Isabella Rivera, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 Madison Curry, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Middle School Extra Effort**

Norah Marchionda, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 Alexis Salguero Diaz, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 Olivia Leahey, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Economy Elementary Student of the Month**

Caden Ilinicki, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**XII. 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 Comments

**XIII. Committee Reports**

**Education and Technology**

**Mrs. Smith and Mr. Zatchey**

1. Student Agreement 2021-2022-14

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student #7357823563 relevant to a high school student, effective February 15, 2022.

2. Student Agreement 2021-2022-15

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student #2231543788 relevant to a high school student, effective February 28, 2022.

3. Category 2 E-Rate Funding

It is recommended to approve (using Category 2 E-Rate funding) the purchase of Network Data Switches for Ambridge Area High School. The total cost of the project is \$92,710.00. Pending Universal Service Administrative Company Schools and Library Divisions (USAC SLD) approval, the E-Rate program will pay approximately \$74,168.00 (80%) of the total cost. The Ambridge Area School District will pay approximately \$18,542.00 (20%) of the total cost.

4. All-State Chorus Festival

It is recommended to approve Stephen Rodgers be authorized to take a high school student to participate in the 2022 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association - PMEA All-State Festival and Annual In-Service Conference. The Conference will be held April 6 – April 8, 2022, at Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Pocono Manor, PA. This will be at an approximate cost of \$2,200.00.

5. Carlow University Clinical Affiliation Agreement

It is recommended to approve a one-year Clinical Affiliation Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Carlow University for student field observation, practicum experiences, student teaching, and internships, pending solicitor review.

Mrs. Smith moved to accept items 1-5, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. 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 \$1,860,021.24 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,295,468.18 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$59,211.10 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$54,540.91 be paid.

3. Budget Transfers

It is recommended to approve budget transfers for March 2022.

4. Huckestein Mechanical Services, Inc.

It is recommended to accept the proposal of Huckestein Mechanical dated January 31, 2022, at an annual amount of \$148,668.00 with an approximate 3% increase for each year of the contract to provide full maintenance with parts, effective May 1, 2022, and ending on April 30, 2027, **subject to final solicitor review and revision.**

5. R.J. Rhodes Transit, Inc.

It is recommended to approve a contract between R.J. Rhodes Transit, Inc. and the Ambridge Area School district for the next five (5) years at an annual estimated approximate cost of \$3,447,790.05. This agreement is subject to final contract terms being negotiated by the parties. This agreement will commence on July 1, 2022, and end on June 30, 2027, **subject to final solicitor review and revision.**

6. The Wilson Group

It is recommended to approve an agreement between The Wilson Group and the Ambridge Area School District to provide copier and printer services at a cost of \$9,815.00 per month for sixty (60) months. This is an approximate savings of \$1,006.00 per month. The district shall receive all new copiers and printers, **subject to final solicitor review and revision.**

7. Proposed 2022-2023 Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit Budget

It is recommended the 2022-2023 Beaver Valley Intermediate unit General Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,459,600.00 be approved. It is further recommended the Board President and Secretary be authorized to execute the DECO-779 Resolution form concerning the BVIU budget. (The district's share is \$21,810.00)

8. Repository

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

- a) 2227 Hill Road, South Heights, PA Tax Parcel 51-001-0812.000, for the bid amount of \$1,521.00.00 to Liggins Kendall.

9. Ridge Road Elementary Option Agreement

It is recommended to approve the Lease Agreement with Option to Purchase between the Ambridge Area School District and Mr. and Mrs. St. George for Ridge Road Elementary, as presented and to authorize the Solicitor to prepare the related legal filings in the Court of Common Pleas of Beaver County.

10. Health and Safety Plan

It is recommended to modify the Health and Safety Plan to allow the operation of water fountains in all school buildings unless the COVID-19 case percentages in an individual building exceed 4%. At that time the water fountains at that specific building would be shut off until Board approval to return to water fountain use.

11. Communications Consulting Inc. 2022-2023 Agreement Pricing Letter of Intent

It is recommended to approve an Agreement Pricing Letter of Intent with Communications Consulting Inc. for the purchase of Sophos Software renewal and firewall upgrade for the 2022-2023 school year. This is at an approximate cost of \$130,492.57 for a three (3) year renewal.

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept items 1-11, seconded by Mr. Keber. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Athletics and Public Relations**

**Mr. Zatchey and Miss Fitsko**

1. Athletic Training Services

It is recommended the Athletic Training Services Agreement between UPMC Health System Sports Medicine and the Ambridge Area School District be approved. This is a three (3) year agreement for the 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025, school years at a cost of \$39,965.00 per school year. This cost is slightly less than the amount for the 2021-2022 school year. The agreement will commence on July 1, 2022, and end on June 30, 2025.

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

**Steering and Rules and Legislative**

**Mrs. Kehoe and Mrs. Fischer**

1. Policy 137.1 – Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final 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 I Comparability of Services – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final reading, to revise School Board Policy 150 – *Title I 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 – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final 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.

4. Meeting Notice

It is recommended to approve the previously scheduled Meet and Discuss Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2022, to be rescheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to accept items 1-4, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. The vote in favor was unanimous.



6. Resignation

It is recommended to ratify the resignation of Karen Kohel, from her position of a caregiver at the Economy Elementary Before and After School Child Care, effective March 10, 2022.

7. Sub-Contracted Psychological Services

It is recommended to approve a contract between the Ambridge Area School District and Dr. Kara McGoey, Private Psychologist, for sub-contracted psychological services for Transition to Kindergarten evaluations. The operating period shall be from April 1, 2022, through August 31, 2023. The total cost shall not exceed \$10,000.00.

8. Permanent Contract

It is recommended the following professional employee, who has completed three years of satisfactory service in the Ambridge Area School District as of the effective date designated, be given a permanent professional contract:

Tiffany Miller

August 15, 2021

9. Resolution 2021-2022-04 - Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement

It is recommended to adopt Resolution 2021-2022-04, a resolution authorizing and adopting the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for School Resource Officer, as presented.

10. Maintenance

It is recommended to hire John Barnhart as full-time maintenance 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.

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

**XIV. President's Address**

Nothing to report.

**XV. Solicitor's Report**

Nothing to report.

**XVI. Superintendent's Report**

Thanks all of the students that were in attendance. Congratulated all who worked so diligently. Also thanked Mrs. Eyth for her all of her work on the budget and presentation.

**XVII. 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

- Questioned if the contract for Rhodes transit included State Street Elementary for the next five years.
  - Dr. Pasquerilla stated that if State Street Elementary were to close, we would still physically need the same number of buses, it came down to the amount of fuel and the fuel is contracted separately. So therefore we would have enough equipment.
- Concerns with a Howard Hanna vehicle being on State Street property and want to have that on the record.
  - Dr. Pasquerilla did not know anything about that.
  - Dr. Pasquerilla shared how Mr. Cephas mentioned that we just need to go out there and share about how great our schools are. We need to do everything we can to retain students and hopefully to get some students come back. Hope that Ms. Hysong will help share that message.

Caitlin Sipes

- Thanks Mr. Carpenter for recognizing the State Street and the community on Social Media.
- Does not want to see State Street closed.
- Suggested going to the preschools in the district to get them involved in our district, by story reading, and offering field trips to our schools.
- Mrs. Romasco agreed that this is a really good idea.
- Dr. Pasquerilla said this is something to explore to get those parents involved.
- Mrs. Kehoe stated that certain daycares are promoting Baden Academy and not the district.
- Dr. Pasquerilla suggested the PTA/PTO reach out to their principals and schedule a meeting with them and himself to really get the word out about our schools and to recruit families.

Mr. Zatchey and Mr. Cephas gave a library report as follows:

Matching grant received for \$227,000 with the assistance of Rob Matzie, our State representative to be used for a new roof, new security lighting, and cameras, and to clean the exterior of the building

-scope of work to start this spring (2022) and ultimately be wrapped up summer of 2023

American Girl Doll tea party fundraiser

-On May 1, tickets are on sale at the library or online

**Teen Reading Lounge program**

*We receive \$8,000.00 this year and will need to complete 20 hours of sessions through August. The students get free books and complete art projects that go along with the themes of the book. We also are required to do a community service project. The students have a chance to talk about issues that are brought up in the literature, often tough subjects they can discuss in a confidential and non-judgmental environment with library staff and*

*facilitators. Even if they do not want to read the books, the discussions are valuable in helping reach this teen audience. I have reached out to teachers in the English department to help find students who may be interested in participating. We have had a few sign up. The aim is not to have a huge group, but between 8-12 core attendees that attend the sessions regularly.*

*We have received this grant for the past several years but this year is particularly tough getting students to commit this year for some reason. We plan to start up sessions as soon as possible*

Mrs. Cephas stated that PTA/PTO coalition with all schools and the libraries. The libraries have events over the summers where parents come with their children and this would be a good time for our PTA/PTO members reach out to these parents.

### **XVIII. Motion to Adjourn**

At approximately 7:54 p.m., Mr. Carpenter moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Smith