

Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Voting and Not-Voting Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, August 10, 2022.

I. Call to Order Mr. Romasco called the meeting to order at approximately 7:45 p.m.

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District Board of Directors on Wednesday, August 17, 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
Mr. Matthew Zatchey, Treasurer
Mr. John Carpenter
Mrs. Cathy Fischer
Mr. Rob Keber
Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe
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 statement:

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, August 17th to discuss:

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

VI. Correspondence

A thank you letter to the Board of Education for their contribution to the Laughlin Memorial Library.

VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, July 13th Board meeting.

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

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

Miss. Sipes moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. All in favor.

IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda

Added item 18 under Personnel and Salary Schedule and Labor Relations

Mrs. Smith moved to accept the addendum to the agenda, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. All in favor.

X. Recognition/Presentation**Mr. Ronnell Heard Presentation – Parents as Allies****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.

Kasi Devinney, Sewickley, PA

- Questioned why on the WQED MOU motion is only Highland Elementary included in this.
 - Dr. Pasquerilla- Last school year we used ESSERS money to partner with WQED Programming to do some STEAM programs with all of our elementary buildings. Because that went so well, based upon that there was a PA Smart Complete Grant that was made available in which you are to form a partnership to apply for this grant so our district partnered with WQED as well as the Aliquippa School District, unfortunately we were not awarded that grant. WQED saw how much we wanted this so they went to the Grable Foundation for funding for initiative to allow for resources to be used around STEAM/STEM engagement to be used for those types of things. Right now they would only be allowed to fund Highland Elementary but if this programs goes well they will ask for money for all of our buildings. Highland Elementary was chosen based upon their percentage of free and reduced lunches. In hopes that this is successful we will receive funding for all of our elementary schools.

XI. Board Business**1. Resolution 2022-2023-05**

It is recommended to approve Resolution 2022-2023-05, a resolution of censure for violating Board Policy 011 and Board standards of conduct.

Miss Fitsko moved to accept item 1, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. Mrs. Fischer and Mrs. Kehoe voted against and Mr. Keber abstained.

XII. Committee Reports**Education and Technology****Mrs. Smith and Mr. Zatchey****1. Pennsylvania Department of Education ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance & Template**

It is recommended to approve the updated American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) Health and Safety Plan for the 2022-2023 school year.

2. Geneva College

It is recommended to approve an agreement with the Geneva College Department of Communication Disorders to allow Geneva College students to gain field experience within the District.

3. Student Handbooks

- a. It is recommended to adopt the High School Student Handbook for the 2022-2023 school year.
- b. It is recommended to adopt the Middle School Student Handbook for the 2022-2023 school year.
- c. It is recommended to adopt the Elementary Student Handbooks for the 2022-2023 school year.

4. AmeriCorps Seniors – The Foster Grandparent Program Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ambridge Area School District and AmeriCorps Seniors operating The Foster Grandparent Program which provides experienced tutors and mentors to our students with disabilities. This is sponsored by Wesley Family Services and federally funded by AmeriCorps at no cost to the district, **pending solicitor review**.

5. EVERFI Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ambridge Area School District and EVERFI, Inc. to provide EverFi's sponsored digital curriculum to students

in grades 4-12 to teach critical topics such as career choice and digital literacy, at no cost to the district, **pending solicitor review.**

6. CCBC Community College of Beaver County Dual Enrollment/High School Academies Agreement

It is recommended to approve an updated Dual Enrollment/High School Academies Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and The Community College of Beaver County, original agreement was retroactively approved on February 17, 2021. The term of this agreement is from July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2023. This program will allow students to concurrently enroll in an associate degree, certificate or diploma program while completing their high school requirements.

7. Teachers Pay Teachers (TpT) School Access Funding Sources

It is recommended to approve the purchase of Teachers Pay Teachers (TpT) for grades K-6 at a cost of \$7,200.00, to be purchased through ESSERS ARP grant funds. TpT is a platform created by teachers for teachers to access additional resources to use in their classrooms.

8. WQED Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Highland Elementary School and WQED Multimedia, Inc. to create continuous bridges between proven PBS content focused on STEM, literacy, and technology skills, **pending solicitor review.**

9. Cheer Team Field Trip

It is recommended to approve the student attendance and application of the student discipline code for the high school varsity cheerleaders to travel to Walt Disney World to participate in the Universal Cheerleaders Association National High School Cheerleading Championship from February 9, 2022 through February 13, 2022. Reimbursement for expenses shall be governed by Board Policy 240 – Student Contests/Competitions and conditioned on attendance and event participation. Parents and/or guardians will be required to sign permission and release forms. Chaperones will be required to have current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

10. McGraw Hill 2020 WonderWorks

It is recommended to approve the adoption of the McGraw Hill 2020 WonderWorks Reading Intervention materials for students with disabilities. The total cost will be \$6,737.35, for the 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026, and 2026-2027 school years.

11. Prevention Network

It is recommended to approve a contract between the Ambridge Area Middle School and the Prevention Network for two (2) days per week for the 2022-2023 school year to provide mental health supports at a cost of \$20,000.00. The funding is secured by the ESSERS A-TSI 7% Set Aside Grant.

12. VEEAM Software

It is recommended to approve the purchase of VEEAM software and server in an approximate amount of \$6,274.40. This software provides backup, recovery and data management solutions that deliver modern data protection.

13. Diploma for Eligible Veteran

It is recommended to ratify the Board granting a diploma to Joseph Mogyrosi, a World War II Veteran, per Board Policy #217 *Graduation Requirement*.

*Mr. Mogyrosi greatly appreciated this honor to have received his diploma, which was his lifelong wish as he left high school early to enlist.

Mr. Zatchey moved to accept items 1-13, seconded by Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Fischer and Mrs. Kehoe voted against 3. a) and b), and Mrs. Kehoe voted against 3. a) and b). Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Romasco abstained from item 9.

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 \$1,138,345.15 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,059,125.29 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$8,340.39 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$11,439.58 be paid.

3. Repository

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

- a) 308 Park Road Rear, Ambridge, PA Tax Parcel 09-002-0211.001, for the bid amount of \$2,034.00 to Dion Cashaw.
- b) 435 Maplewood Avenue, Ambridge, PA Tax Parcel 09-002-0127.000, for the bid amount of \$1,617.00 to Dion Cashaw.
- c) 4 Glennwood Drive Rear, Ambridge, PA Tax Parcel 09-005-0706.000, for the bid amount of \$1,774.00 to Dion Cashaw.

4. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve a tax exoneration regarding the collection of Real Estate Tax for 2013 to 2021, conditioned upon mutual municipal and county reciprocal exonerations 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.

5. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve tax exoneration regarding the collection of Real Estate Tax for the following properties, for the years 2020 through 2021 and prior year taxes, to be purchased by Harmony Township:

- a) Lot, Main Street, Ambridge, PA, Tax Parcel #64-003-0602.000
- b) Lot, Plum Street, Ambridge, PA, Tax Parcel #64-003-0613.000
- c) Lot, Economy Avenue, Ambridge, PA, Tax Parcel #64-003-0845.000

6. PA-Educator

It is recommended to approve the contract of service between the Ambridge Area School District and Pennsylvania Educators' Clearinghouse, (PA-Educator.net) for the 2022-2023 school year at a cost of \$2,175.00.

7. Crossing Guards

It is recommended that crossing guards be placed at locations throughout the Ambridge Area School District for the 2022-2023 school year as listed below:

10th Street and Duss Avenue
5th Street and Duss Avenue
8th Street and Duss Avenue
State Street and Harmony Road

8. The Beaver Valley Intermediate Lease Agreement

It is recommended to approve a Lease Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and The Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit #27 (BVIU), to utilize two (2) classrooms at Economy Elementary for an Emotional Support Classroom effective August 18, 2022 and end on August 17, 2023 at a cost of \$1,133.44 per month, **pending solicitor review.**

9. Award of Bowling Facility

It is recommended to approve an agreement for services contract with Fair Oaks Bowling Lanes to provide a venue for the High School bowling team for the term of three years from 2022-2025.

10. Afterschool Safety Plan

It is recommended to adopt an Afterschool Safety Plan to ensure student safety protocols during afterschool hours and all afterschool activities.

11. Resolution 2022-2023-04 - Sale of Anthony Wayne

It is recommended to adopt Resolution 2022-2023-04 a resolution authorizing the sale of 2001 Lenz Avenue, Borough of Ambridge, Beaver County, PA consistent with the approved and executed option agreement between the parties, as presented.

12. Entry Door Cameras

It is recommended to accept the following quotes from Allegheny Safe & Lock to install entry door cameras in all buildings:

- a) Quote number Q-08122022C in the amount of \$2,748.67, for the High School
- b) Quote number Q-08122022D in the amount of \$2,748.67, for the Middle School
- c) Quote number Q-08122022F in the amount of \$3,524.52, for Economy Elementary
- d) Quote number Q-08122022G in the amount of \$4,805.76, for Highland Elementary
- e) Quote number Q-08122022E in the amount of \$4,385.90, for State Street Elementary

This will be funded through the PCCD School Safety and Mental Health Grant.

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept items 1-12, seconded by Miss Fitsko. 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. Policy 114 – Gifted Education – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading to revise School Board Policy 114 – *Gifted Education* to develop and implement a gifted education plan every six (6) years, as required by law and regulations.

2. Policy 218-1 - Weapons - Final Reading

It is recommended to waive the second and third readings and update School Board Policy 218.1 – *Weapons* to recognize the importance of a safe school environment relative to the education process.

3. Policy 221 – Dress and Grooming– Final Reading

It is recommended to waive the second and third readings and update School Board Policy 221 – *Dress and Grooming* to recognize that each student’s mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference.

4. Policy 222 – Tobacco and Vaping Products – Final Reading

It is recommended to waive the second and third reading and update School Board Policy 222 – *Tobacco and Vaping Products* to recognize that tobacco and vaping products, including the product marked as Juul and other electronic cigarettes, present a health and safety hazard that can have serious consequences for users, nonusers and the school environment.

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

Personnel and Salary Schedule and Labor Relations

Mr. Cephas and Mrs. Smith

1. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Area Education Association regarding the Physical Education position.

2. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Area Education Association regarding the BVIU Stipend.

3. Dentist

It is recommended Dr. Michael A. Harris be approved to serve as the District Dentist for the 2022-2023 school year, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

4. Permanent Contracts

It is recommended the following professional employees, who have completed three years of satisfactory service in the Ambridge Area School District as of the effective date designated, be given permanent professional contracts:

Tim Buresh: 8/14/2022
Sophia Krahe: 8/14/2022
Courtney Parisi: 8/14/2022
Matthew LaPorte: 8/21/2022

5. Hall Monitor

It is recommended to hire the following individual as Hall Monitor as per the terms of the collective bargaining agreement, pending receipt of satisfactory and current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Martin Flannery, High School
Paul Long, Middle School

6. Long-Term Substitute

It is recommended Madison Byers be approved as a Long-Term Substitute at Ambridge Middle School at 70% Step 1, Bachelor, \$32,739.70 prorated the days worked, effective 08/15/2022, 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.

7. Long-Term Substitute

It is recommended Lydia Bable be approved as a Long-Term Substitute at Ambridge Middle School, at 70% Step 1, Bachelor, \$32,739.70 prorated the days worked, effective 08/15/2022, 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.

8. Homebound Instructor

It is recommended to approve Anna Rubaker as a Homebound Instructor for an Ambridge Area High School Student, as per the collective bargaining agreement.

9. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

It is recommended to amend the Silhouette Club stipend, approved at the August 10, 2022 Board Meeting to \$2,100.00 per the collective bargaining agreement.

10. Resignation

It is recommended to accept the resignation of Mia Gantz as the co-sponsor of the High School National Honor Society and the High School Student Council, effective on her last day of employment with the district, with regret.

11. Resignation

It is recommended to accept the resignation of Jason Roos as a co-sponsor of the Tech Production, Ecology Club, and Ski Club, with regret.

12. Mentor Teacher

It is recommended to approve the following mentor teacher assignment for the 2022-2023 school year, be approved as per the negotiated agreement:

Mentor Teacher

New Teacher

Casey Neel

Ethan Becker

13. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Mia Gantz from her position as a High School Guidance Counselor effective August 12, 2022, with regret. The District reserves the right to retain the employee for the sixty (60) days statutory period or until relieved of duties, whichever occurs first.

14. Administrator Equity Adjustments

It is recommended that the Superintendent, Dr. Joseph W. Pasquerilla, receive consideration for a 2% (two percent) increase in salary for the 2022-2023 school year based on his evaluation for the 2021-2022 school year.

15. 2022-2023 District Course and Section Adjustment

A. It is recommended to hereby approve the creation of the following position to be funded through the PCCD School Safety and Mental Health Grant:

1. PCCD Grant-Funded Elementary Counselor

16. Rescind

It is recommended to rescind Logan Erickson as a Middle School Cross Country Volunteer Coach.

17. 2022-2023 Fall Coaches

It is recommended the following individuals be approved to fill the designated fall coaching positions 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 coaches to hold fall sports as normal.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1) <u>Boys Soccer</u> | <u>Stipends</u> |
| a) Ryan Meadows, Middle School Coach | \$1,350.00 |
| 2) <u>Girls Golf</u> | |
| a) Scott Devinney, Volunteer Coach | No Remuneration |
| 3) <u>Middle School Cross Country</u> | |
| a) Logan Erickson, Head Coach | \$1,850.00 |

18. Rhodes Transit Bus Drivers / Aides / Substitutes

It is recommended to approve the individuals listed as operators, attendants, and maintenance for Rhodes Transit, Inc. for the 2022-2023 school year, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Appendix A

Mrs. Smith moved to accept items 1-18, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XIII. President's Address

Mrs. Romasco welcomed back all to the new school year. He also thanked the School Board, Administration and Ms. Turnbull, our solicitor for their hard work on the district's safety and discipline plan. Wished the students good luck on their first day of school.

XIV. Solicitor's Report

Ms. Turnbull reported that the sale of Anthony Wayne did close today we will be receiving the funds for that and we are moving forward with the closing of Ridge Road.

XV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla thanked Mr. Heard for being there and for working on this grant for engagement with our parents. He also thanked the entire staff and every single person who helped to get the district ready for another excited school year. He is looking forward to seeing the students back in the building and seeing their smiling faces.

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.

Marisa Carey, Economy Borough

- Came out to the meeting after receiving the Bridgerblast regarding the JROTC Program stating they will not have an instructor and that there will not be JROTC offered to the students
- Expressed as the parent support group president that no one cares more about the program than Mrs. Kehoe and that Mrs. Kehoe has donated countless hours of her time and commitment to the success of this program since its inception. She has history and knowledge. The JROTC Program would not be what it is today without her. I cannot imagine what this program will be like without her knowledge. Expressed disappointment with the outcome of the meeting.
- Referred to the presentation early in the meeting regarding community involvement and community service and expressed that community outreach and service is a major part of the JROTC program and that this program is a great portal to our communities.

- Dr. P as far as the email we wanted to get that out as we have been working diligently to find instructors and at this given point we do not have any candidates that have been approved. We do continue to work diligently to work to get instructors. Our hope is at some point we will and we can have the program again. It could be a little bit of time so we wanted students to be able to look for other electives. We do feel really bad but shortages are everywhere and they are facing that also. We are doing everything in our power to sustain this wonderful program and will continue to work on this.
- Mrs. Romasco echoed Dr. Pasquerilla and stated that Dr. Pasquerilla and Ms. Zupsic have been working tirelessly to find instructors for this program. We are very much wanting to get instructors in as quickly as possible and have this program get back to being as successful as it was.
- Mrs. Fischer spoke from a parent standpoint and stated that years ago when Mrs. Kehoe was heavily involved in the program and we worked frequently together to support the students in the district who needed attention and guidance and asked the JROTC group and their instructors and school to come into the schools specifically the school I was involved in and would like to thank Mrs. Kehoe and that group for their service and dedication to that group.
- Mr. Carpenter added that the reason why he voted the way he voted was in order to move forward for the 30-35 students who wish to be in this program. It was a regrettable decision he had to make relating to the resolution.

Mr. Keber

- Had a question regarding the device protection plan, is this through an actual insurance carrier company? Is it insurance or replacement fee, being this fee is being collected again this school year even if your device was not broken? Does this money roll over to the insurance carrier or to the school district?
 - Dr. Pasquerilla stated that it is an annual fee that is used for replacements. It is used for rep when the time comes it is our own type of insurance policy. Other schools are doing this but they are more expensive than the fee that we charge.
 - Mr. Keber asked if the money goes into the general fund.
 - Dr. Pasquerilla said that is correct.
 - Mr. Keber asked if this was a yearly fee for parents even if the device comes back.
 - Dr. Pasquerilla said that is correct.
 - Mrs. Fitsko added that when she went to the website and followed the instructions there were nothing to pay the device protection fee it took you to a link to add money into the students food account. Miss Fitsko asked that there be another email that would go out with the actual link to pay for the device protection fee.

XVII. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 8:15 p.m. Mrs. Romasco moved to adjourn the meeting and return to Executive Session to discuss personnel matter(s) and matters subject to attorney-client privilege and other confidentiality laws, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Mrs. June Muller
Board Secretary**

APPENDIX A

Tempest Velez
Georgette Bateman
Barbara McGeorge
Alyssa Stokes
Raymond Mattern
Luciano Giordani
Randy Knoll
Amy Frolo
Alex Kouvolos
Annemarie McDowell
Tori Swiderski
Michael Galvan
Charlie Weaver
Edward Bobinski
Richard Cybak
John Olexa
Susan Kelly
Margaret Zickafoose
Karen Prest
Joyce Rexroad
Vickie Certich
Glenn Young
Leslie Kotouch
Christine Walton
Kenneth Walters
Andrea DiNino
Ray Weber
Christine Wert
Richard Mattern
Berry Gardener
John Scheer
Richard Perza
Lisa Gottlieb
Michael Boniphant
Anna Ours
Jerry Patsiga
David Ruth
Carmen Rideout-Martin
Terry Miller
Donald DeMacio
Michael Hope
Robert Rhodes
Melinda Thompson
