

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

I. Call to Order: Mrs. Romasco called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m.
 The Meet and Discuss Voting Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is held on Wednesday, March 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

Middle School Students

Maria Ziemkiewicz

III. Middle School Student Council Report

Lily Carpenter

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 Executive Session(s) on Wednesday, February 23rd, and Wednesday, March 9th to discuss:

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

VII. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda

VIII. Recognition/Presentation

Congratulations to the cast and crew of the High School Musical Production of Oklahoma for an amazing performance. The level of determination and excellence you exhibited in the face of unplanned adversity was extraordinary. You sang and danced your hearts out and earned every single standing ovation!

Congratulations on a job well done and thank you for your efforts!

IX. 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

X. LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THIS MEETING

Education and Technology

Mrs. Smith and Mr. Zatchey

1. Adjudication of Provident Charter School West Application

It is recommended to deny the application of Provident Charter School West dated November 12, 2021, and to adopt and to issue the written Decision of Adjudication to the Applicant.

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

Personnel and Salary Schedule and Labor Relations Mr. Cephas and Mrs. Smith

1. Rescind

It is recommended to rescind the following individuals approved for the following 2021-2022 spring coaching positions:

- a) Raeffon Ruskin, Middle School Coach to be paid a stipend of \$1,550.00, approved at the January 12, 2022 Board meeting.
- b) Preston Moor, Middle School Volunteer Coach with no remuneration, approved at the January 19, 2022 Board meeting.

2. 2021-2022 Spring Coaches

It is recommended to ratify the following individuals to fill the designated spring coaching positions for the 2021-2022 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 are able to hold spring sports as normal.

1) Track

- a) Raeffon Ruskin, Middle School Coach \$1,850.00
- b) Preston Moore, Middle School Coach \$1,550.00
- c) Gregg Kimbrough, Volunteer No Remuneration
- d) Harley Stuebgen No Remuneration

2) Baseball

- a) Chris Conover, Assistant Coach (Split) \$1,200.00
- b) JP Wetzel, Assistant Coach \$2,200.00
- c) Grant Smith, Middle School Coach \$2,050.00

3. Pittsburgh Steelers Girls Flag Football

It is recommended to acknowledge and accept the Pittsburgh Steelers Girls Flag Football Program and it is furthermore recommended to recognize Felicia Mycyk as the Coach, this is a no cost to the district.

4. FMLA

It is recommended to approve employee #2742 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave beginning March 24, 2022, not to exceed 12 weeks.

5. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #2870 taking an intermediate leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave beginning March 9, 2022, not to exceed 12 weeks.

6. 2021-2022 Thespian Club Play

It is recommended to approve Andrea Cary for a volunteer staffing position for the 2021-2022 Thespian Club Play at no remuneration, 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 item 1-6, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Finance and Budget and Building and Grounds

Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Keber

1. 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 Colleen Copenhaver.

2. 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 Colleen Copenhaver.

3. Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) Joint Purchasing Agreement

It is recommended to approve an Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to participate in the Allegheny Intermediate Union’s Joint Purchasing Program, at no cost to the district, for the purpose of efficiency and potential savings associated with the program. The program includes savings on fuel usage for district vehicles and bus transportation.

4. Resolution 2020-2021-03 – AIU Joint Purchasing Program

It is recommended to approve the Resolution to participate in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit’s Joint Purchasing Program for the 2022-2023 school year, at no cost to the District. The program includes savings in the cost of preparing specifications and advertising for bids for school materials, supplies, equipment, and services, as well as bulk price advantages.

Mr. Cephas moved to accept items 1-4, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)

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 Stephan 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.

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, in the 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. Transportation

It is recommended to approve a contract between ___ and the Ambridge Area School district for the next ___ years at an annual estimated approximate cost of \$___. This agreement is subject to final contract terms being negotiated by the parties. This agreement will commence on ___ and end ___, **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.

Athletics and Public Relations**Mr. Zatchey and Miss Fitsko**

Mr. Zatchey gave a report on the Athletic and Public Relations Committee Meeting. Some of the points of topics were:

- Incorporating Athletics and Public Relations
- Creation of a Hall of Fame for Athletes – there will be a sub-committee formed for this. They are looking at displaying the Hall of Fame at either the High School or Field House.
- Homecoming Event
- Community Event focusing on the district sports that are offered and inviting the younger elementary and middle school level students.
- Recognitions for outside community events such as sports, academics or other outside school events.
- State and Regional Recognition.
- The second Athletic and Public Relations Committee Meeting will be scheduled in the summer before fall semester.

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.

Steering and Rules and Legislative

Mrs. Kehoe and Mrs. Fischer

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

It is recommended, as a third 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 – Third Reading

It is recommended, as a third 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 – Third Reading

It is recommended, as a third 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. Allegheny County School Health Insurance Consortium (ACSHIC) Mail Ballot

It is recommended the 2022 mail ballot be cast for the election of School Board Director from the Western Region for the Trustee position on the ACSHIC School Board. The term of the Trustee elected by this ballot shall be for two (2) years commencing on March 31, 2022, and ending on March 30, 2024.

5. 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.

XII. President's Address

Mrs. Romasco announced the following:

- Graduation ceremony will be held outside for the class of 2022 with the gym as the alternative for inclement weather.
- Ms. Zupsic has partnered with the Chamber of Commerce and they will hold a safe driving assembly on March 31st with assistance from Miss Fitsko.
- The Hall of Honor Committee will be meeting to review the nominations, and there is still time to make nominations up until March 11th.
- There will be an Education and Technology and Building and Grounds will hold their Committee Meetings and there will be updates in April.

XIII. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated and thanked the students for coming to the meeting. He stated he enjoyed the Middle School Student Council Report and is looking forward to an exciting spring semester.

He stated that they have been spending time negotiating contracts as you can see on the agenda and have been really looking at ways to limit the increases while expanding the services provided. We have been working diligently on this and ways to save the district money.

XIV. Solicitor's Report

Had post dev in the last week or two we resolve the District Attorney's concern regarding concurrent jurisdiction a police officer who are serving in this role. We have a clear path to implement the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for School Resource Officer. We have a clear path of what the Ambridge Police Department, Economy Borough and School District had an invasion and should have all documents to all parties by the end of the week. We should see sooner rather than later some additional hands at the middle school.

XV. 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.

Adrianna Cephas, Ambridge PA

- Thanked the Board for all that they are doing.
- Would like to know why out of district athletes, that are students of the district, are not being recognized for their accomplishments.
- Mrs. Cephas's daughter is on a Cheer Team that has made it to National and State levels and would like to see them being recognized by the School Board.
 - Mr. Zatchey would like this to happen but stated the Board would look at this as a case to case bases. There will be the creation of forms to be completed and submitted.

Fabiola Gerg, Harmony Twp., PA

- Was disappointed with the denial of Provident Charter School and curious as to why.

- Feels you cannot compare a Charter to a Dyslexia School
- Questions on item 3 under Education and Technology – What is this funding?
 - Dr. Pasquerilla – technology submits and receives funding and they pick the project. This will be used for the Network switch to help run internet service with an 80% reimbursement.
- Questions on item 4 under Finance and Budget – where there bids from other companies?
 - Dr. Pasquerilla – these are services you do not have to bid. And we have been very pleased with Huckestein. They also offered to include more services in this agreement than previous.
- Questions on item 6 under Finance and Budget – this seems like a lot of money.
 - Dr. Pasquerilla – this is at \$1,000.00 savings a month than what we are currently paying. This will include buying out old leases and buying into new lease, new copiers and printers, also offers an additional \$13,000.00 to use as district choice as long as it states sponsored by the Wilson Group. The company is also awarding a high school a scholarship for every year of the 5 year contract.
- Questions on item 3 under Steering and Rules – Will there still be paper copies.
 - Dr. Pasquerilla – this allows things such as electric signature for grants to allow for faster turn around and more time efficient.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At 8:00 p.m. Miss Fitsko moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Mrs. June Mueller
Board Secretary**