

**Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, September 21, 2022.**

**I. Call to Order: Mrs. Romasco called the meeting to order at approximately 7:20 p.m.**  
The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District Board of Directors on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, is now called to order.

**II. Flag salute-please rise: Mrs. Romasco asked all present to rise and for the students to lead all in the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Highland Elementary Students**

Jaccia Lavette

Tyson Kelley

Jace Smith

**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

Mr. Thomas Cephas

Mrs. Cathy Fischer

Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe

Mrs. Kelly Smith

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, September 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss:

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

**VI. Correspondence**

Mr. Bob Rhodes read his correspondence in response to the transportation staffing shortage and bussing delays.

**VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> Meet and Discuss Voting and Non-Voting, and Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.**

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

**VIII. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report dated: June and July 2022**

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

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

Amended item 8 under Personnel and Salary Schedule and Labor Relations to reflect the revised effective start date of October 3, 2022.

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

**X. Recognition/Presentation****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.

**XI. Committee Reports****Education and Technology**

**Mrs. Smith and Mr. Zatchey**

**1. BVIU 2022-2023 Special Education Programs and Services**

It is recommended the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit shall provide Special Education Programs and Services on behalf of the Ambridge Area School District for the 2022-2023 year. The cost for service will be based on the enrollment of students in the BVIU Special Education Programs and Services.

2. Homeless Conference

It is recommended Jo Ann Hoover attend the 2022 Paving the Way to Educational Success Conference (Homeless Conference) in Kalahari Resort, PA from September 27, 2022 through September 29, 2022. All expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, meals) will be paid as per Board Policy 531, Job Related Expenses. The total cost for the employee will be approximately \$967.00.

3. Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officers (PASBO)

It is recommended Leigh Anne Holman attend the PASBO Food Service Director Conference in Lancaster, PA from November 7, 2022 through November 9, 2022. All expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, meals) will be paid as per Board Policy 531, Job Related Expenses. There is no registration fee and the total cost for the employee will be approximately \$940.00.

4. Food Service Orientation

It is recommended Leigh Anne Holman attend the Orientation to School Food Service Operations in Harrisburg, PA from October 19, 2022 through October 20, 2022. All expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, meals) will be paid as per Board Policy 531, Job Related Expenses. There is no registration fee and the total cost for the employee will be approximately \$283.75.

5. Club Formation

It is recommended to approve the formation of the Chess Club at the High School with the sponsor to be paid a stipend of \$470.00.

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept items 1-5, 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 \$980,158.65 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,322,373.12 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$11,316.63 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$8,364.62 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 property:

- a) 1254 E 31<sup>st</sup> Street, South Heights, PA Tax Parcel 51-001-0813.000, for the bid amount of \$1,977.63 to Albert Kendal Liggins.

4. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve a tax exoneration regarding the collection of Real Estate Tax for 2017 to 2021, conditioned upon mutual municipal and county reciprocal exonerations for the same years, relevant to the following property:

- a) Tax Parcel 51-001-0813.000, 1254 E 31<sup>st</sup> Street, South Heights, and purchased by Kendall Liggins.

5. 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 exonerations for the same years, relevant to the following property:

- a) Tax Parcel 51-002-0101.000, 3841 Jordan Street, Lot 36, South Heights, and purchased by Albert Charles Borga.

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept items 1-5, 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. PSBA Officer Elections

It is recommended the Board Secretary be directed to cast the vote of the Ambridge Area School Board for the election of the following PSBA Slate of Candidates for 2022:

President-elect    Michael Gossert, Cumberland Valley School District

Vice President    Allison Mathis, North Hills School District

Insurance Trust    Kathy Swope  
                              Roberta Marcus

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

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

**\*ALL NEW HIRES, PENDING RECEIPT OF SATISFACTORY AND CURRENT CLEARANCES, SATISFACTORY DRUG SCREENING, TB TESTING, RESPONSES BY CURRENT/FORMER EMPLOYERS TO ACT 168 SCREENING, AND PDE CERTIFICATIONS IF APPLICABLE.**

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 Case No. PERA-R-342-W, as presented.

2. Economy Elementary Before and After School Childcare

It is recommended the following individuals be approved as caregivers at the Before and After School Child Care Program at Economy Elementary School at a rate of \$15.00 per hour, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and compliance with Act 168. The hours being 6:30a.m.-8:30a.m. before school and 3:30p.m.-6:30p.m. after school.

Michelle Hooten  
Barbara Friez  
Dana Corona  
Millie Vallecorsa

3. Para-Educators (Teaching Assistants)

It is recommended to hire the following individuals to fill a Para-Educator (Teaching Assistant) position as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association (ESPA/PSEA-NEA) collective bargaining agreement pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Shannon Kennedy, Middle School  
Tameki Tarver, High School  
James Maseth, High School

4. Para-Educators (Teaching Assistants)

It is recommended to ratify Melissa Rhines to fill a Para-Educator (Teaching Assistant) position at Highland Elementary, effective September 21, 2022, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association (ESPA/PSEA-NEA) collective bargaining agreement pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

5. After-School Detention

It is recommended to ratify the following teacher as supervisor of the after-school detention at the Ambridge Area Middle School. The teachers will be paid as per the collective bargaining agreement.

Amy Braund

6. After-School Detention

It is recommended to ratify the following teachers as supervisors of the after-school detention at the Ambridge Area High School. The teachers will be paid as per the collective bargaining agreement.

Greg Mell  
Marian Puet  
Veronica Simunick

7. Credit Recovery

It is recommended to approve the following individuals as instructors for the Credit Recovery Program at the Ambridge Area High School. Teachers will be paid as per the collective bargaining agreement.

Kim Bogati  
Christina Briola  
Pam Green  
Greg Helsel  
Greg Mell  
Jodi Musser  
Shane Newhouse  
Veronica Simunick

8. Professional Employee

It is recommended to approve Alexander Jewel, as an Ambridge Area Middle School English Teacher at a salary of \$47,681.00 (Step 1, Master) effective October 3, 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, and PDE certifications if applicable.

9. 2022-2023 Winter/Spring Coach

It is recommended the following individuals be approved to fill the designated winter/spring 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 winter/spring sports as normal.

Wrestling

a) Larry Knopsnyder, Head Coach \$4,300.00

Baseball

a) Matt LaPorte, Head Coach \$4,300.00

Track

a) Felicia Mycyk, Head Coach \$4,300.00

Boys Volleyball

a) Glenn Freed, Head Coach \$4,300.00

Boys Tennis

a) Georgia Barlamas \$4,300.00

10. Posted Positions: Department Heads and Building Heads

It is recommended the following individual who has applied for the specified posted position for the 2022-2023 school year be approved at the salary designated in the negotiated agreement, pending receipt of current clearances and drug screening:

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**SALARY**

**Secondary:**

Special Education	Casey Neel	\$1,365.00
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11. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Paul Long from his position as a hall monitor at the middle school, effective September 13, 2022, 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:

<u>Mentor Teacher</u>	<u>New Teacher</u>
Corinna Cooper	Brandie Johnson

Mrs. Smith moved to accept items 1-12, as amended, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**XII. President’s Address**

Mrs. Romasco announced important district and community-wide event dates that were happening on the upcoming weekend.

**XIII. Solicitor’s Report**

Nothing to report.

**XIV. Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. Pasquerilla thanked Rhodes for their hard work on continuing to fight the staff shortage and continued recruitment.

**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.

James Huwar, Ambridge, PA

- Gave the Board members printed copies of the timelines of the years he coached softball and the stats of their wins and losses.
- Wanted to know why the coaching position was put for bid after he has spent 63 years in the district teaching and coaching.
- Asked why he was not notified of this first.

Joe Kotula, Harmony Township, PA

- Spoke in support of James Huwar as the Softball Coach
- Mr. Kotula read a letter from his daughter a 2017 Ambridge graduate and former softball player. The letter was also in support of James Huwar.
- Both Mr. Kotula and his daughter Brooklyn feel it would be a disservice to the district and to the community to not renew the coaching contract for Mr. Huwar as the Softball Head Coach.
- Noted the stats for the Softball Team, including the State Title wins for the team with Mr. Huwar as the Head Coach.
- Also stated that even though Mr. Huwar knew the coaching position was open for bid, Mr. Huwar worked hard on this year's Golfing Outing to fundraise money for the team.
  - Mrs. Romasco noted that Mr. Huwar was notified of the posting of the coaching position and asked that Dr. Pasquerilla verify that.
  - Dr. Pasquerilla did verify that he spoke to Mr. Huwar and notified him of the posting.
  - Dr. Pasquerilla added that his recommendation was to continue with Mr. Huwar as the Girls Softball Coach and not to open the position for bidding.

**XVI. Motion to Adjourn**

**At approximately 8:47 p.m., Mrs. Romasco moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. All in favor.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Mrs. June Mueller  
Board Secretary**