

Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Non-Voting and Voting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, September 14, 2022.

I. Call to Order: Mrs. Romasco called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m.

The Meet and Discuss Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is held on Wednesday, September 14, 2022. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. in the High School Auditorium.

II. Flag salute-please rise: Mrs. Romasco had all present stand and the students led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

State Street Elementary Students

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
 Mr. Mathew Zatchey, Treasurer
 Mr. John Carpenter
 Mr. Thomas Cephas
 Mrs. Cathy Fischer
 Mr. Rob Keber
 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:

The Board of School Directors held Executive Session(s) on Tuesday, September 6th and Wednesday, September 14th to discuss:

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

VI. Correspondence

Mr. Bob Rhodes read correspondence regarding the issues and intended steps to improve the transportation issues.

VII. Amendments/Addendums to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda

Added item 8 b) under Personnel and Salary Schedule and Labor Relations

Mr. Zatchey moved to add item 8 b) under Personnel and Salary Schedule and Labor Relations, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. All in favor.

Moved item 1 under Steering and Rules and Legislative to a Legislative Action item.

Mrs. Fischer moved to move item 1 under Steering and Rules and Legislative to a voting item, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

VIII. Recognition/Presentation**High School Girls Football**

Ambridge High School Girls Flag Football team led by Coach Felicia Mycyk was invited by the Pittsburgh Steelers on the August 28th game against the Detroit Lions for participating in the first-ever High School Girls Flag Football season and Championship. During the Pre-game, the team participated in a pre-game recognition and showcase game that allowed the team to share the sport in front of the Steelers game day crowd.

Congratulations to Coach Mycyk and the team!

State Street PTO – Back-to-School Bash**Mr. Joe Lamenza – HUDL Update****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. The Beaver Valley Intermediate Lease Agreement

It is recommended to approve the amendment to the lease agreement with the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit with the new effective date of August 18, 2022 through June 30, 2025, **pending solicitor review.**

2. University of Pittsburgh Affiliation Agreement

It is recommended to approve an Affiliation Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the University of Pittsburgh, **pending solicitor review.**

3. Student Discipline 2022-2023-01

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student #5755362378 relevant to a High School student, effective August 26, 2022.

4. Student Discipline 2022-2023-02

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student #4454828709 relevant to a High School student, effective September 1, 2022.

5. Student Discipline 2022-2023-03

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student #9032719157 relevant to a High School student, effective September 7, 2022.

6. Student Discipline 2022-2023-04

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student #6112060922 relevant to a Middle School student, effective September 14, 2022.

Mr. Zatchey moved to accept items 1-6, seconded by Mrs. Smith. 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. Substitute Cafeteria/Food Service Assistants

It is recommended to ratify the following individuals for placement on the substitute cafeteria/food service assistant list 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.

Jean Barns
Rhona Ferguson

2. Rescind

It is recommended to rescind SSgt. Michael J. Liberty as the Military Instructor of the Ambridge Area Marine Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.

3. Professional Employee

It is recommended to retroactively approve Gloria Correa, as an Ambridge Area High School Spanish Teacher at a salary of \$47,681.00 (Step 1 Master), effective August 26, 2022, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEE/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.

4. Professional Employee

It is recommended to retroactively approve Brandie Johnson, as an Ambridge Area Middle School 6th Grade All Subjects Teacher at a salary of \$48,971.00 (Step 1 Master+30), effective August 30, 2022, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEE/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.

5. Mentor Teacher

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

<u>Mentor Teacher</u>	<u>New Teacher</u>
Sarah White	Gloria Correa
Patty Weale	Madison Byers
Heidi Bober	Lydia Bable

6. FMLA

It is recommended to approve employee #2148 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave beginning August 22, 2022, not to exceed 12 weeks.

7. FMLA

It is recommended to approve employee #1864 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave beginning August 22, 2022, not to exceed 12 weeks.

8. 2022-2023 Fall Coach

It is recommended the following individual be approved to fill the designated fall coaching position 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>Girls Volleyball</u>	<u>Stipends</u>
a) Jennifer Ax, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
b) Ryan Busch, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration

9. Rescind

It is recommended to rescind the approval of Mia Gantz as the co-sponsor of the Student Council.

10. Activity/Club Sponsor Stipend Amendments

It is recommended to amend the stipends for the following clubs:

Tech Productions	Ben Holmes	\$ 900.00
Ecology club	Pam Wiegand-Green	470.00
Ski Club	Pam Wiegand-Green	235.00
Ski Club	Deborah Steiving	235.00
Student Council	Greg Mell	470.00

11. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

It is recommended the following individuals who have applied for the specified posted positions for the 2022-2023 school year be approved at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement, provided the school year allows and sponsors are able to hold activities as normal.

<u>ACTIVITY/CLUB (High School)</u>		<u>SALARY</u>
Sophomore Class	Greg Helsel	\$1,150.00
Bible Club	Greg Helsel	470.00
<u>ACTIVITY/CLUB (Middle School)</u>		<u>SALARY</u>
Art Club	Jennifer Ax	\$ 470.00

12. Posted Positions: Department Heads and Building Heads

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

<u>DEPARTMENT HEADS</u>		<u>SALARY</u>
<u>Secondary:</u>		
Social Studies	Chris Yannessa	\$1,365.00
<u>K-12:</u>		
Physical Education	Jeffrey Modrovich	\$1,365.00

13. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Brenna Wandel from her position as an Ambridge Area Middle School English Teacher, effective August 24, 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. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Jessica Scerbo from her position as a Highland Elementary Grade 2 Teacher, effective September 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.

15. Retirement

It is recommended to approve the resignation due to the retirement of Amy Sipes from her position as an Ambridge Area High School Attendance Secretary, effective September 9, 2022, with regret.

16. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Michael Grisnik from his position as a maintenance worker, effective September 30, 2022, with regret.

17. Technology Integrators

It is recommended to approve the following individuals to serve as the Technology Integrators in their assigned buildings for the 2022-2023 school year, to be paid a stipend of \$1,200.00, as per the collective bargaining agreement:

High School
Sarah White

18. Student Teachers

It is recommended to approve Jonathon Gregory Collins, a University of Pittsburgh student teacher, for student teaching, to be placed at the High School for the 2022-2023 fall/spring semester, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening. Johnathon will be placed with Davide Sciulli.

Mr. Cephas moved to accept items 1-18 as amended, seconded by Mr. Smith. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Steering and Rules and Legislative

Mrs. Kehoe and Mrs. Fischer

1. Policy 114 – Gifted Education – Third and Final Reading

It is recommended, as a third and Final 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.

Mrs. Fischer moved to accept item 1 as amended, 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. 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 Anne Hoover attend The 2022 Paving the Way to Educational Success Conferences (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.

Finance and Budget and Building and Grounds**Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Keber**2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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, 3190 Bradbury Drive, South Heights, purchased by Albert Charles Borga.

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

XII. President's Address

Mrs. Romasco thanked all staff and students for a great start to the new school year. Mrs. Romasco also thanked all of the students and their families for coming out to this evening's meeting.

XIII. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla thanked the entire staff for helping get the school year off to a good start. Dr. Pasquerilla also thanked Mr. Rhodes for acknowledging the nation's school transportation problem and for working diligently to come up with some new ideas to work through these issues. Dr. Pasquerilla thanked all for their patients with transportation.

XIV. Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report.

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.

James Huwar, Ambridge, PA

- Expressed his disappointment with the decision to open up the Girls' Softball Coaching positions
- Mr. Huwar has been a teacher and coach in the district/community for thirty-five years.
- Mr. Huwar shared the stats on the winning averages over the years and compared that to the decline in enrollment and number of players per year.
- Over the years of coaching the Softball Team Mr. Huwar stated the wins and state championships.
- Issues that were dealt with the last few years as the Softball Coach, such as COVID, new AD and athletes being recruited out of the district to the private schools.

Pat Sposaro, Ambridge, PA

- Ms. Sposaro asked if the JROTC Program will resume at the High School, as she has a great nephew in the program.
 - Dr. Pasquerilla stated that the Admin Team is trying to recruit an instructor.
 - The advertisement for a candidate has been in the paper each Sunday and we have been working with the Marine Corps and PDE on finding a candidate for the instructor position.
 - The district hopes to be able to continue this program.
- Spoke in support of Coach James Huwar.
- Asked the Board to reconsider their decision in appointing Mr. Huwar for the coaching position.

Kasi Devinney, Sewickley, PA

- Inquired on why there was a HUDL presentation when the Board has already voted on the purchase of HUDL and felt that this could have been presented at an athletic event, not a Board meeting.
- Feels HUDL should be made available for all district sports.
- Would like to see HUDL made more user-friendly on the website.
- Feels this favors one sport and not the other and feels this could be the kind of miscommunication that makes people leave the district.
- Focus more on education at all levels to keep students and staff here.

Regis Kiliany, Ambridge, PA

- His daughter is a graduate of Ambridge and a former athlete.
- Mr. Kiliany is in support of Coach Huwar.
- Coached with Mr. Huwar for two years.
- Has been either playing or coaching baseball for 54 years.
-
- Stated that Mr. Huwar teaches fundamentals and does coaching the right way.
- He teaches the girls the right way to play.
- Sometime you win and sometimes you lose but it doesn't mean the girls didn't try and that Mr. Huwar didn't try.
- He is a good coach for the district.
- Replacing Mr. Huwar would be a definite wrong thing for the district to do.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At 8:50 p.m. Mrs. Romasco moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

**Mrs. June Mueller
Board Secretary**