

Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, November 9, 2022.

I. Call to Order: Mrs. Romasco called the meeting to order at approximately 7:20 p.m.

The Meet and Discuss Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is held on Wednesday, November 9, 2022. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. in the High School Auditorium.

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
 Mr. Thomas Cephas
 Mrs. Cathy Fischer
 Mr. Robert 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 Wednesday, November 9th to discuss:

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

VI. Correspondence

No correspondence.

VII. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Keber moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. All in favor.

VIII. Recognition/Presentation**Varsity Competitive Cheer**

Congratulations to the Ambridge Competitive Cheerleaders! They traveled to Olentangy High School this weekend in Ohio in hopes of receiving a UCA Bid. They placed 1st in Game Day Non-tumble and 3rd in Small Varsity and were awarded not one, but TWO bids to UCA Nationals. They will be competing in both routines at UCA Nationals in Orlando, Florida in early February. This is the first time Ambridge Cheer has competed on game day in the school's history. Big weekend for Ambridge Cheer!!

Boys Soccer Team

The Bridger boys' soccer team defeated the #6 seed Hampton in the 1st round, #3 seed Thomas Jefferson in the quarterfinals, and #2 seed Plum in the semifinals en route to their first WPIAL Championship appearance since 2005. The boys, unfortunately, fell in the final at Highmark Stadium to #1 seed Moon. The boys still advanced to the state tournament for the 2nd year in a row. They defeated the District 9 champion, Bradford, in the first round of PIAA playoffs. They advance to the state quarterfinals Saturday vs Hershey.

Boys Varsity Soccer AAA Section 2 All-Section Players:

Sophomore Forward, Anthony Powell
Senior Midfielder Will Gruca
Junior Midfielder JJ Simms - honorable mention

Soccer WPSCA All-State Player:

Senior Will Gruca

Girls Volleyball All-Section Winners:

Annabelle Hrinko - 2nd team
Samantha Ellenberger - 3rd team
Jordan Garrison - 3rd team
Ava Timmons - 3rd team

SIS Presentation – Mr. Foster Crawford, Technology Director**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 comment.

X. LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THIS MEETING

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. Retirement

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Karen DeMarco, due to retirement, from her position as an Ambridge Area High School Biology Teacher, effective December 1, 2022, with regret.

2. Para-Educators (Teaching Assistants)

It is recommended to ratify 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.

- Bob Gulish, High School
- Loriann Musser, State Street Elementary
- Kristyn Hernandez, Pre-K at State Street Elementary

3. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

It is recommended to ratify the following individual who has applied for the specified posted position 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>
Art Club	Jamie Orth	\$470.00

4. 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>
Michelle Druga	Alexis Cogis
Ben Holmes	Zachary Dugan
Chelsea Benedict	Kathryn Couch

5. 2022-2023 Fall Coaches

It is recommended to ratify the following individual 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 Soccer</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Don Ayers, Middle School Assistant Coach	\$1,350.00

6. 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.

1) <u>Girls Basketball</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Lydia Bable, Varsity Assistant Coach	\$2,410.00
b) Amanda Mitchell, Varsity Assistant Coach	2,410.00
2) <u>Boys Basketball</u>	
a) Craig Wiltrek, Middle School Assistant Coach	\$1,750.00

7. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Gloria Correa from her position as an Ambridge Area High School Spanish Teacher, effective November 15, 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.

8. Professional Employee

It is recommended to approve Sydney Smith, as a Highland Elementary Learning Support/Autistic Support Teacher for Grades 3-5 at a salary of \$46,771.00 (Step 1, Bachelor), 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, and PDE certifications if applicable.

9. Professional Employee

It is recommended to approve Madison Byers, as an Ambridge Area High School Learning Support/Emotional Support/Autistic Support/Life Skills/Transition/Special Education Teacher at a salary of \$46,771.00 (Step 1, Bachelor), 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, and PDE certifications if applicable.

10. Professional Employee

It is recommended to approve Lydia Bable, as a Highland Elementary Learning Support/Emotional Support Grades K-4 at a salary of \$46,771.00 (Step 1, Bachelor), 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, and PDE certifications if applicable.

11. Tutoring

It is recommended to approve the following teachers for tutoring at all grade levels to address the learning gaps due to COVID-19. The Tutoring Program will meet a maximum of two days a week. The teachers will be paid 1.5 hours per day at the contracted rate. This is funded through the ESSERS III grant.

Economy Elementary

Jaclyn Cosky
Tammy Kennedy
Susan Manuppelli
Jenn Shannon

Highland Elementary

Marie Buck
Alexis Cogis
Brandie Skonieczny

State Street Elementary

Christine Fishel

High School

Christina Briola – Substitute
Greg Mell

Middle School

Alexander Jewell

12. Athletic/Transportation Secretary

It is recommended to approve Rachael Phipps as the Athletic/Transportation Secretary, as per the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association – ESPA/PSEA-NEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

13. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Thomas McKelvey from his position as the Highland Elementary Principal, effective November 8, 2022. The District reserves the right to retain the employee for the maximum statutory period or until relieved of duties, whichever occurs first.

Mrs. Smith moved to accept items 1-13, seconded by Mr. Keber. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)**Education and Technology****Mrs. Smith and Mr. Zatchey**1. 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 \$11,769.78 paid through ESSERS funding.

2. Club Formation

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

*The Unified Club falls under the umbrella of the Special Olympics. The goal of the club is to support the inclusion of all students with an emphasis on students with disabilities. It promotes positive relationships between typical peers and peers with disabilities as the club members meet to develop school-wide activities such as dances, sporting events, and other fun activities as well as spearhead campaigns such as "Spread the Word to End the Word".

3. Slippery Rock University Affiliation Agreement

It is recommended to approve a five-year affiliation agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Slippery Rock University, at no cost to the District.

4. Slippery Rock University Counselor Internship Agreement

It is recommended to approve a Counselor Internship Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Slippery Rock University, at no cost to the District.

Finance and Budget and Building and Grounds**Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Keber****Point of Information**Procurement Procedures

The Food Service Department is seeking board approval in implementing new Procurement Procedures and Code of Conduct. Procurement is a multi-step process for obtaining goods and services at the best possible price and that also allows for open competition, fairness, and integrity. The Code of Conduct sets ethic-based principles one must follow in the procurement process. This is at no cost to the district.

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 \$___ and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,332,845.78 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$___ and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$56,305.55 be paid.

3. Budget Transfers

It is recommended to approve budget transfers for November 2022.

4. Preliminary Budget Resolution

It is recommended the Board adopt Resolution No. 6 in accordance with preliminary budget requirements as set forth in Section 311 of Act 1 regarding the district's election not to increase any tax for the support of the Ambridge Area School District for the 2023-2024 school year at a rate that exceeds the index of 5.5% as calculated by the PA Department of Education.

5. Omni Approved Vendors

It is recommended to add Canella Financial Group as a service provider for the Ambridge Area School District's 403(b) plan administered by the Omni Group.

Athletics and Public Relations**Mr. Zatchey and Miss Fitsko**1. W.P.I.A.L

It is recommended to approve Marena Baker and Elizabeth Hoge to represent the Ambridge Area School District as independent W.P.I.A.L. gymnasts. The Board further authorized Terri Gazda to serve as their coach at all practices and meets.

Steering and Rules and Legislative**Mrs. Kehoe and Mrs. Fischer**1. Reorganization Meeting

It is recommended the Reorganization Meeting be scheduled on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria.

2. December Board Meetings

It is recommended the Meet and Discuss Board Meeting be scheduled on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria with the regular monthly Board Meeting immediately following.

3. Policy 263.1 – Threat Assessment – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading to adopt School Board Policy 236.1– *Threat Assessment* for legal liability purposes; school entities are required to establish procedures for implementation of 24 P.S. Sec. 1302-E regarding threat assessment.

4. Policy 805 – Emergency Preparedness and response – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading to revise School Board Policy 805– *Emergency Preparedness* for legal liability purposes; school entities are required to establish procedures for responding to reports from the Safe2Say Something program.

5. Policy 805.2 – School Security Personnel – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading to revise School Board Policy 805.2– *School Security Personnel* for legal liability and auditing purposes.

6. Policy 916 – Volunteers – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading to revise School Board Policy 916– *Volunteers* to enforce reasonable rules and regulations governing volunteers and their participation in the activities of the district.

7. Articles of Agreement

It is recommended to approve the Beaver County Career and Technology Articles of Agreement to approve the revised by-laws for the operation of the school under the School Code.

XII. President’s Address

Nothing to report.

XIII. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated the Cheer Team and wished them the best of luck. He also congratulated the soccer team as he was able to attend some of the games and playoff games. Dr. Pasquerilla also reiterated that all the winter sports will begin and to come out to support the teams and wished them the best of luck.

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.

No Comment.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 8:15 p.m., Mr. Keber made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Smith. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

**Mrs. June Mueller
Board Secretary**