

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Cafeteria on Wednesday, December 7, 2022.

I. Call to Order: Mrs. Romasco called the meeting to order at approximately 7:15 p.m.

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District Board of Directors on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, is now called to order.

II. 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.

III. Roll Call

- Mrs. Kelly Romasco, President
- Miss Amy Fitsko, Vice President
- Mr. Matthew Zatchey, Treasurer
- Mr. John Carpenter
- 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

IV. Sunshine Law: Mrs. Mueller read the following statement:

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, December 7th to discuss:

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

V. Correspondence

No correspondence

VI. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, November 9th, Meet and Discuss Voting and Non-Voting, and Wednesday, November 16, 2022 Board meeting.

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

VII. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda**VIII. Recognition/Presentation****Dr. Janice Zupsic – High School Course Selection 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.

- James Huwar, Ambridge, PA
 - Thanked the committee that held the softball coach interviews.
 - Asked that the process of posting a coach's position rather than re-hiring the current coach be communicated better with the current coach.
 - Asked parents that have concerns and/or complaints with coaches meeting with the AD to address those concerns and/or complaints.

- Marissa Carrey, Economy Borough
 - Concerned that it is the fourth month without the JROTC program up and running.
 - Asked what steps are being taken to secure an instructor for the program.
 - Asked if the district has been provided with a list of possible instructors from the Marine Corps.
 - Asked if parents could help.
 - ✓ Dr. Pasquerilla stated he along with the high school principal have met with the Marine Corps and there were limited JROTC instructors and none in PA interested in the instructor position.
 - ✓ There have been no satisfactory candidates to substitute for the position.
 - ✓ The district continues to advertise in the newspapers and in the Military Times.
 - ✓ It is the district's hope to get the program back up and running for the kids.
 - ✓ As general staffing everywhere is an issue, this is the same problem that the Marine Corps is running into.

IX. Committee Reports**Education and Technology****Mrs. Smith and Mr. Zatchey****1. Ambridge Area High School Course Selection**

It is recommended to approve the 2023-2024 Ambridge Area High School Course Selection Book.

2. Ambridge Area Middle School Course Selection

It is recommended to approve the 2023-2024 Ambridge Area Middle School Course Selection Book.

3. Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officers (PASBO)

It is recommended Bethann Eyth be approved to attend the PASBO 68th Annual Conference and Exhibits being held at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions, Pocono Manor, PA March 14 – 17, 2023. The purpose of this conference is to provide members with education, training, professional development, and timely access to legislative and policy news. All expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, meals) will be paid as per Board Policy 331, Job Related Expenses. The approximate cost will be \$1,000.00.

4. Pennsylvania State Athletic Director Conference (PSADA)

It is recommended Joseph Lamenza be approved to attend the PSADA Annual Conference being held in Hershey, PA from March 21 through March 24, 2023. This conference hosts over 125 exhibitors representing all facets of the athletic and sporting goods business and industry. All expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, meals) will be paid as per Board Policy 331, Job Related Expenses. The approximate cost will be \$1,500.00.

Mr. Zatchey moved to accept items 1-4, seconded by Mrs. Smith. All in favor.

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 \$4,096,149.31 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,307,532.26 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$53,600.45 be paid.

3. Playground Fencing

It is recommended to approve Watt Fencing Inc. install fencing around Economy Elementary Playground. The total cost will be \$9,992.00, to be paid for by the PCCD School Mental Health & Safety and Security Grant.

4. Act 57 Waiver Resolution

It is recommended to approve Resolution 2022-2023-07, authorizing the waiver of additional charges for the late payment of real estate taxes in certain circumstances to comply with Act 57 of 2022.

5. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve a tax exoneration regarding the collection of Real Estate Tax for 1988 through 2022 conditioned upon mutual municipal and county reciprocal exonerations for the same years, relevant to the following property:

- a) Tax Parcel 13-001-0120.000-01-01 1041 3rd Street Lot, Baden, PA, and purchased by Kathleen Piersma.

6. Repository

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

- a) 1041 3rd Street Lot, Baden, PA Tax Parcel 13-001-0120.000-01-01, for the bid amount of \$1,494.50 to Kathleen Piersma.

7. Fisheye Cameras

It is recommended to approve the purchase of Fisheye Cameras to be placed throughout the district at a cost of \$24,000.00. \$23,800.00 of this amount will be paid for by the PCCD School Mental Health & Safety and Security Grant. The bid was made through the State bidding process (Co-Stars).

8. Interactive Epson Projectors

It is recommended to approve the purchase of fifteen (15) Interactive Epson Projectors from CDW-G at a cost not to exceed \$27,017.18. The cost has been budgeted for and the bid was made through the State bidding process (Co-Stars).

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept items 1-8, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. All in favor.

Athletics and Public Relations

Mr. Zatchey and Miss Fitsko

Steering and Rules and Legislative

Mrs. Kehoe and Mrs. Fischer

1. Policy 263.1 – Threat Assessment –Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final 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.

2. Policy 805 – Emergency Preparedness and response – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final 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.

3. Policy 805.2 – School Security Personnel – Final Reading

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

4. Policy 916 – Volunteers – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final 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.

5. Policy 907.1 School Visitors; Megan’s Law Offenders– First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading to adopt School Board Policy 907.1– *School Visitors; Megan’s Law Offenders* to ensure student safety while continuing to allow for parents to remain involved in their student’s education.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to accept items 1-5, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. All in favor.

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. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Sophia Krahe from her position as a Pre-K Teacher at State Street Elementary, effective December 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.

2. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Sydney Smith from her position as a Highland Elementary Learning Support/Autistic Support Teacher for Grades 3-5, effective November 18, 2022, with regret.

3. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of James Maseth, from his position as a Para-Professional, effective September 22, 2022, with regret.

4. Sports Management Practicum

It is recommended to approve Anthony Presto, a Slippery Rock University Student enrolled in the Sports Management Program to complete 50 practicum hours for the 2022-2023 winter semester, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and, responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening. Anthony will be placed with Mr. Joseph Lamenza.

5. 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 Volleyball</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Carlyn Humphries, Middle School Coach	\$2,050.00
b) Jennifer Ax, Middle School Coach	1,350.00

6. Uncompensated Leave

It is recommended to approve employee #525 taking unpaid leave, effective April 29 - May 14, 2023. This will be a one-time approval for the duration of employment with the district. All personal days must be used before using unpaid days.

7. Permanent Contract

It is recommended to ratify the following professional employee, who has completed three years of satisfactory service in the Ambridge Area School District as of the effective date designated, be given a permanent professional contract:

Kimberly Cuppett: 11/20/2022

8. Field Trip Volunteers

It is recommended the following individuals be approved as volunteers to travel to Walt Disney World with the Cheer Team as the Cheer Team participates in the Universal Cheerleaders Association National High School Cheerleading Championship from February 8, 2023 through February 13, 2023, at no remuneration, pending receipt of current clearances and TB testing:

Kelly Romasco
 Kelly Smith
 Caron Baker
 Stephanie Fedorka

9. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

It is recommended 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>
National Honor Society	Kathryn Couch, Co-Sponsor	\$316.67

10. Club / Activity Stipend Adjustment

It is recommended to adjust the stipend for Greg Mell as the National Honor Society Co-Sponsor to \$633.33.

11. Custodian

It is recommended to approve Ripley Knold as a full-time custodian in the High School as per the terms of the Local 248 Ambridge Area School Employees, AFSCME – AFL – CIO negotiated agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Mrs. Smith moved to accept items 1-11, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

X. President's Address

Report from Mrs. Romasco:

Tonight marks a full year of all nine of us being seated on the Ambridge Area School Board of Directors, together with the administration. I want to take moment to reflect and share to the public some of the accomplishments we have shared and some of the goals we hope to achieve in our second year together.

Accomplishments over the past year:

1. Took unprecedented actions regarding safety and security improvements, through our new contract with the Ambridge police department for 2 full time resource officers, the installation of metal detectors and a bag scanner, facility upgrades, and increased security measures to ensure the safety of our students, staff, and community.
2. We worked diligently through another very difficult financial year, while passing a balanced budget with no increase to our taxpayers, as well as tonight on a resolution to not request an increase of taxes above the index for the 23-24 school year.
3. We assisted in making improvements to athletic facilities and providing access for athletes and teams to Hudl as a recruitment and coaching tool, as well as provide live streaming access to the community.
4. We have increased student recognition at board meetings to recognize our students' academic and athletic accomplishments each month.
5. We made significant changes to the discipline policy, which has already proven impactful in increasing positive behavior.
6. We have begun the process of engaging with our community at deeper levels through committee meetings and surveys.
7. Administration awarded the Parents as Allies through Kidsburgh grant for our community event.
8. Administration also procured a partnership through WQED, offering STEAM and Coding for parents and children as well as a grant to provide opportunities for key resources for Highland Elementary.

Some of our goals moving forward are:

1. Continue the progress of the board committee meetings with community and staff members.
2. Continue surveying the district to allow opportunities for families and staff to weigh in on district strengths and areas of needed growth
3. Begin a policy review with our board committees.
4. Continue focus on bringing back the MJROTC program for students to participate in.
5. Focused emphasis on improving course options to allow for more student choice and exploration, while also supporting administration on their focus of increasing test scores across the district.
6. Pass a balanced budget this spring with little impact to taxpayers.
7. Continue working with the Ambridge SRO program to implement safety and positive behavior programs throughout the district.

I want to publicly thank you each of you, including Solicitor Turnbull, for your tireless efforts to assist our district and community. I am so proud to work with each and every one of you. You all bring a unique skill set to the table that makes a strong team of administration and board members. I wish our entire district a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!

XI. Solicitor's Report

Ms. Turnbull stated that she enjoys working with the district and the Board and is excited to have worked with the district and Board on all that they have accomplished this year. Wished all Happy Holidays and Best Wishes on continued success.

XII. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla wishes all Happy Holidays and asks all to come out to support the Band and Chorus programs.

XIII. 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.

XIV. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 8:30 p.m. Mrs. Romasco moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Smith. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Mrs. June Mueller
Board Secretary**