

**Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Cafeteria on Wednesday, January 18, 2023.**

**I. Call to Order: Mrs. Romasco called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m.**

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District Board of Directors on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, is now called to order.

**II. Flag salute-please rise: Mrs. Romasco asked the Economy Elementary Student Council to lead all in the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**III. Student Council Report**

Economy Elementary Fifth Grade Student Council

**IV. 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.

**V. 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

**VI. Sunshine Law**

**Mrs. Mueller read the following statement:**

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss:

- Personnel matter(s)
- Information, strategy, and/or negotiation session relating to the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement
- Matters subject to attorney-client privilege and other confidentiality laws
- Salary schedule and labor relations

**VII. Correspondence****VIII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> Reorganization Meeting and Board meeting.**

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

**IX. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report dated: November and December 2022**

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Mrs. Smith. All in favor.

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

None.

**XI. Recognition/Presentation****School Board Recognition**

In recognition of School Board Appreciation Month. We wish to thank our Board of School Directors for their continued dedication and hard work. Your positive attitude and determination is recognized. Thanks for all you do!

**Heroic Para-Professional Recognition**

Mrs. Lorraine Mrkonja jumped into action when a student was choking. The student was not breathing and Mrs. Mrkonja immediately administered the Heimlich maneuver. Mrs. Mrkonja's quick action saved the student's life.

On behalf of the Board of School Directors and Dr. Pasquerilla, we thank you Mrs. Mrkonja for your heroic actions which saved this student's life. We are proud to honor you!

**District Holiday Greeting Card Contest Winners**

Congratulations to the following students:

Layla Miskiel, 5<sup>th</sup> grader, State Street Elementary

Mia Paganie, 4<sup>th</sup> grader, Economy Elementary

Jaedynn Thomas, 5<sup>th</sup> grader, Highland Elementary

**2023 Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General Drug Free Calendar Art Contest**

Congratulations to Celia Meunier! Celia's drawing design will be used in the calendar.

**2022 PMEA Honors Band**

Congratulations to Amanda Waschak (12<sup>th</sup>-grade flute) and Samantha Waschak (9<sup>th</sup>-grade bass clarinet) for making the 2022 PMEA District 5 Honors Band at Westminster College.

**2022-2023 FBLA State Leadership Conference**

Congratulations to Jason DeSantis, a Business Information Systems student at Beaver County Career & Technology Center (BCCTC), for placing at this year's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Regional Leadership Conference.

Jason DeSantis – 4<sup>th</sup> place – Computer Problem Solving

**Inaugural Pittsburgh Steelers' All-Peer Team**

Congratulations to Zappula Lewis who has been named to the inaugural Pittsburgh Steelers' All-Peer Team, presented by The Mentoring Partnership and The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. This team is made up of 11 high school football players from around the region who go above and beyond to offer support and encouragement to their teammates and peers.

As part of this recognition, Zappula was honored in an on-field ceremony during the Steelers home game against Cleveland and a \$1,000.00 donation was made to the Ambridge Area School District's athletic department.

**Students of the Month****High School November Student of the Month**

Aleah Thomas, 9<sup>th</sup> grade  
Cody Roper, 10<sup>th</sup> grade  
Trevor Grabski, 11<sup>th</sup> grade  
Micah Kwolek, 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**High School November Extra Effort Award**

Kevonte Saunders, 9<sup>th</sup> grade  
Lily Denny, 10<sup>th</sup> grade  
Heidi Setzenfand, 11<sup>th</sup> grade  
John Jarrup, 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**High School December Student of the Month**

Curtis Moore, 9<sup>th</sup> grade  
Madeleine Gelinis, 10<sup>th</sup> grade  
Natajiha Alexander, 11<sup>th</sup> grade  
Alvin Minor, 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**High School December Extra Effort Award**

Tanner Feltes, 9<sup>th</sup> grade  
Alexandra Siebert, 10<sup>th</sup> grade  
Teagan Baker, 11<sup>th</sup> grade  
Will Gruca, 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Middle School December Student of the Month**

Sara Merryman, 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Chase Harvan, 7<sup>th</sup> grade

Holly Budzak, 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Economy Elementary November Student of the Month**

Maximus Dablock, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Employees of the Month**

**Economy Elementary**

Alex Burzese, Custodian, December

**Highland Elementary**

Amy Wass, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, December

**State Street Elementary**

Beverly Cobern, Building Secretary, December

**Middle School**

Betty Jean Orłowski, Custodian, December

**High School Employee of the Month**

Meg Racioppo, Para-Professional, December

**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

**XII. Committee Reports**

**Education and Technology**

**Mrs. Smith and Mr. Zatchey**

1. 2023-2024 Proposed School Calendar

It is recommended the Proposed 2023-2024 School Year Calendar be approved, as presented.

2. Pennsylvania Department of Education ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance & Template

It is recommended to approve the updated American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) Health and Safety Plan for the 2022-2023 school year.

3. PA TSA Leadership Conference

It is recommended that Kristin Holmes, Ben Holmes, Pam Green and Scott Setzenfand, be authorized to take students to the local chapter of the PA Technology Student Association Conference in which students will compete in a wide variety of technology and S.T.E.M. related areas at the Pennsylvania Technology Student Association State Leadership Conference. The event will be held April 19 - 22, 2023 at Seven Springs Mountain Resort. Students who attend PA TSA States will be reimbursed as per Board Policy 240 (50% of travel cost or \$250.00 per student, whichever is less) for a maximum total of \$3,000.00. Mrs. Holmes, Mr. Holmes Mrs. Green, and Mr. Setzenfand will be reimbursed at the contracted rate with an expense report attached, which covers registration, fees, travel, lodging, and meals.

4. Student Discipline 2022-2023-07

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student #8334802692 relevant to a Middle School student, effective December 14, 2022.

5. Student Discipline 2022-2023-08

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student #6370706531 relevant to a Middle School student, effective January 9, 2023.

6. Student Discipline 2022-2023-09

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student #1195584628 relevant to a Middle School student, effective January 9, 2023.

7. Student Discipline 2022-2023-10

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student #4340399752 relevant to a Middle School student, effective January 9, 2023.

8. Student Discipline 2022-2023-11

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student #6132634274 relevant to a Middle School student, effective January 9, 2023.

9. BCWAN Consortium

It is recommended the Ambridge Area School District should participate in the BCWAN Consortium for Telecommunications and Internet Access Services. Pricing through the Beaver County Intermediate Unit is approximately \$1,791.46 per month beginning July 1, 2023, and ending on June 30, 2024. The District has participated in this Consortium in the past.

10. Hartford University First-Year/Sophomore Partnership Teacher Agreement

It is recommended to approve a First Year/Sophomore Partnership Teacher Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the University of Hartford.

Mrs. Smith moved to accept items 1-10, seconded by Miss Fitsko. Vote in favor was unanimous.

**Finance and Budget and Building and Grounds**

**Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Keber**

1. Middle School Woodshop Equipment

It is recommended to approve the sale of surplus Middle School woodshop equipment through Municibid, an online public auction platform, in as-is, where-is condition.

2. Playground Fencing

It is recommended to approve Watt Fencing Inc. install fencing around Highland Elementary Playground. The total cost will be \$8,390.00. **To be paid for by the PCCD School Mental Health & Safety and Security Grant.**

3. Berkone Act 80 Proposal

It is recommended to accept the proposal from Berkone to review the Act 80 tax jurisdiction by the school district to determine if there are taxpayers who reported an incorrect school code on their tax returns. This is at a cost of approximately \$860.00.

4. Economy Elevator Change-Order

It is recommended to update the work order from TK Elevator Corporation approved at the June 8, 2022 Board Meeting to include the scope of work as identified by TK Elevator Corporation in their correspondence dated December 22, 2022.

5. School District Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly school district bills in the amount of \$1,332,426.22 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,525,219.16 be paid.

6. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$22,875.76 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$112,023.09 be paid.

7. Baseball Field Maintenance Agreement

It is recommended to approve a three (3) year Baseball Field Maintenance Agreement between Ambridge Area School District and Dura-Edge to install a new baseball field surface and field maintenance. This is at a cost of \$3,481.00 per year.

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept items 1-7, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. Vote in favor was unanimous.

**Athletics and Public Relations**

**Mr. Zatchey and Miss Fitsko**

**Point of Information**

**Hall of Honor**

Annually, Ambridge Area School District proudly recognizes graduates to induct into the Bridger Hall of Honor. The Bridger Hall of Honor was established to commend those outstanding graduates for their accomplishments, successes, service to others, and/or state and national awards. Applications to complete the 2023 nominations are available on the district website.

**Athletics and Public Relations**

**Mr. Zatchey and Miss Fitsko**

1. Overnight Tournament Participation Request

It is recommended to approve the high school Boys' Varsity Volleyball Team attend the following overnight tournaments:

Northeastern High School, Manchester, PA – April 1, 2023

The district will pay for dues, fees and transportation. The Boosters will pay for lodging.

2. Automated External Defibrillators

It is recommended to approve the purchase of three (3) additional Automated External Defibrillators to be utilized throughout the district at athletic events for a total cost not to exceed \$2,500.00 each.

Mr. Zatchey moved to accept items 1-2, seconded by Miss Fitsko. Vote in favor was unanimous.

**Steering and Rules and Legislative****Mrs. Kehoe and Mrs. Fischer**1. Policy 907.1 School Visitors; Megan's Law Offenders– Third Reading

It is recommended, as a third 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.

2. Flourish Beaver County Operating Committee 2023 School Director Representative Ballot

It is recommended to approve the 2023 ballot be cast for the school director representative of the Flourish Beaver County Operation Committee.

3. Meeting Notice

It is recommended to correct the previously advertised optional July board meeting date from Wednesday, July 12, 2023 to Wednesday, July 19, 2023.

Mrs. Fischer moved to accept 1-3, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. 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. Act 93 Agreement

It is recommended the Act 93 Administrative Compensation Plan Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Area School Administrators be approved for a period of five years from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028.

2. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Area School District Act 93 Members Unit regarding tuition reimbursement.

3. Consideration for Salary Increase

It is recommended that Administrators receive consideration for a salary increase for the 2022-2023 school year based on their evaluation for the 2021-2022 school year.

4. Professional Employee

It is recommended to retroactively approve Erica Brozich, as a State Street Elementary PreK Teacher at a salary of \$46,771.00 (Step1, Bachelor), effective January 2, 2023, 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.

5. Professional Employee

It is recommended to retroactively approve Nicole Vlcek, as a Highland Elementary Learning Support/Autistic Support Grade 3-5 at a salary of \$46,771.00 (Step 1, Bachelor), effective January 2, 2023, 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.

6. Professional Employee

It is recommended to retroactively approve Aamaria Hall as a Highland Elementary Second Grade Teacher at a salary of \$46,771.00 (Step 1, Bachelor), effective January 2, 2023, 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.

7. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #372 taking an intermediate leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave beginning January 2, 2023, not to exceed 12 weeks.

8. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #1057 taking an intermediate leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave beginning December 20, 2022, not to exceed 12 weeks.

9. FMLA

It is recommended to approve employee #2941 taking an intermediate leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave beginning January 26, 2023, not to exceed 12 weeks.

10. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #2125 taking an intermediate leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave beginning December 9, 2022, not to exceed 12 weeks.

11. FMLA

It is recommended to approve employee #1705 taking an intermediate leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave beginning January 20, 2023, not to exceed 12 weeks.

12. Field Observation

It is recommended to retroactively approve Marjorie Jarsulic, a University of Hartford student to complete her field observation in music education for the 2022-2023 winter/spring semester, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening. The students will be placed with Stephen Rodgers.

13. 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 Teachers</u>	<u>New Teachers</u>
Pam Green	Erin Hein
Shelly Traupman	Erica Brozich
Robin Francis	Amaria Hall
Jason Gerle	Nicole Vlcek
Genifer Scaletta	Cory Bailey

14. 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 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 (Middle School)</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
Yearbook Corinna Cooper	\$470.00

15. Slippery Rock University Student Internship

It is recommended to approve Melissa Thomas, a Slippery Rock University student, for 120 hours of Administrative Internship placement for the 2023 winter/spring semester, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening. Melissa will be placed with Dr. Filipowski.

16. Highland Elementary Title I Event

It is recommended to ratify the following teachers as workers for the Highland Elementary Title I Event which was held Wednesday, December 21, 2022. The teachers will be paid at the contracted rate. The Para-Professionals will be paid per their negotiated agreement.

Greta Bible  
 Stacey Brock  
 Marie Buck  
 Dana Burns  
 Matt LaPorte  
 Lee Levi  
 Greg Mell  
 Erica Schmidt  
 Brandie Skonieczny  
 Amy Wass  
 Jamie Wellman  
 Michelle Archibald, Para-Professional  
 Jennifer Kamzelski, Para-Professional

17. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Tiffany Miller from her position as School Psychologist for Grades 5-12, effective February 17, 2023, 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.

18. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Karen Smith from her position as a School Nurse at the High School, effective January 16, 2023.

19. 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.

Middles School Girls Volleyball

- a) Kayli Newman, Volunteer
- b) Jason Benkowski, Volunteer

Stipend

No Remuneration  
 No Remuneration

**20. Maintenance**

It is recommended to hire Adam Ross as a full-time Maintenance Worker in the Ambridge Area School District 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.

**21. Food Service Worker**

It is recommended to approve Kristin Lucarini be hired as a cook at Highland Elementary as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association – Cafeteria Branch 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 1-21, seconded by Mr. Keber. Vote in favor was unanimous.

**XIII. President's Address**

Mrs. Romasco thanked all that came out. Best wishes to the marching band.

**XIV. Solicitor's Report**

Ms. Turnbull respectfully requested the Board resume back into executive session for personnel matters.

**XV. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated all employees and students it was awesome to have the opportunity to recognize all these folks and thanked them for all they for the school district.

**XVI. 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.

Kristie Park, Ambridge

- Concerns with having no English teacher at the high school.
- What is going on with grading and keeping up with assignments?
- Concerns for her daughter's education and the rest of the students.
  - Ms. Zupsic stated that the English department has been working with the substitute Mr. Daniels to meet all curriculum deadlines, assignments and research projects.

**XVII. Motion to Adjourn**

At approximately 8:05 p.m. Mrs. Smith moved to adjourn and return to executive session, seconded by Mr. Keber. All in favor.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary**