

Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Voting and Non-Voting Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Cafeteria on Wednesday, January 11, 2023.

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, January 11, 2023. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. in the High School Cafeteria.

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 statement:

The Board of School Directors held Executive Session(s) on Wednesday, January 11th to discuss:

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

VI. Correspondence

VII. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda

Miss Fitsko moved to accept the agenda, seconded by Mrs. Smith. All in favor

VIII. Recognition/Presentation

Student Achievement Presentation – Dr. Pasquerilla

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

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. Professional Employee

It is recommended to approve Cory Bailey as a PCCD Grant Funded Elementary Guidance Counselor at a salary of \$47,681.00 (Step 1, Master), 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. **This position is contingent on the funding in the PCCD Health and Safety Grant and will not be continued at the end of the funding cycle.**

2. Rhodes Transit Bus Drivers / Aides / Substitutes

It is recommended to approve the individuals listed as operators, attendants, and maintenance for Rhodes Transit, Inc. 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.

Appendix A

3. 2022-2023 Spring Coach

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

1. Softball

a) Amanda Mitchell, Head Coach \$4,300.00

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept items 1-3, seconded by Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Fischer and Mrs. Kehoe voted against item 3, vote in favor of items 1-2 was unanimous.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)**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 2022-2023-06

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

5. 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 \$___ per month beginning July 1, 2023, and ending on June 30, 2024. The District has participated in this Consortium in the past.

6. 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.

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.

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.

Steering and Rules and Legislative

Mrs. Kehoe and Mrs. Fischer

1. Policy 907.1 School Visitors; Megan's Law Offenders– Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second 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.

XII. President's Address

Mrs. Romasco thanked Dr. Pasquerilla for all of the data presented. Congratulated all of the students, teachers and Administration for the growth. Also welcomed all back from winter break.

XIII. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla wished all a Happy New Year. Looking forward to catching some winter sports and activities that are going on. Thanked the Board for the opportunity to present and thanked the staff, students and parents for all they do.

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.

Bob Zebrasky, Harmony Twp.

- Asked why there were no communications sent home to the parents letting them know that the principal resigned and also asked what the plan will be in the interim to cover the building.
 - Dr. Pasquerilla reported they are working to fill the position and in the interim, Dr. Filipowski, Mr. King and himself will be serving as principal on those days and there will be information regarding this sent home to the parents.
- Asked if the Harmony PD could be present at the school during school hours.
 - Dr. Pasquerilla explained the police department could not send staff to the school but if they needed would be called to the school.

Stephanie Zugay, Economy

- Stated that the SRO at the middle school is doing a phenomenal job with the boxing program.
- Commended the district on the cyber program at the high school, her daughter is excelling in the cyber program.
- Concerns with the middle school basketball coach, what is the goal of the coach, is there a job criteria for the coach.
- There has not been a coach for the 7th grade boys and the 8th grade boys coach has not been there to coach and support the 7th grade team.
 - Recommended to reach out to the AD or to Dr. Pasquerilla's office to follow-up on the coaching issues.

Shawn Dugay, Ambridge

- Upset with the discipline and citations given to his children.
- Upset that he was told he could not volunteer in the district because of his past.
- Feels the district needs to hold teachers accountable as they do the students.
- Concerns about the amount of time that students are permitted to be on their cell phones during the school day.
- Upset that when his son has OSS there were no school assignments given.

- Mrs. Romasco stated that since Mr. Dugay had spoken at a September meeting ISS was put in place to cut down on the OSS.
- Mrs. Romasco stated that in the future if OSS is given and there are no assignments to contact Dr. Pasquerilla's office.
- Mrs. Smith suggested Mr. Dugay apply for the volunteer/coaching position and the district will then follow procedure. Mrs. Smith directed Mr. Dugay to visit the district website to complete the clearance paperwork.
- Ms. Turnbull stated that Mr. Dugay should complete the paperwork for volunteer clearance. There is no barrier to anyone filing so that would be step one to get on the process. Without seeing there are certain things as of a matter of law that say certain folks could not have contact with children. If it is not a prohibited matter there can be discussions about the clearance.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. June Mueller
Board Secretary

*Prepared 12/7/22
Ambridge Copy*

Ambridge Clearances (New Additions)

Allen, Patricia	Attendant
Antonetty, Ruth	Staff Attendant
Brown, Robert	Van
Filipek, David	Staff
Filipek, Jennifer	Staff
Gricks, Franklin	Van
Jones, William	Van
McSorley, Michael	Van
Metz, William Jr.	Staff
Migliore, James Jr.	Van
Payne, Lucinda	Attendant
Peteya, Vincent	Van
Riggle, Kathleen	Staff
Riley, Destiny	Staff
Smith, Lynda	Bus
White, Garland	Bus
Barlamas, Georgia	District Van
Filipowski, Amy	District Van/Aide