

**Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.**

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

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District Board of Directors on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, is now called to order.

**II. Flag salute-please rise**

Middle School Student Council

**III. Student Council Report**

**IV. Notice** 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
- 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, April 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss:

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

**VII. Correspondence**

No Correspondence

**VIII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> Meet and Discuss Voting and Non-Voting Meeting and Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.**

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

**IX. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report dated: March 2023**

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

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

Added Item #14 under Personnel and Salary Schedule and Labor Relations

Mrs. Kehoe moved to accept the addendum, seconded by Mrs. Smith. All in favor.

Added Item #8 under Steering and Rules and Legislative

Mrs. Smith moved to accept the addendum, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. All in favor.

**XI. Recognition/Presentation**

**Congratulations to our Food Service Department** for being awarded the Child Hunger Hero Award and also receiving the Turnip the Beet Award (Silver Level)

**Child Hunger Hero Award**

Child Hunger Hero Award program recognizes school districts and community partners making outstanding contributions to food security for kids within Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank's service area. Schools and organizations were evaluated on their participation in programs that address childhood food insecurity including school meals, summer food, afterschool meals, weekend backpacks and school pantry programs.

**Turnip the Beet Award**

The Turnip the Beet Award offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognizes outstanding, high-quality meals served by Summer Meal Program (SFSP and SSO) sponsors.

**Ambridge Area Marching Band**

Congratulations to the AAHS Marching Band members that participated in the band trip to Orlando, Florida in January of this year. Your featured performance throughout the Magic Kingdom and down Mainstreet U.S.A. of Walt Disney World was an exceptional representation of your hard work and dedication since the start of band camp in August. You have made your families, school, and community proud.

**Ambridge Area Musical**

This year the Ambridge Area Musical presented Andrew Lloyd Webber's "School of Rock". The drama program was presented with a very unique experience. Ambridge Area High School is the very first amateur production of this musical to ever be done in the Pittsburgh area.

Based on the popular Jack Black movie, School of Rock was a huge undertaking for our program. With a 20-foot wide revolving stage floor, on-stage band, LED signs and challenging scene changes, quick costume changes, and massive scene changes, the students rose to the challenge and put on a great production!

*Congratulations!!!*

**Middle School Ambridge Attic**

The Idea for the "No Cost to Shop" store was presented by one of our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, Anthony Manganello Jr. (AJ). AJ wanted the Ambridge Area Middle School to be noticed for doing something positive. He proposed developing the "no cost to shop" spot where all students could get gently used clothes, for free without stigma, if they were in need.

With assistance from school district parent, Mrs. Denise Manganello, the district partnered with the Seneca Valley School District, and we were able to receive hundreds of clothing items to get our store, "The Bridger Loft," up and running.

Mrs. Patty Weale, a Life Skills Teacher, volunteered to manage the project. Mrs. Weale and her students refresh and display the clothing for the shop.

In the past 11 weeks, "The Bridger Loft" has been able to help 17 students.

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

9<sup>th</sup> Grade – Claire Elias

10<sup>th</sup> Grade – Gabe Davis

11<sup>th</sup> Grade – Jamison Frantz

12<sup>th</sup> Grade – Amara Platz

**High School March Extra Effort Award**

9<sup>th</sup> Grade – Darold Cain

10<sup>th</sup> Grade – Julien Hubbard

11<sup>th</sup> Grade – Devin Payne

12<sup>th</sup> Grade – Norah Best

**Middle School March Student of the Month**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Alyssa Smith

7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Morgan Hartman

8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Aaron Scheib

**Economy Elementary March Student of the Month**

5<sup>th</sup> Grader – Jenna Kerr

**Highland Elementary March Student of the Month**

5<sup>th</sup> Grade - A’zyria Saunders

**State Street Elementary March Student of the Month**

4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Peyton Faltenovich

**Employees of the Month**

**High School Employee of the Month**

Nicole Connolly, Social Studies Teacher

**Middle School Employee of the Month**

Brandi Johnson, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

**Economy Elementary**

Ashley Ananea, School Nurse

**State Street Elementary**

Patricia Filbert, Para-Professional, February Employee of the Month

Tina Cordell, Cafeteria Site Leader

**Highland Elementary**

Lee Levi, Learning Support/Autistic Support Teacher

**Draft II Budget Presentation – Mrs. Eyth**

**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. McGraw Hill Elementary Social Studies

It is recommended to approve the adoption of the McGraw Hill social studies series, *Impact*, grades K-5. The total cost of this series is \$57,345.00.

2. Settlement Agreement

It is recommended to approve the special education settlement agreement between the district and student #1377592782. It is further recommended to authorize the Administration to take all steps in accordance therewith.

3. Student Discipline 2022-2023-17

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student #8320031761 relevant to a High School student, effective March 22, 2023.

4. Student Discipline 2022-2023-18

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student #5545344136 relevant to a High School student, effective March 24, 2023.

5. Student Discipline 2022-2023-19

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student #9253483679 relevant to a Middle School student, effective March 29, 2023.

6. Student Discipline 2022-2023-20

It is recommended to adopt the recommended discipline for student #9769463132 pursuant to a private disciplinary hearing held on March 30, 2023.

7. Student Discipline 2022-2023-21

It is recommended to ratify the discipline agreement for student #8133646898 relevant to a High School student, effective April 17, 2023.

8. Service Agreement Renewal

It is recommended to renew the service agreement with Associated Occupational Therapy for the 2023-2024 school year.

9. Special Education Plan

It is recommended the Special Education Plan Report for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026 be approved and submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Mrs. Smith moved to accept items 1-9, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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

- School District Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly school district bills in the amount of \$2,416,227.69 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,284,419.56 be paid.

- Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$167,958.88 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$49,116.53 be paid.

- Budget Transfers

It is recommended to approve budget transfers for April 2023.

- 2023-2024 Beaver County Career & Technology Center Operating Budget

It is recommended to approve the 2023-2024 Beaver County Career & Technology Center Operating Budget for \$6,915,699.00. It is further recommended the Board President and Board Secretary be authorized to execute the BCCTC Resolution Form.

- Economy Elementary PA System

It is recommended to accept the bid proposal from Horizon Information Services for a new PA system to be installed at Economy Elementary for a total cost of \$20,675.00 through the State bidding process (Co-Stars).

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept items 1-5, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Athletics and Public Relations****Mr. Zatchey and Miss Fitsko****Steering and Rules and Legislative****Mrs. Kehoe and Mrs. Fischer**

1. Policy 830 – Data Storage – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading to adopt School Board Policy 830 – *Data Storage* for the purpose of secure management of the district's electronic data to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the data for all district users.

2. Policy 011 – Principles for Governance and Leadership – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading to update School Board Policy 011 – *Principles for Governance and Leadership* to ensure the language is reflective of current needs and practices.

3. Policy 200 – Enrollment of Students – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading to adopt School Board Policy 200 – *Enrollment of Students* to ensure the enrollment of school-age students eligible to attend district schools, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, Board policy and administrative regulations.

4. Policy 202 – Eligibility of Nonresident Students – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading to update School Board Policy 202 – *Eligibility of Nonresident Students* to expand requirements for immediate enrollment to include students experiencing foster care and other forms of educational instability.

5. Policy 217 – Graduation – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading to update School Board Policy 217 – *Graduation* to include provisions regarding graduation requirements and annual reporting of graduation information and data. A section was also added to the policy to address support for the graduation of students experiencing educational instability.

6. Policy 221 – Dress and Grooming – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading to update School Board Policy 221 – *Dress and Grooming* to waive penalties related to a delay in student compliance with board policy and school rules for dress and grooming due to a student's educational instability, students experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care and Other Educational Instability has been added to the policy.

7. Policy 251– Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care and Other Educational Instability – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading to update School Board Policy 251 – *Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care and Other Educational Instability* to ensure that students experiencing education instability graduate in a timely manner.

8. Norfolk Southern Lawsuit Resolution 2022-2023-12

It is recommended to approve Resolution 2022-2023-12 to enable the district to move forward and effectuate any necessary documents to engage in litigation involving Norfolk Southern.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to accept items 1-8, as amended, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. 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. Homeless Liaison Coordinator

It is recommended to ratify Jo Ann Hoover as a Homeless Liaison Coordinator to be paid a stipend of \$2,833.00 for the 2022-2023 school year.

2. Uncompensated Leave

It is recommended to ratify employee #2940 taking unpaid leave, effective April 11-14, 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.

3. Early Intervention Speech Evaluations

It is recommended to approve Marie Buck as the speech teacher for Early Intervention Evaluations at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement.

4. Extended School Year Services

- a. It is recommended the following teachers be approved to provide Extended School Year services to students from Monday, July 10, 2023, through Thursday, July 13, 2023, and Monday, July 17, 2023, through Thursday, July 20, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Highland Elementary and the High School at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement:

Hannah Jozwiak  
Jamie Wellman  
Jen Shannon

- b. It is recommended the following speech teacher be approved to provide Extended School Year services to students from Monday, July 10, 2023, through Thursday, July 13, 2023, and Monday, July 17, 2023, through Thursday, July 20, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Highland Elementary and the High School at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement:

Mara Bartholomew

- c. It is recommended the following nurse be approved to provide Extended School Year services to students from Monday, July 10, 2023, through Thursday, July 13, 2023, and Monday, July 17, 2022, through Thursday, July 20, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Highland Elementary and the High School at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement:

Stuart Rusnak



- d. It is recommended the following para-educators be approved to provide Extended School Year services to students from Monday, July 10, 2023, through Thursday, July 13, 2023, and Monday, July 17, 2023, through Thursday, July 20, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Highland Elementary and the High School at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement:

Bernadette Aquino  
 Carlyn Humphries  
 Lacey McCullough  
 Tameki Tarver  
 Lisa Patton  
 Jen Kamzelski  
 Stormi Yemm  
 Melissa Rhines

5. District-Wide Title I Event

It is recommended to ratify the following teachers as workers for the District-Wide Title I Event to be held on Thursday, April 20, 2023, between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Teachers will be paid at the contracted rate. Secretaries and Para-Professionals will be paid per their negotiated agreement.

Teachers

Stacey Brock  
 Marie Buck  
 Dana Burns  
 Nicole Darroch  
 Lee Levi  
 Celeste Schaltenbrand  
 Amy Wass

Secretaries

Dee Carpenter  
 Maria Kotula

Para-Professionals

Michelle Archibald  
 Lacey McCullough  
 Lorraine Mrkonja  
 Cherine Rafla  
 Melissa Rhines  
 Stormi Yemm

6. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #2882 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave beginning April 20, 2023, not to exceed 12 weeks.

7. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #432 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave beginning April 14, 2023, not to exceed 12 weeks.

8. Para-Educators (Teaching Assistants)

It is recommended to hire the following individuals to fill Para-Educator (Teaching Assistant) positions 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.

James Maseth – High School

9. 2023-2024 Fall Coach

It is recommended the following individuals be ratified to fill the designated fall coaching positions for the 2023-2024 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>Boys' Soccer</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Matthew Purtell, Head Coach	\$4,300.00
2) <u>Girls' Soccer</u>	
a) James Raymer, Head Coach	\$4,300.00

10. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Area Education Association regarding reimbursement of Social Security Administration costs of locating pertinent employee information.

11. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Area Education Association regarding the School Psychologist position.

12. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Area Education Association regarding PreK ratio payment.

13. Remedial Summer School Program (Tentative upon student enrollment to ensure no cost to the District)

It is recommended the following teachers be approved to provide Summer School Program services to students beginning Tuesday, June 13, 2023 and ending Monday, June 26, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day in session at the Ambridge Area High School. Teachers will be compensated at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement.

Christina Briola – English  
 Greg Mell – Social Studies  
 Kent Withrow - Math

14. Cafeteria Worker

It is recommended to approve Amanda Davis as a Cafeteria Worker at the High School, as per the terms of the collective bargaining unit, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to accept items 1-14, as amended, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**XIII. President's Address**

Nothing to report.

**XIV. Solicitor's Report**

Nothing to report.

**XV. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated all the students and staff. Thanked Mrs. Eyth for her hard work on the budget presentation. Thanked all for coming out.

**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.

Chele Dicioccio, Baden, PA

- Concerns and frustration over GPA calculations.
- Asked that the Board look at our GPA scale compared to other schools
- Our 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders honors classes are not weighted
- Our high honor is a 4.25 right than 4.5 and our AP is 4.5 rather than 5.0

- After Board discussion, it was agreed upon that the GPA grading scale would be looked at and the Administration would work on a presentation to adopt a high grading scale as long as it would be benefit all students equally.

Bob Zebrasky, Ambridge, PA

- Would like to see an SRO at the Elementary schools to provide safety for our youngest and softest children in the district.
- Does the district look into grant funding to put SROs in the elementary schools.
- Asked if there were grants to use the funding for Elementary SROs
  - Dr. Pasquerilla a grant is written every year that supports the SROs and you can get up to \$70,000.00 a year and the Board approved having an SRO at the middle school and high school which is approximately \$90,000.00 for each position. We are fortunate to get the \$70,000.00 to offset.
  - Dr. Pasquerilla stated the safety of the elementary students is all of our concerns as well. It would be up to the Board to have a discussion as to whether or not they would be looking at adding SROs to the Elementary buildings. Although it would be a difficult discussion to make.
  - Mr. Zebrasky stated that he does appreciate the staff and all that they do to try to keep the buildings secure but believes without having an SRO it could cause more parents to homeschool for safety reasons.

## **XVII. Motion to Adjourn**

At approximately 8:50 p.m. Mr. Carpenter moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Smith. All in favor.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Mrs. June Mueller**

**Board Secretary**