

Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Voting and Non-Voting Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, April 12, 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, April 12, 2023. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, 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

The Board of School Directors held Executive Session(s) on Thursday, March 30th and Wednesday, April 8th and will return to Executive Session at the conclusion of this meeting 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****Added item #8 under Personnel**

Mrs. Smith moved to approve the addendum to the agenda, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. All in favor.

VIII. Recognition/Presentation

Welcome Mrs. Stephanie Hull, Highland Elementary Principal

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 retroactively approve Megan Fitzgarald, as a School Psychologist Grades K-12, pending finalization of the MOU with the Ambridge Area Education Association, at a salary of \$54,761.27 (Step 1, Masters +30) (208 days), 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.

2. Retirement

It is recommended to approve the resignation due to the retirement of Charles Price from his position as a Health & Physical Education teacher, effective June 3, 2023, with regret.

3. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Tara Gologram from her position as a Track Assistant Coach, effective February 1, 2023, with regret.

4. 2022-2023 Winter/Spring Coach

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

1) <u>Track</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Marshall Bruce, Assistant Coach	\$2,000.00
b) Carlton Davis, Assistant Coach	\$1,900.00
2) <u>Middle School Softball</u>	
a) Darin Smith, Assistant Coach	\$1,350.00
3) <u>Middle School Wrestling</u>	
a) Larry Knopsnyder, Assistant Coach	\$1,350.00

5. 2023-2024 Fall/Winter Coach

It is recommended the following individuals be ratified to fill the designated fall/winter 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 spring sports as normal.

1) <u>Cheerleading</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Jennifer Phillips, Head Coach	\$4,300.00
2) <u>Girls' Volleyball</u>	
a) Carlyn Humphries, Head Coach	\$4,300.00
3) <u>Boys' and Girls' Cross Country</u>	
a) Denise Duncan, Head Coach	\$4,300.00
4) <u>Boys' Golf</u>	
a) Chris Yannessa, Head Coach	\$4,300.00
5) <u>Girls' Golf</u>	
a) Larry Knopsnyder, Head Coach	\$4,300.00
6) <u>Girls' Tennis</u>	
a) Georgia Barlamas, Head Coach	\$4,300.00
7) <u>Boys' Basketball</u>	
a) Jonas Ankrom, Head Coach	\$6,000.00

8) Girls' Basketball

a) Lethera Harrison, Head Coach \$6,000.00

9) Wrestling

a) Larry Knopsnyder, Head Coach \$4,300.00

6. Cafeteria Worker

It is recommended to approve Shelby Mader as a Cafeteria Worker at Economy Elementary, 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.

7. Jones Resolution 2022-2023-10

It is recommended to approve Resolution 2022-2023-10, a resolution placing Employee #602 on unpaid leave effective April 12, 2023 and authorizing the issuance of charges and related notices consistent with the School Code.

8. Jones Resolution

It is recommended to approve Resolution 2022-2023-11, a resolution placing Employee #3035 on unpaid leave effective April 13, 2023 and authorizing the issuance of charges and related notices consistent with the School Code.

Mr. Cephas moved to accept items 1-8, as amended, seconded by Mrs. Smith. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)**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. Service Agreement Renewal

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

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

2. 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.

3. Budget Transfers

It is recommended to approve budget transfers for April 2023.

4. 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.

5. 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).

Athletics and Public Relations

Mr. Zatchey and Miss Fitsko

Bridger Hall of Honor 2023 Inductees

Congratulations to the 2023 Bridger Hall of Honor Inductees:

Dr. Steve J. Bezuk, 1972 Graduate

Senior Director, Integrated Circuit Package Engineering - Qualcomm Technologies Incorporated

Lorraine Baiardo Justice, Ph.D., 1973 Graduate

Dean Emerita, College of Imaging Arts and Sciences & Professor, Industrial Design - Rochester Institute of Technology

Sean Kennedy, 1991 Graduate

Senior Compositor & GG Generalist – CoSA VFX

Paul L. Hoback, Jr, 1993 Graduate

Executive Vice President, Chief Development Officer, - Allegheny County Airport Authority

Steering and Rules and Legislative

Mrs. Kehoe and Mrs. Fischer

1. Policy 830 – Data Storage – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first 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 – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first 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 – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first 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 – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first 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 – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first 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 – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first 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 – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first 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.

XII. President's Address

Nothing to report.

XIII. Superintendent's Report

Welcomed Mrs. Hull to Highland Elementary, looking to a bright future. Wished the spring events and athletics good 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.

Kasi Devinney, Sewickley, PA

- Questioned item #3 under Finance and Budget – asked if the Board was provided with a print out of these budget transfers.
 - The Board did receive a printout
- Asked if the budget was in the red or black and if monies would be transferred from the fund balance to cover this year's budget.
- Item #1 under Education and Technology – is this online subscription an additional cost to the budget and is this a one-time cost over the five year period?
 - Mr. King stated the five year online subscription was part of the entire bundle and if you were just to get the textbook without the online subscription it would be \$12,000 to \$15,000 more. If we want to discontinue the online portion we have the text book portion as well. And this is a one-time cost.
 - Mrs. Romasco stated that there was a public budget presentation held on March 12th
 - Ms. Devinney said she wanted to know where we are this year.
 - Dr. Pasquerilla stated that on behalf of the Business Manager, as well, we have to do our due diligence to spend money on only what we absolutely need. The budget is looking positive but it is difficult to project that until the end of the year because something unexpected could come up. But the goal is to add to the fund balance and not raise taxes and be mindful so that we do not overspend. Feels relatively confident that overall that the district is not operating in the red but on such a large scale it is very hard to say.
 - Ms. Turnbull did speak on the Beaver County communication regarding the reassessment. The reassessment counterbalances the school district side generally speaking in the year of reassessment. There is a corresponding adjustment in the mileage rate. The Business office has requested aggregate information from the Assessment Office to see what that number might be. We can assist the business office with that based on other taxing jurisdictions within the district and my hope is that in the next month or so as you approach both budgets and communications with the public we will start to understand what the full picture might be because the assessment is one half of the equation and the mileage is the other that drives an actual tax impact for any property owner. We are gathering information to share even in roughest terms as to where we think that might be and help property owners know what some of the impacts might look like.

Christina Briola, Harmony Twp.

- Concerns with the safety of Rhodes Transit
- Her son is on the track team and they are to have an activity bus to the middle school while instead, they are putting the track team on with a whole entire bus route. That is a track team that can fill two buses along with a full route. There are 3 to a seat and some of the kids sitting on the floor. This is unsafe.
- The track team is showing up late to home games. The first two home meets the team was late.
- This is an on-going problem with Rhodes Transit.
 - Dr. Pasquerilla is aware and held a meeting with Rhodes today. The problem that Rhodes faces is a shortage on drivers and they are trying to operate buses within the legal limits utilizing current staff. And from the meeting today, Rhodes has agreed to fix the problem tomorrow.

Kaitlyn Desrochers, Student Athlete on the track team

- Bus 32 being used to transport the track team has an unsafe total number of students on the bus. The driver is unable to maintain order; sitting three in a seat; some students sitting on the floor. This is unacceptable.
- Student read allowed transportation rules.
- This is a neglectful attitude from Rhodes and the district.
- Asked the Board to consider dropping the contract with Rhodes Transit.
- The student read resolutions of better utilizes bus runs to help the problem.
 - Mrs. Romasco thanked the student for speaking and for her innovative thinking on resolutions.

Cody Roper, Student Athlete on the track team

- Stated it is hard for him and the team to perform to the best ability when arriving to meets late, especially home meets.
- Cody also attends AP Chemistry at the Pitt Campus and he has been late to lab three times.
- This impacts not only the team but his education as well.

Shaun Duguay, Ambridge

- Concerns with students being disciplined being forced to go to the Boxing Program. Kids don't feel safe.
- Concerns with SRO.
- Concerns with fighting.
- Concerns with son's safety at school.
- Son doesn't feel safe.

Carrie Jenkins-Akella, Baden

- Did the district meet with FEMA to do an after-action review after the lockdown to fill the gaps after the EOP and what transpired that day?
- Asked if the district has a staff member to write grants to be used for safety.
- Asked if the district ever received the money back after the Baden Tax Collector stole funds.
- What initiatives are put in place for safety?
 - Dr. Pasquerilla stated he did meet with Administration and the police department to debrief
 - The district does write grants and has received grant funding and emergency funding that is used for SROs and school safety.
 - Ms. Turnbull stated the Tax Collector was sentenced to prison and ordered to repay both the Borough and the district as a matter of criminal restitution for the rest of his life if employed.
 - Mrs. Romasco asked that Ms. Akella send additional questions to Dr. Pasquerilla via email.

Athena Bruno, Student Athlete on the track team

- As a student athlete the bus situation is very unsafe
- As a student athlete in multiple sports, multiple sports and routes being combined onto one bus is very unacceptable.
- Concerns with athletes sitting on the floor and their safety to and from sports events.
- Students' athletes are getting to practices and meets late and cannot warm up properly.

Sean Anderson, Student Athlete on the track team

- Being a senior and on the track team for four years knows that the bus is extremely important. Having busing is the reason he was able to participate in sports, the first three years the bus was vital for him to get to practices and meets.
- Students that can drive are driving other team mates there.
- The bus is vital and thanked the Board for listening.

Fabriolla Gargorich, Harmony Twp.

- Stated that her daughter is on the track team and she can relate but stated that other transit companies are having the same issues.
- Husband is a former public school teacher for 11 years, as her thoughts and her husband thoughts, the moral breakdown of this country, lack of family unit and cell phones.
- Questions on the following:
 - # 2 under Education and Technology
 - # 7 under Education and Technology
 - # 4 under Finance and Budget
- Hall of Honor Inductees – would like to know more about the inductees
 - # 2 – relates to a special education matter that is all that can be said
 - # 7 – AOT agreement is a standard service to provide speech therapists and occupational therapy
 - # 4 – BCCTC budget is the overall budget it is not the portion that we owe. The \$ the district pays is based upon the number of students that attend.
 - HOH – there is a link on the website where you can read the bio of the HOH inductees and see their pictures.

Jamie Desrochers, Baden, PA

- Director at Watson Institute serving over 30 districts and has had no busing issues with Monarch or ABC transit.
- Rhodes Transit is a nightmare.

Felicia Mycyk, Track Coach

- Athletes are frustrated when they are getting to practices and meets due to busing issues.
- This worry put on them is not good for their mental health.
- The bus is causing the athletes anxiety.
- Athletes are left outside of school waiting on the sports bus.
- Athletes should not have to worry about busing issues. They should focus on school work and dominating at their sport.
- There are a total of 70 HS track team members being combined on other buses
- Thanked the Board for listening to the students athletes.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At 8:30 p.m. Miss Fitsko moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. June Mueller
Board Secretary