

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, June 21, 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, June 21, 2023 is now called to order.
- II. Flag salute-please rise: Mrs. Romasco asked all present to rise for the flag salute.**
- 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. Rob 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, June 21st to discuss
- Personnel matter(s)
 - Litigation or threatened litigation matters
- VII. Correspondence**
No correspondence.

VIII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, May 10th Meet and Discuss Voting and Non-Voting Meeting and Wednesday, May 17th 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: May 2023

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

X. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda

Amended item 11 under Finance and Budget and Building and Grounds

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

Add item 19 under Personnel and Salary Schedule and Labor Relations

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

XI. Recognition/Presentation

2022-2023 Retirees

Teresa Brewer, Teacher – 20 Years of Service

Debbie Angus, Para-Professional – 23 Years of Service

Karen DeMarco, Teacher – 28 Years of Service

Jane Gaydos, Custodian – 13 Years of Service

Michael Grisnik, Maintenance – 5 Years of Service

Betty Jean Orłowski, Custodian – 18 Years of Service

Charles Price, Teacher – 33 Years of Service

Meg Rabold, Secretary – 8 Years of Service

Natalie Semonik – 14 Years of Service

Amy Sipes, Secretary – 5 Years of Service

Principal of the Year – Mrs. Jo Ann Hoover, Principal of State Street Elementary

Please help me in congratulating Mrs. Hoover, Principal of State Street Elementary, on her well-deserved recognition as Principal of the Year by The Education Partnership. Her outstanding leadership, dedication, and impact on the educational community have set an inspiring example for all. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to fostering excellence and positively shaping the lives of students, parents, and staff members!

Congratulations!

Students of the Month**Middle School May Student of the Month**

LaRhiya Bacon, 6th Grade

Garrett Riccio, 7th Grade

Sierra Tyson, 8th Grade

Economy Elementary May Student of the Month

Garrin Tierney, 3rd Grade

State Street Elementary May Student of the Month

Tyler Cook, 4th Grade

Employees of the Month**Middle School**

Genifer Scaletta, Guidance Counselor

Economy Elementary

Jaclyn Cosky, Teacher

State Street Elementary

Rob Barr, Cafeteria Monitor

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 Comment

XII. Committee Reports**Education and Technology****Mrs. Smith and Mr. Zatchey****1. Pennsylvania Department of Education ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan**

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 2023-2024 school year.

2. Special Education Out of District Placements

It is recommended to approve the following agreements with the Special Education out-of-district placements for the 2023-2024 school year, pending review of the Administrators and the Solicitor:

1) Outside Placements

- a) Bradley Center
- b) Holy Family Institute
- c) DePaul Institute
- d) Longmore Academy
- e) McGuire Memorial
- f) New Horizon School
- g) Pressley Ridge Day School
- h) St. Stephens Academy/Glade Run
- i) Watson Education Center
- j) Watson Institute (WISCA)
- k) BCRC, Inc.
- l) Western PA School for the Blind
- m) Western PA School for the Deaf
- n) Wesley Spectrum Academy

2) Mental Health Facilities

- a) Pathways Adolescent Center
- b) Persius
- c) Sharon Regional Health System
- d) South RTF/Bridgeville
- e) Southwood
- f) Taylor Diversion Program
- g) Western Psychiatric
- h) MHY Family Services

3) Detention Centers

- a) Keystone Adolescent Center/Charter School
- b) Adelphoi Village

3. Alternative Education/Private Academic Services Agreement

It is recommended to approve the purchase of eight (8) Alternative Education seats through the CLASS Academy Program for the 2023-2024 school year at a cost of \$13,500.00 per seat and it is furthermore recommended to approve the purchase of five (5) Private Academic seats for the 2023-2024 school year at a cost of \$20,130.00 for the 1st seat with a discounted rate for each seat after.

4. Mental Health Support

It is recommended to approve a contract between the Ambridge Area School District and the Prevention Network for five (5) days a week at the High School, two (2) days a week at the Middle School, and one (1) day a week at each elementary school for the 2023-2024 school year to provide mental health support at a cost of \$92,400.00. This funding is secured by the ESSERS A-TSI 7% Set Aside Grant and BCBH SEL Grant.

5. Pennsylvania School-Based ACCESS Program (SBAP)

It is recommended to approve the Pennsylvania School-Based ACCESS Program (SBAP) Local Education Agency Agreement for the 2023-2024 school year.

6. On-Site Dental Care

It is recommended to approve the Miracle Dental Association On-Site Team to provide dental care to all students in the District for the 2023-2024 school year. The District does not incur any expense or liability.

7. Vision To Learn

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and Vision To Learn for the 2023-2024 school year. The program provides free vision screenings and glasses to students who need them but cannot afford them. The District does not incur any expense or liability.

8. Robert Morris University Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended to approve an amended MOU between the Ambridge School District and Robert Morris University, **pending solicitor review.**

9. Back to School

The first day of the 2023-2024 school year for students is Wednesday, August 23, 2023. The instructional day start and end times are:

Elementary	8:25 a.m. – 3:05 p.m.
Middle School	7:25 a.m. – 2:20 p.m.
High School	7:30 a.m. – 2:26 p.m.

Teachers return on Monday, August 21, 2023

Point of Information

Teacher Start and End Times:

Elementary:	7:50 a.m. – 3:25 p.m.
Middle School:	7:20 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.
High School:	7:25 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

10. The Watson Institute

It is recommended to approve The Watson Institute Service Agreement for the 2023-2024 school year in order to operate a joint program establishing and maintaining a LEAP classroom in the district, **pending solicitor review.**

11. Student Handbooks

- a. It is recommended to adopt the High School Student Handbook for the 2023-2024 school year.
- b. It is recommended to adopt the Middle School Student Handbook for the 2023-2024 school year.
- c. It is recommended to adopt the Elementary Student Handbooks for the 2023-2024 school year.

12. Caring Foundation Agreement

It is recommended to approve the agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Caring Foundation for School-Based Peer Support Groups for Grieving Children. This agreement will be at no cost to the district.

13. Teachtown Special Education Curriculum

It is recommended to approve the purchase of a five (5) year special education curriculum series, *Encore*, grades K-12, from Teachtown for low-incidence disabilities. This is at an annual cost of \$16,051.61 per year for materials and \$1,656.00 for training. This was budgeted for in the 2023-2024 Special Education Budget.

14. AIMSWeb

It is recommended to approve the renewal of the AIMSWeb testing application at a cost of \$7,938.00.

15. Therapeutic Aggression Control Techniques (TACT2)

It is recommended to approve an agreement with Therapeutic Aggression Control Techniques (TACT2) for safety crisis and restraint training at an initial cost of \$11,210.00 with an annual cost of \$1,000.00 every year after. This will meet the district’s requirement for annual Trauma Informed Care Training. This funding is secured by the ESSERS A-TSI 7% Set Aside Grant.

16. Senso.Cloud

It is recommended to purchase a one-year subscription of Senso.Cloud, which is a cloud based computer management platform tool at a cost not to exceed \$10,800.00.

Mrs. Smith moved to accept items 1-16, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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 \$3,330,147.73 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,682,155.89 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$142,150.35 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$56,718.39 be paid.

3. Early Head Start of Beaver County Lease Agreement

It is recommended to approve a lease agreement for the Early Head Start of Beaver County Program with the new effective date of June 1, 2023, and end on May 31, 2024, **pending solicitor review.**

4. Insurance Coverage

It is recommended the Board approve the following insurance premiums obtained through the district broker, Arthur J. Gallagher, for the 2023-2024 school year at a total cost of \$281,819.00.

Package	Utica	\$158,158.00
(Property/Casualty, General Liability, Auto, Legal Liability, and all Commercial Coverages)		
Cyber Coverage	Travelers	\$ 18,128.00
Workers Compensation	UPMC	\$105,533.00

5. Services Agreement Reinstatement

It is recommended to approve the Third Party Administrative Services Agreement Reinstatement for the continuation of 403(b)/457(b) administration services by the Omni Group for the 2023-2024 school term as per the Fee Schedule for 2023-2024.

6. Final Budget for the 2023-2024 School Year

It is recommended to approve Resolution 2023-2024-1 adopting the Final General Operating Fund Budget for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year in the amount of \$54,617,806.00. The millage increase is zero mills.

7. Resolution – Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion

It is recommended Resolution 2023-2024-2 implementing the Act 1 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion be adopted.

8. Resolution Providing for Real Estate Installment Payment

It is recommended to approve Resolution 2023-2024-3, a resolution authorizing the collection of real estate taxes during the 2023-2024 fiscal year in installments.

9. Electronics Recycling

It is recommended to ratify Evolution E-Cycling, LLC to pick up television recycling and printer recycling from storage at Ridge Road at a total cost of \$3,965.00.

10. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve a tax exoneration regarding the collection of Real Estate Tax for 2020 to present conditioned upon mutual municipal and county reciprocal exoneration for the same years, relevant to the following property:

- a) Tax Parcel 10-004-0616.000, 915 5th Street, Ambridge, PA, and purchased by Thomas Fedorko.

11. Transportation Agreement

It is recommended to approve a contract between the Ambridge Area School District and ABC Transit Inc., beginning July 1, 2023, pursuant to the terms and conditions as negotiated, **subject to final solicitor review and revision.**

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept items 1-11, as amended, seconded by Mrs. Smith. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Athletics and Public Relations

Mr. Zatchey and Miss Fitsko

Point of Information

Youth Sports Facility Rental Discussion

- Mrs. Romasco will have Mr. Cephas meet with the Athletics Committee along with the Steering and Rules Committee to review facilities fees along with School Board Policy and bring recommendations in front of the Board in July.

Athletics and Public Relations

Mr. Zatchey and Miss Fitsko

1. Library Contributions

It is recommended to approve the distribution of budgeted allotments for the 2023-2024 school year as follows:

Baden Memorial Library \$6,000.00
 Laughlin Memorial Library \$6,000.00

Miss Fitsko moved to accept item 1, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. Mr. Zatchey and Mrs. Romasco voted against item 1.

Discussion: Mr. Zatchey commented he voted against this item because he feels Laughlin Memorial should have been awarded a larger donation amount due to the fact they serve a larger demographic area of the school community.

Steering and Rules and Legislative

Mrs. Kehoe and Mrs. Fischer

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 Nicholas Snyder from his position as District Technology Support Technician effective August 1, 2023, with regret. The district reserves the right to retain the employee in accordance with the term of the confidential agreement.

2. 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>Varsity Football</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Deonte McIntosh, Weightlifting Coach	\$3,500.00
b) Shane Newhouse, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
2) <u>Middle School Football</u>	
a) Sylvester Washington, Middle School Coach	\$3,350.00

3. Resignation

It is recommended to ratify the resignation of Denise Duncan from her position as the Boys' and Girls' Cross Country Head Coach for the 2023-2024 school year, effective May 23, 2023, with regret.

4. Resignation

It is recommended to ratify the resignation of Georgia Barlamas from her position as the Girls' Tennis Head Coach for the 2023-2024 school year, effective May 26, 2023, with regret.

5. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Kara Lilly from her position as a Middle School ELA Teacher All Grade Levels, effective June 16, 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.

6. Retirement

It is recommended to approve the resignation due to the retirement of Rebecca Mills from her position as a Special Education Secretary, effective June 18, 2023, with regret.

7. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended to hereby approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the local Law Enforcement Authorities for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years.

8. 2023 District Course and Section Adjustments

A. It is recommended to retroactively approve a correction to the closing of the following position for the 2023-2024 school year:

1. Economy Elementary/Ambridge Area Middle School STEAM Teacher All Grade Levels

*This is in place of the Elementary/Middle School STEAM Teacher (Travel) that was approved at the May 17, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting.

9. Mathematics Summer Preparation Program

It is recommended to approve the following individuals to administer the 6th grade Accelerated Mathematics Summer Preparation Program and to administer advanced placement tests for new Middle School registrants during June and July 2023 at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement:

Lauren Mawhinney
Ashley Simpson

10. Posted Positons: Clubs / Activities

It is recommended to ratify the approval of the following individuals for the specified posted positions for the 2022-2023 school year.

<u>ACTIVITY/CLUB (High School)</u>		<u>SALARY</u>
Jr. Drill Team	Caitlin Kiliany	\$1,200.00
Thespian Club	Jessica Patterson	470.00

11. Rescind

It is recommended to rescind Stephen Rodgers from his position as Pep Band Sponsor for the 20222023 school year.

12. Elementary Summer School

It is recommended the following teachers be approved to work in elementary summer school 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 12:30 p.m. at Highland Elementary at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement.

Greta Bible	Michelle Wilson
Chris Fishel	Tracy Parson
Carrie Keber	Michelle Druga
Lisa Fox	
Michelle Hooten	
Carrie Malinich	
Tammy Kennedy	

13. Extended School Year Services

a. It is recommended the following para-educator 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:

Lorraine Mrkonja

14. Collective Bargaining Agreement

It is recommended to approve a five (5) year collective bargaining agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Local 248 Ambridge Area School Employees AFSCME-AFL-CIO, subject to solicitor review.

15. Professional Employee

It is recommended to approve Madison Hiltz, as a Highland Elementary School Emotional Support Teacher All Grade Levels at a salary of \$47,871.00 (Step 1, Bachelor), effective August 21, 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.

16. Professional Employee

It is recommended to approve Brittany Graft, as a Middle School Learning and Emotional Support Teacher at a salary of \$48,781.00 (Step 1, Master), effective August 21, 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.

17. Professional Employee

It is recommended to approve Scott Douglas, as an Ambridge Area High School, Ambridge Area Middle School All Grade Levels, and All Elementary Schools STEAM Teacher at a salary of \$48,301.00 (Step 1 Bachelor +24), effective August 21, 2023, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEA/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.

18. Credit Recovery

It is recommended to ratify the following teachers as instructors for the Credit Recovery Program at the Ambridge Area High School. Teachers will be paid as per the collective bargaining agreement.

Erin Hein, Science
Terry Moon, Science

19. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Kathryn Couch from her position as an Ambridge Area High School Guidance Counselor, effective June 21, 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.

Mrs. Smith moved to accept items 1-19, as amended, seconded by Mr. Cephas. The vote in favor was unanimous, with Mr. Keber abstaining from item 12.

XIII. President's Address

Nothing to report.

XIV. Solicitor's Report

Ms. Turnbull reported that Rhodes Transit advised the district that they would no longer be in operation in July and the district welcomes ABC Transit.

XV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated the Local 248 CBA negotiating team. Thanked Mrs. Eyth for her work on the budget. Thanked ABC Transit and is looking forward to working together. Congratulated all of the recognitions for their extra efforts and congratulations to Mrs. Debra Angus and all of the retirees.

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.

Aaron Silverman President of ABC Transit

- Is looking forward to serving the district.
- The goal is to make transportation better moving forward.
- ABC Transit specializes in technology and equipment.
- Will offer current Rhodes employees the opportunity to work for ABC Transit.

Miss Fitsko thanked Dr. Pasquerilla and Ms. Turnbull for securing the agreement with ABC Transit.

Randy Dawson, Ambridge, Band Boosters

- Commented that if the facilities fees are waived or changed for one group it will have a ripple effect to all organizations.
- Noted that it is open policy for all organizations such as Band and Cheer using the facilities to meet regulations they need to have an insurance policy of liability. Why is this necessary when they are community facilities?
 - Open discussion with Dr. Pasquerilla and the Board and the facilities fees along with Boosters insurance coverage will be reviewed along with School Board policies.

Mr. Carpenter thanked Dr. Pasquerilla for his hard work over the last week.

XVII. Motion to Adjourn

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