

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, June 14, 2021.

I. Call to Order Mrs. Romasco called the meeting to order at approximately 7:15 p.m.

The Meet and Discuss Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is held on Wednesday, June 14, 2023. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, June 21, 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. 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

V. Sunshine Law: Mrs. Mueller read the following statement:

The Board of School Directors held Executive Session(s) on Wednesday, June 14th to discuss:

- Personnel matter(s)
- Matters subject to attorney-client privilege and other confidentiality laws
- Litigation or threatened litigation matters
- Sensitive public safety issues
- Salary schedule and labor relations

Point of Information

The annual School Safety and Security Board Report was reviewed, consistent with Act 44 of 2018.

VI. Correspondence

Received correspondence from both the Baden Memorial and Laughlin Memorial Libraries thanking the district for the donation.

VII. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda

Miss Fitsko moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. All in favor.

Tabled items 1, 2 and 4 under Legislative Action Finance and Budget and Building and Grounds

Mr. Keber moved to approve the amendment to the agenda, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Kehoe and Mrs. Romasco voted against the amendment.

VIII. Recognition/Presentation**Students of the Month****High School May Student of the Month**

Marena Baker, 9th Grade
 Allison Baker, 10th Grade
 Roma Hendricks, 11th Grade
 Jaida Kinter, 12th Grade

High School May Extra Effort Award

James Jett, 9th Grade
 Thomas Scott, 10th Grade
 Naziel Thompson, 11th Grade
 Chase Mitchell, 12th Grade

Employees of the Month**High School Employee of the Month**

April Employee of the Month – Megan Racioppo, Para-Professional
 May Employee of the Month – Casey Neel, Teacher

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.

X. LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THIS MEETING**Finance and Budget and Building and Grounds****Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Keber**1. Final Budget for the 2023-2024 School Year - **TABLED**

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.

2. Resolution – Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion - **TABLED**

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

3. Post Audit Budget Transfers

It is recommended The Board of School Directors approve the Administration's recommendation to ratify the list of budget transfers for the 2022-2023 fiscal year due to audit reclassifications. A list of transfers will be provided to the Board after the completion of the 2022-2023 audit.

4. Resolution Providing for Real Estate Installment Payment- **TABLED**

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.

5. Technology Purchase

It is recommended to approve the purchase of 400 Dell Latitude 3140 laptops from Communications Consulting, Inc. using state bidding PEPPM 2023 for a total cost of \$273,600.00. This will be paid from the 2023-2024 budget.

Mr. Keber moved to accept items 3 and 5, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)**Education and Technology****Mrs. Smith and Mr. Zatchey**1. 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 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 Placement

- 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 Center

- 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 _____ 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 \$____. This funding is secured by the ESSERS A-TSI 7% Set Aside 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. AIMS Web

It is recommended to approve the renewal of the AIMS Web 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.

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 to the 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.

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

Steering and Rules and Legislative

Mrs. Kehoe and Mrs. Fischer

XII. President’s Address

Nothing to report.

XIII. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Pasquerilla thanked all for a successful conclusion the school year and thank all for their hard work preparing for the Graduation Ceremony.

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.

Mr. Cephas, Board Member and Treasurer of Ambridge Youth Football Program

- As the Treasurer of the Youth Football Program, a parent and a local business owner he is asking the district waive the janitorial fee for facility rental use.
- Feels it is important to invest in the school community youth organizations.
 - The Board held a public conversation and decided to do further research into this on the cost and district policy. The Board also agreed that whatever the district would decide to do for the Ambridge Youth Football Program, it would be done for all youth programs that rent the facilities.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 8:20 p.m. Mrs. Smith moved to adjourn and return to Executive Session to discuss Personal Matters and Matters subject to attorney-client privilege and other confidentiality laws, seconded by Mr. Carpenter

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. June Mueller
Board Secretary