

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

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

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

II. Flag salute-please rise: Mrs. Romasco asked all present to rise for the flag salute.

III. Student Council Report: No Student Council present.

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. John Carpenter
Mrs. Cathy Fischer
Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe

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 statemet:

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, July 19th 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, June 14th Meet and Discuss Voting and Non-Voting Meeting and Wednesday, June 21st 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: June 2023

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

X. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda

Amended item 2 under Personnel.

Tabled item 1 under Athletics and Public Relations

Mr. Carpenter moved to amend item 2 under Personnel, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

Mrs. Fischer moved to table item 1 under Athletics and Public Relations, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. All in favor.

XI. Recognition/Presentation**Student Scholarship Awards****1950 Alumni**

- Samantha Astorino
- Norah Best
- Grace Buchanan – Martha Piontek Award
- Kira Burd
- Lena Carr
- Emily Deane
- Ava DeMuth
- Carter Dunlap
- Addison Eisel
- Samantha Ellenberger
- Taylor Kennedy – Jean Macaluso Award
- Jaida Kinter
- Amanda Palmer
- Naomi Pedigo
- Amara Platz – Justin Retsch Award
- Addison Shaffer
- Zachary Sutton
- Anita Szymoniak – Beth Anne Petcash Award
- Samuel Tusick – Mihaloev Brothers Award
- Zachery Weigand – Frank Alow Award
- Christopher Woten
- Ivan You – Josephine Brogno Award

Kyle Hochevar

- Christopher Woten
- Taylor Kennedy

Stanley G. Powlikowski

- Ava Demuth
- Zachary Sutton
- Naomi Pedigo
- Carter Dunlap
- Taylor Kennedy

The Hal Galupi

- Anita Syzmoniak

Ambridge Area Support Staff Scholarship

- Lena Carr
- Christopher Woten
- Ava Demuth
- Zach Sutton

The Bupp Memorial

- Ania Syzmoniak

Moe Rubenstein

- Zap Lewis

Kyle B. Wilson

- Taylor Kennedy

Economy Women's Club

- Julia Bennett
- Grace Buchanan

Helen Ringel

- Samantha Astorino

Mark Romutis

- Brandon Dawson

Masonic Lodge

- Sean Anderson
- Jaida Kinter

Baden Lions Club

- Taylor Kennedy

Push Beaver Co

- Julia Bennett

Tenaris

- Norah Best
- Naomi Pedigo
- Grace Buchanan
- Ivan You
- Amara Platz

Ambridge Rotary Club

- Anita Szymoniak
- Taylor Kennedy
- Grace Buchanan
- Amara Platz
- Amanda Palmer

Italian Women's Club

- Lily Park
- Kayla Raynak

Student-athletes who signed during the 2023-2023 school year:

Emilie Clouse - Robert Morris University - Cheer

Taylor Fedorka - Gannon University - Cheer

Will Gruca - Allegheny College - Soccer

Zappula Lewis - Westminster College - Football

Jazmin Schneider - Allegheny College - Cross Country, Track & Field

Anita Szymoniak - Saint Vincent College - Softball

Perfect Attendance for the 2022-2023 School Year

- Carter Dunlap
- Emily Gray
- Sheridan Olenic
- Natalee Sweeny
- Jason DeSantis
- Preston Korol
- Trever Grabski
- Olivia DeLuigi
- Evan Scheib
- Joshua Ziemkiewicz

Civil Air Patrol, the General Billy Mitchell Award.

Cadet Axton Denny achieved the second milestone achievement in the Civil Air Patrol, the General Billy Mitchell Award. In earning this award Cadet Denny is promoted to the grade of Cadet Second Lieutenant and begins the Command phase as a cadet officer. The Mitchell Award is also recognized by the Military in offering advancement in grade on completion of basic training if a cadet chooses to enlist in the armed services.

Congratulations!

Civil Air Patrol – Pennsylvania Wing Cadet Training Schools

Congratulations to Lily Carpenter for her completion of Pennsylvania Wing Encampment.

10u Youth Softball Team

This spring our fastpitch softball 10u Maroon Team celebrated an accomplished season. Led by Jeff Peabody as the Head Coach and Lori Young, Brian Guyer, and Scott Smedley as assistants. Their regular season record boasted 9 wins, 1 loss, and 1 tie. Our girls played 6 rounds in the playoffs!

The biggest challenge they faced was Central Valley’s Carolina team. They went up against them in the second round of playoffs and showed up and played with grit in a grueling 9-inning game that ended in a tie! The girls battled their way through the playoffs and met the same team the night before the championship! The Lady Bridgers were hungry for the championship and won out after 8 innings, winning with just one run in the entire game!

On June 29th, our Maroon Team met on the field in Beaver, against Blackhawk Green. They were down 6-1 going into the bottom of the fourth and scored 5 runs to tie it at 6. Blackhawk took the lead by one in the top of the fifth and our girls held them there. We lost 7-6. We placed 2nd in all of Beaver County. These girls worked hard, they showed up, and they had fun doing it! They did an outstanding job representing our district and the Bridger Softball organization!

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. Additional Targeted Support & Improvement (A-TSI)**

It is recommended to approve the final A-TSI Plan for the 2023-2024 school year. This report acknowledges our student groups that face both academic and student success challenges. Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (A-TSI) interventions will assist the high school in supporting students during the 2023-2024 school year to meet the thresholds for academic proficiency and academic growth.

- 2. Carlow University Concurrent Enrollment Agreement**

It is recommended to approve a three (3) year Concurrent Enrollment Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Carlow University, at no cost to the District.

3. PennWest University Affiliation Agreement

It is recommended to approve a five (5) year Affiliation Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and PennWest University for Speech Pathology Externs, at no cost to the District.

4. SAVVAS Social Studies

It is recommended to approve a one-class set of 30 (thirty) books, the SAVVAS social studies series, *Criminal Justice* grades 9-12 at of cost of \$2,399.70, it is furthermore recommended to approve the online component of 60 (sixty) online licenses at a cost \$3,000.00, 30 licenses to be used each semester. The total cost of this series is \$5,399.70 plus shipping.

5. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Social Studies

It is recommended to approve a one (1) year digital subscription to the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt social studies series, *Sociology* grades 9-12. The total cost of this series is \$2,111.33.

6. Electronics Recycling

It is recommended to approve Asset Disposal to recycle all old district laptops and iPads, at no cost to the district.

7. Technology Purchase

It is recommended to authorize the purchase of 175 new iPads through Apple at a cost of \$86,238.50. These new iPads are for State Street Elementary School. This will be paid from the 2023-2024 budget.

8. Conference

It is recommended Leigh Anne Holman attend the 2023 SNAPA Annual Conference at Kalahari Resorts & Convention Center, Pocono Manor, PA from July 31 – August 3, 2023. All expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, meals) will be paid as per Board Policy 531, Job Related Expenses. The total cost will be approximately \$1,539.00.

Miss Fitsko moved to accept items 1-8, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Finance and Budget and Building and Grounds

Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Keber

Point of Information

The district would like to thank Randy Dawson, the President/Director of Operations of Economy Ambulance Service for securing two additional ambulances for the 2023 Graduation Ceremony, at no cost to the district. The district will be making a donation of \$250.00 to the Economy Ambulance Service.

1. School District Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly school district bills in the amount of \$1,345,774.62 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,398,636.58 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$4,898.73 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$37,994.56 be paid.

3. Budget Transfers

It is recommended to approve budget transfers for July 2023.

4. Grant Acceptance

It is recommended to accept the 2023-2024 Beaver County Behavioral Health-SEL Grant in the amount of \$25,000.00. The grant will be used for Prevention Network supports in the three elementary schools.

5. Resolution 2023-2024-4 Sale of Ridge Road

It is recommended to approve Resolution No. 2023-2024-4, a Resolution authorizing the sale of Ridge Road Elementary School pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Parties Lease Agreement with Option to Purchase.

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

1. Athletic Handbook - TABLED

It is recommended to adopt the Ambridge Area School District Athletic Handbook for the 2023-2024 school year.

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. Professional Employee

It is recommended to retroactively approve Caitlin Dee as an Ambridge Area Middle School ELA Teacher All Grade Levels at a salary of \$48,781.00 (Step 1, Master), effective with the first day of new teacher induction, 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.

2. Professional Employee

It is recommended to retroactively approve Phillip Goerig as an Ambridge Area High School Guidance Counselor at a salary of \$48,781.00 (Step 1, Master), effective with the first day of new teacher induction, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEA/PSEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, valid Pennsylvania Education Specialist Certification, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

3. Technology Support Technician

It is recommended to approve an Employee Agreement with Osazee Agibe as the Technology Support Technician at an annual salary of \$40,500.00, effective August 2, 2023, and ending June 30, 2026, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

4. Retirement

It is recommended to approve the resignation due to the retirement of Ronald Wilson, Maintenance Worker at the High School, effective September 30, 2023, with regret.

5. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Stacy Hawranko from her position as a 4th Grade Teacher at Economy Elementary, effective June 26, 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. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Anastasia Maia from her position as a part-time secretary at Economy Elementary, effective July 25, 2023, with regret.

7. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Ripley Knold, a custodian at the High School, effective July 12, 2023, with regret.

8. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

It is recommended the following individuals who have applied for the specified posted positions for the 2023-2024 school year be approved at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement, provided the school year allows and sponsors are able to hold activities as normal.

<u>ACTIVITY/CLUB (High School)</u>		<u>SALARY</u>
Band Director	Stephen Rodgers	\$8,000.00
Band 1 st Assistant	Todd Hartman	\$4,200.00
Band 2 nd Assistant	Jacob Pallo	\$3,450.00
Majorette/Drill Assistant	Jessica Patterson	\$3,200.00

Finance	Mary Marasco	\$3,100.00
Steel Drum	Todd Hartman	\$3,000.00
Yearbook	Christina Briola	\$2,490.00
Senior High Play Director	Todd Hartman	\$2,050.00
Sophomore Class	Nicole Connolly	\$1,150.00
Junior Class	Nicole Connolly	\$2,150.00
Senior Class	Nicole Connolly	\$1,550.00
Mock Trial	Christina Briola	\$ 675.00
	Kim Racioppo	\$ 675.00
Interact	Christina Briola	\$ 575.00
	Kim Racioppo	\$ 575.00
National Honor Society	Greg Mell	\$ 950.00
Book Club	Christina Briola	\$ 470.00
Student Council	Greg Mell	\$ 470.00
Stage Crew	Todd Hartman	\$ 470.00
Forensics	Todd Hartman	\$ 470.00
Gay-Straight Alliance Club	Marian Puet	\$ 470.00
Unified Club	Anna Rubaker	\$ 235.00
	Ashley Schmidt	\$ 235.00

<u>ACTIVITY/CLUB (Middle School)</u>		<u>SALARY</u>
National Honor Society	Amy Braund	\$ 650.00
Art Club	Jennifer Ax	\$ 470.00
Interact Club	Brandie Johnson	\$ 470.00
Student Council	Brandie Johnson	\$ 470.00
Newspaper	Amy Braund	\$ 470.00

9. Posted Positions: Department Heads and Building Heads

It is recommended the following individuals who have applied for the specified posted positions for the 2023-2024 school year be approved at the salary designated in the negotiated agreement, pending receipt of current clearances and drug screening:

<u>DEPARTMENT HEADS</u>		<u>SALARY</u>
<u>Elementary:</u>		
Kindergarten	Tammy Kennedy	\$1,365.00
First Grade	Lisa Kovach	\$1,365.00
Second Grade	Lauren Tierney	\$1,365.00
Third Grade	Brenda Antoline	\$1,365.00
Fourth Grade	Lauren Taormina	\$1,365.00
Sixth Grade	Brandie Johnson	\$1,365.00
Special Education	Susan Manuppelli	\$1,365.00
<u>Secondary:</u>		
English	Christina Briola	\$1,365.00
Math	Kent Withrow	\$1,365.00
Social Studies	Chris Yannessa	\$1,365.00

K-12:

Library	Greg Mell	\$1,365.00
Reading	Greta Bible	\$1,365.00
Fine Arts	Todd Hartman	\$1,365.00
Applied Science and Technology	Ben Holmes	\$1,365.00
Guidance	Chelsea Benedict	\$1,365.00

BUILDING HEADS

Middle School	Chris Ceratti	\$1,450.00
Middle School	Brad Olenic	\$1,450.00
Economy Elementary	Sean Beighley	\$1,450.00
Highland Elementary	Brandie Skonieczny	\$1,450.00
State Street Elementary	Kim Roppa	\$1,450.00

10. District Physician

It is recommended to approve a District Physician Professional Services Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Dr. Jeffrey Hein to provide services to the district for the 2023-2024 school year.

11. 2023-2024 Band Camp Positions

It is recommended to approve the following band camp position for the 2023-2024 summer band camp at the designated stipend, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening, provided band camp can be held as normal:

Percussion Instructor	Daphney Tanner	\$2,000.00
Color Guard Choreographer	Emily Gregory	\$1,400.00
Para-Professional	Bernadette Aquino	Paid Per Negotiated Contract

12. 2023-2024 Musical Staffing

It is recommended to approve the following musical staffing positions for the 2023-2024 musical at the designated stipend, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening:

Play Director	Jessica Patterson	\$ 3,000.00
Music Director	Robert Armstrong	\$ 1,800.00
Choreographer	Elyse Perciavalle	\$ 1,200.00
Assistant Director	Jacob Craig	\$ 1,200.00

13. Elementary Summer School

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Michelle Hooten as an elementary summer school teacher for the 2022-2023 Elementary Summer School.

14. Elementary Summer School

It is recommended to ratify 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.

Brandi Skonieczny
Gennifer Scaletta, Summer School Substitute

15. Technology Integrators

It is recommended to approve the following individuals to serve as the Technology Integrators in their assigned buildings for the 2023-2024 school year, to be paid a stipend of \$1,200.00, as per the collective bargaining agreement:

Economy Elementary

Lynn Hartle
Michelle Kecmer

Highland Elementary

Kellee Gnipp
Michelle Wilson

State Street Elementary

Lauren Tierney
Caitlin Bajgier

Middle School

Glenn Freed
Amy Fedorek

High School

Sarah White
Christina Briola

16. Cafeteria Worker

It is recommended to approve Stella Condit as a Cashier/Monitor at Economy Elementary, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

17. Economy Elementary Mommy & Me Program

It is recommended to approve Stephanie Priore as the teacher for Mommy & Me Program Economy Elementary School to be paid a half day at the Precision rate, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and compliance with Act 168.

18. Special Education Secretary

It is recommended to approve Molly Bell as the Special Education Secretary at an annual salary of \$32,116.50 pro-rated, effective July 20, 2023, as per the negotiated agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

19. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Megan Racioppo from her position of Girls' Assistant Tennis Coach for the 2023-2024 school year, effective July 19, 2023.

20. 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' and Girls' Cross Country</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Marshall Bruce, Head Coach | \$4,300.00 |
| 2. <u>Girls' Tennis</u> | |
| a) Megan Racioppo, Head Coach | \$4,300.00 |
| b) Marian Puet, Assistant Coach | \$1,050.00 |
| c) Georgia Barlamas, Volunteer Coach | No Remuneration |
| 3. <u>Girls' Basketball</u> | |
| a) Amanda Mitchell, Assistant Coach | \$2,410.00 |
| b) Lydia Bable, Assistant Coach | \$2,410.00 |
| c) Craig Wiltrek, Middle School Coach | \$1,750.00 |
| d) Lethera Harrison, Middle School Coach | \$1,750.00 |
| 4. <u>Girls' Golf</u> | |
| a) Scott Devinney, Volunteer Coach | No Remuneration |

21. 2023-2024 Spring Coach

It is recommended the following individuals be ratified to fill the designated spring 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>Baseball</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Zachary Dugan, Head Coach | \$4,300.00 |
| 2) <u>Boys' Volleyball</u> | |
| a) Glenn Freed, Head Coach | \$4,300.00 |
| 3) <u>Softball</u> | |
| a) Amanda Mitchell, Head Coach | \$4,300.00 |
| 4) <u>Track</u> | |
| a) Felicia Mycyk, Head Coach | \$4,300.00 |
| 5) <u>Boys' Tennis</u> | |
| a) Megan Racioppo, Head Coach | \$4,300.00 |

22. Solicitor Fee Schedule

It is recommended to approve the fee schedule for Weiss Burkardt Kramer, LLC for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to accept items 1-22 as amended, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XIII. President's Address**XIV. Solicitor's Report**

Ms. Turnbull thank the district for their continued support.

Also stated that the district has filed a civil litigation towards Rhodes Transit to make sue the district was made whole.

XV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla thanked the students and parents for coming out. Congratulated the students on their awards.

Stated that the staff has been working hard towards a successful school year ahead.

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.

Cindy Wargo, Economy

- Asked why the resident is only limited to 3 minutes
- Suggested there be a committee formed to deal with the bullying and repeat offenders
- Asked if the dress code was being enforced
- Asked if there was a section in the handbook regarding appropriate language for students and staff

Mr. Carpenter

- - pointed out all of the student recognitions at tonight's meeting as positive things going on in the district. We need to project how great Ambridge is.
- The Board has been very stringent on repeat offenders and the students are punished more harshly, however there are laws in place to protect the students' right to an education and the Board has to adhere to those rules and laws.
- The Board has been working really hard on the reputation of the district and how the community views the district.

- Public Meetings are not the place for back and forth conversation, there is a forum that is followed, however all of the Board members emails and phone numbers are listed on the website, so please feel free to reach out to us. Conversation outside of the meetings can lead to fruitful things.

Dr. Pasquerilla

- Yes, there is discipline followed for foul language.
- Any disrespect or disruption appropriate discipline is followed.
- The staff are held to a level of professional conduct as well.

Mrs. Romasco

- The Board and Administration worked to update the Student Handbooks and they are found on the district's website.
- The Board has worked on reviewing discipline polices and putting new programs in place such has In School Suspension which is offered at the Middle School and High School level.

Mrs. Fischer

- When administering discipline of special education students the district must follow the IEP.
- The district will never speak of any students' discipline.

Ms. Turnbull

- By law it is a constitutional right to provide education to all students.
- The Board has review and tightened up school polices

XVII. Motion to Adjourn

At 8:15 p.m. Mrs. Fischer moved to adjourn, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. June Mueller
Board Secretary