

**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, September 13, 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, September 13, 2023. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, September 20, 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  
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  
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, September 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss:

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

**VI. Correspondence**

No Correspondence

**VII. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda**

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

**VIII. Recognition/Presentation**

ABC Transit were present with a presentation and a Q&A

**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.

Christina Briola, Harmony Township

- Pg. 4 Item 21
  - What is the cost?
  - Contacted PSBA and found out the Instructor is located in Boston and no longer works in the Seneca Valley School District.
  - Who will be in charge of this program?
  - Did not see the district's vacant Spanish position on PA Educator.
    - Dr. Pasquerilla
      - The cost will be based on number of students – approximately \$13,000 to \$16,000 per nice weeks
      - The instructor works remotely
      - The Spanish position was listed many times in the newspaper
      - Mr. King has posted it on PA Educator and once the deadline for the posting is up he reposts it.
      - Administration has also contacted universities in hopes of finding candidates for this position.
    - Mrs. Smith
      - Will the students have the opportunity to opt out of this class if they do not prefer asynchronous online learning?
      - Dr. Pasquerilla hopes the students will have flexibility with adding or dropping this class per the deadlines. He stated to reach out to speak with Dr. Zupsic regarding this.

**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 ratify the approval of Melony Hurlburt, as an Ambridge Area Middle School ELA Teacher All Grade Levels at a salary of \$47,871.00 (Bachelor, Step 1), effective August 28, 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.

2. Professional Employee

It is recommended to ratify the approval of Erin Williams, as an Ambridge Area High School English Teacher at a salary of \$49,211.00 (Master, Step 1+10), effective September 7, 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.

3. Interim Business Manager

It is recommended to hire Leonard Corazzi as the Interim Business Manager and Business Office Consultant effective September 11, 2023 and approve the related Agreement.

4. Attendance Secretary

It is recommended to ratify the approval of Lori Chickos as the Ambridge Area High School Attendance Secretary, effective August 21, 2023 as per the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association – ESPA/PSEA-NEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

5. Part-Time Secretary

It is recommended to ratify the approval of Linda Sparacino as the Economy Elementary School Part-Time Secretary, effective September 5, 2023 as per the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association – ESPA/PSEA-NEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

6. Part-Time Secretary

It is recommended to ratify the approval of Katherine Kuczma as the Highland Elementary School Part-Time Secretary, effective September 13, 2023, as per the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association – ESPA/PSEA-NEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

7. Custodian

It is recommended to ratify the approval of Derek Redd as a full-time custodian in the High School, effective September 13, 2023, as per the terms of the Local 248 Ambridge Area School Employees, AFSCME – AFL – CIO negotiated agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

8. Technology Support Technician

It is recommended to hire Michael Malinich as a Technology Support Technician at a salary of \$41,000.00, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

9. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Bethann Eyth from her position as the Business Manager and Director of Operations and Transportation, effective September 8, 2023, with regret.

10. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Georgia Barlamas from her position as an Ambridge Area High School Chemistry and Mathematics Teacher, effective August 31, 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.

11. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Michelle Keczmer from her position as an Economy Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, effective September 6, 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.

12. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Caitlin Dee from her position as an Ambridge Area Middle School ELA Teacher All Grade Levels, effective August 16, 2023, with regret.

13. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Scott Douglas from his position as an Ambridge Area High School, Ambridge Area Middle School All Grade Levels, and All Elementary Schools STEAM Teacher, effective August 23, 2023, with regret.

14. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Katie Morgan from her position as an Ambridge Area Middle School Hall Monitor, effective August 28, 2023, with regret.

15. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Renee Hartman from her position as a Food Service Cook, effective September 12, 2023, with regret.

16. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Jean Barnes from her position as a non-union Food Service Worker, effective August 22, 2023, with regret.

17. Rescind

It is recommended to rescind the approval of Kayli Newman as the Girls' Volleyball Assistant Coach.

18. 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>Girls' Soccer</u>              | <u>Stipend</u>  |
| a) Ashley Braswell, Volunteer Coach  | No Remuneration |
| 2) <u>Girls' Volleyball</u>          |                 |
| a) Megan Fitzgerald, Assistant Coach | \$2,400.00      |

19. Para-Professional (Teaching Assistant)

It is recommended to ratify the approval of Erica Warix as a Para-Educator (Teaching Assistant) at Economy Elementary, effective August 21, 2023 as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association (ESPA/PSEA/NEA), pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

20. Interim Transportation Director

It is recommended to hire Dr. Amy Filipowski as the Interim Transportation Manager effective September 1, 2023 at a monthly stipend of \$1,000.00.

21. 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 cyber option for High School Spanish.

Mrs. Smith moved to accept items 1-21, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)****Education and Technology****Mrs. Smith and Mr. Zatchey****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 \$1,404,441.23 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$952,593.22 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$79,164.04 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$13,542.16 be paid.

3. Budget Transfers

It is recommended to approve budget transfers for August 2023.

4. Gifts in Kind

It is recommended to accept the donation from Leedsworld, Inc. to the State Street Elementary Library in honor of Elizabeth Peters, with appreciation. The donor has received no goods or services in return for this gift. The donation was in the amount of \$200.00.

5. Rescind

It is recommended to rescind the tax exoneration and repository purchase of Tax Parcel 51-002-0101.000, 3841 Jordan Street, Lot 36, South Heights, PA to be purchased by Albert Charles Borga.

## 6. Tax Exoneration

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

- a) Tax Parcel 51-002-0100.000, 3839 Jordan Street, Lot 36, South Heights, and purchased by Christian Nauman for the real estate taxes for 2022 to present.
- b) Tax Parcel 51-002-0101.000, 3841 Jordan Street, Lot 36, South Heights, and purchased by Christian Nauman for the real estate taxed for 2020 to present.

## 7. Repository

It is recommended that the Board approve the Sale of Property from the Beaver County Repository of Unsold Property for the following properties:

- a) 3839 Jordan Street, Lot 36, South Heights, PA Tax Parcel 51-002-0100.000, for the bid amount of \$1,367.25 to Christian Nauman.
- b) 3841 Jordan Street, Lot 36, South Heights, PA Tax Parcel 51-002-0101-000, for the bid amount of \$1,744.00 to Christian Nauman.

### Athletics and Public Relations

**Mr. Zatchey and Miss Fitsko**

### Steering and Rules and Legislative

**Mrs. Kehoe and Mrs. Fischer**

#### 1. Policy 006 – Local Board Procedures – Third Reading

It is recommended, as a third reading to revise School Board Policy 006 – *Local Board Procedures* to exhibit compliance with the Sunshine Act.

#### 2. Policy 137 – Home Education Programs – Third Reading

It is recommended, as a third reading to revise School Board Policy 137 – *Home Education Programs* to reflect the need for additional recordkeeping based on the new participation provisions for home education students as well as including references to the new Policies 137.2 and 137.3.

#### 3. Policy 137.1 – Extracurricular Participation – Third Reading

It is recommended to revise, as a third reading, Policy 137.1 – *Extracurricular Participation* to address participation in cocurricular activities/academic course and career and technical education programs.

#### 4. Policy 137.2 – Participation in Cocurricular Activities and Academic Courses by Home Education Students – Third Reading

It is recommended to adopt, as a third reading, Policy 137.2 – *Participation in Cocurricular Activities and Academic Courses by Home Education Students* addressing updated requirements pertaining to participation by home education students in district cocurricular activities and academic courses.

5. Policy 137.3 – Participation in Career and Technical Education Programs by Home Education Students – Third Reading

It is recommended to adopt, as a third reading, Policy 137.3 – *Participation in Career and Technical Education Programs by Home Education Students* to address the updated requirements pertaining to participation by home education students in career and technical education programs in which the district participates.

6. Policy 216.1 – Supplemental Discipline Records – Third Reading

It is recommended to revise, as a third reading, Policy 216.1 – *Supplemental Discipline Records* for the purpose requiring the juvenile probation office to provide notice to the building principal and his/her designee upon finding a juvenile, who is enrolled in the school entity, to be a delinquent.

7. Policy 830– Electronic Data Storage

It is recommended to renumber policy 830 to 830.1 to align with PSBA policies.

**XII. President’s Address**

Mrs. Romasco gave a brief update on Flourish Beaver County

- Flourish is discussing scholarships for residents and initiatives for mental health with representatives from schools and communities county-wide.

**XIII. Superintendent’s Report**

Nothing to report.

**XIV. Solicitor’s Report**

Dr. Pasquerilla welcomed back staff, students, parents and community and thanked all for their support in a successful start of the new school year.

Also, thanks ABC Transit for coming and answering questions and for trying their best.

**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.

Christine Bolock

- Has a son in Band for 5 years and is upset with the conflicting schedule with the Geneva University Band Festival and Homecoming
- Students in the Band should not have to pick which event to attend.



- Why couldn't the Homecoming date be changed to accommodate.
  - Dr. Pasquerilla – in speaking with Dr. Zupsic and Mr. Lamenza one of the issues was that we flip flopped home games being Aliquippa didn't have a home field last year so this year we only have four home games.
  - One option I gave to them was moving senior night but people would have issues with that because it is tradition to hold this on the last home game.
  - So with limited games it left them with a difficult decision.
  - Will look at this in the future.
- Mr. Carpenter – extremely disappointed to hear the Band is missing out on the dance and apologized for not knowing this sooner. When we have a year in advance we should make accommodations.

#### Stephanie Prior, Economy

- Parent, VP of the PTA, Instructor at Mommy and Me and a Substitute at Economy Elementary.
- Staff morale is low.
- Teachers are under supported.
- Teachers should be given \$500 bonus form pandemic funds instead they received a \$5 food truck voucher.
- Class sizes – 30 Kindergarten is too much.
- What does Administration rely on to increases and add a classroom.
- Hire an additional teacher.
- Teachers are leaving for better opportunities.
- Students have a legal right.
- With the Transportation issues my children are losing 20 hours of education a week.

#### Jamie Curry, Economy

- To the Superintendent
- Teachers are entitled to 30 minute duty free and lunches. With teachers having to travel, this is not happening.
- Grievances are costly.
- Fix the schedules.
- Teachers need to be staffed appropriately
- Demanding changes be made.
- Children come first.

#### Lisa McCullough, Baden

- Concerns with the curtailments and schedules as did I when this was approved at the May Board meeting.
- With the start time being 10 minutes earlier makes for a longer drop off line and kids are late.
- Specials are being cut short.
- Breakfast is an hour late.
- Buses are an hour late.
- No STEAM or Art
- Paras are being pulled.

- 90% of teachers are losing planning periods.
- Not enough teachers to teach electives.
- 30% ESL Students are in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade with oversized classrooms.
- Why is the district losing valued staff?

Grandparent, Ambridge

- Buses are late every day.
- Don't make the same kids late every day, rotate the buses.
- There needs to be communication between the Bus Co. and school.
- Kids are missing an hour of teaching.
- 1<sup>st</sup> grader is getting home at 5 or 6.

Dan Montgomery, Ambridge

- Thanks to the Board for responding to correspondence.
- Thank you ABC Transit for coming tonight.
- Concerns with late buses.
- Believes there is a breach of contract with ABC.
- What is ABC doing to recruit drivers? (ABC is offering \$5,000 incentive)
- We are pleased with all of our children's teachers.

Kasi Devinney, Economy

- Board members are not supporting the district.
- Board members sitting on specific committees should follow-up on their committees with the community.
- Where are we at with the website being updated highlighting all of the schools events/activities?
- Why didn't the school postpone start date with the new SIS System and Transportation being implemented?
- Seniors count on accurate GPAs/transcripts to be loaded into the Common App.

Randy Dawson, Ambridge

- Disappointed in the district and Dr. Pasquerilla that the Geneva Band Festival and Homecoming coincided.
- The discussion of the dates being the same started in July.
- Band Boosters presented several solutions.
- There is a lack of communication in the district.
- This is an ongoing problem.
- Why not have a district-wide calendar.
- Last year the Winter Formal was planned for January 19<sup>th</sup> when the Band was performing in Disney World.

Lucian Georadani, Bus Driver

- Why did the district make the decision to take me off of the Eden Christian Route?
- Would like to return to this route – he has been a driver on this route for 10 years before taken off the route.

Laure Kiley, Economy

- Mr. Georadani was her children's bus driver for years and she came in support of Mr. Georadani.

- Many parents on this route have sent emails requesting to have Mr. Georadani placed back on this route.
  - Ms. Turnbull – Cannot discuss this matter in a public forum but will be happy to review and act accordingly.

#### Band Students

- Upset that they have no field practice anymore on Thursday evenings before the game on Friday.
- Disappointed that the Homecoming dance was scheduled on the same day as the Geneva Band Festival.
- The only time Band gets to practice on the field is 9<sup>th</sup> period for 40 minutes and the 8<sup>th</sup> graders who perform in the Band are unable to come at this time and practice on the field.
- Practice cannot be held right after school because the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students would not make it on time which is why an evening practice would be best.
- Boosters will have to provide the transportation for the student who want to leave the Band Festival in time to make the dance due to high security it having one bus would be the best way to get the students out of the festival and back to the dance on time.
  - Mrs. Romasco suggested the district provide the transportation for this rather than the Boosters and Dr. Pasquerilla agreed.

#### Michelle Palmer, Band Booster

- In order to have Band you need representation of every instrument.
- 41% of the Band chose to attend Homecoming.
- Students should not be put in that situation to have to pick between events.

#### Lisa Patton, Band Parent

- As a parent of a Senior Band Student, Band does not get recognition.
- The Band students feel devalued.
- The Band students had to miss out on the Winter Formal and now the Homecoming.
- Students should not have to choose.
- The student section at the Football games disrespect the Band performance during halftime.
- Bring more school spirit back to the district.
  - Miss Fitsko and Mrs. Smith – Agreed that there should be more Pep Rallies and that Band and all district-wide sports be recognized during these events. They also agreed that Band should have senior night.

#### Lethera Harrison, Girls Basketball Coach

- There are 21 Varsity players and 30 Middle School players and there are only 11 uniforms.
- Can the district order new uniforms for the team.
  - Dr. Pasquerilla – This is great news that we have this many players and we will find the money for these uniforms. Great News!

#### Jonathan Cermak, Band

- Pep Rally was not communicated to the Band.
- Stated that asking Geneva to rearrange the schedule in order for Ambridge Band to play earlier due to the Homecoming dance makes the Band look bad.

Fabiola Gerg, Harmony Township, PA

- Page 6, Homeschoolers, what changed
- BC Flourish wanted to merge schools.
- Sunday is Constitution Day, what does the district do in honor of this.
  - Mrs. Romasco joined BC Flourish Board in February and there has been no mention of merging schools.
  - Mrs. Fischer joined the QEC Committee and merging schools was talked about not specific, it was more regarding the sharing of services amongst schools.
  - Dr. Pasquerilla – one small change to the Homeschool Policy is that the Supervisor of home education program has not been convicted of criminal offenses. This update comes from PSBA to stay in compliance in accordance with the law.
- Mrs. Kehoe
  - Had 3 daughters in the Band and is has always been a supporter of the Band
  - In the past Geneva had rules in place that no Band members were to be picked up by parents.
  - In the past Homecoming was never the same night as the Geneva Band Festival

#### **XVI. Motion to Adjourn**

**At approximately 9:20 p.m. Mrs. Fischer moved to adjourn the meeting and return to Executive Session, seconded by Mrs. Smith. All in favor.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Mrs. June Mueller  
Board Secretary**