

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Media Center on Wednesday, November 15, 2023.

I. Call to Order: Mrs. Romasco called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District Board of Directors on Wednesday November 15, 2023 is now called to order.

II. Flag salute-please rise: Mrs. Romasco asked that the student council lead the group in the flag salute.

III. Student Council Report

State Street Elementary

IV. Mrs. Romasco read the following Notice: 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
Mrs. Cathy Fischer
Mr. Rob Keber
Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe
Mrs. Kelly Smith
Mr. Matt Zatchey

Others Present

Dr. Joseph W. Pasquerilla, Superintendent
Mr. Barry J. King, Assistant to the Superintendent
Ms. Megan Turnbull, Solicitor

VI. Mrs. Mueller read the following Sunshine Law as follows:

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, November 15th discuss:

- Personnel matter(s)
- Matters subject to attorney-client privilege and other confidentiality laws

VII. Correspondence

No Correspondence

VIII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, October 11th Meet and Discuss Meeting Voting and Non-Voting and Wednesday, October 18th Board Meeting.

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

IX. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report dated: October, 2023

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

X. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda

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

XI. Recognition/Presentation

Western PA Tennis

Congratulations to the following student athletes for being nominated by opposing teams and players for Honorable Mention for the 2023 Sportsmanship Award for Girls' Tennis.

Mara Ilko
Sheridan Olenic

Congratulations!

Students of the Month

High School October Student of the Month

Azure Humphries, 12th Grade
Mackenzie Keber, 11th Grade
Cameron Raynak, 10th Grade
Holly Budzak, 9th Grade

High School October Extra Effort Award

Natajha Alexander, 12th Grade
Scarlett Truskowski, 11th Grade
Lana Holcomb, 10th Grade
Ja'Zelle McIntosh, 9th Grade

Middle School October Students of the Month

Stella Homich, 8th Grade
Rosella DeMuth, 7th Grade
Rachel Smith, 6th Grade

Economy Elementary October Student of the Month

Mia Paganie, 5th Grade

Highland Elementary October Student of the MonthCharlotte Beagle, 2nd Grade**State Street Elementary October Student of the Month**Nina Elms, 5th Grade**October Employees of the Month****High School Employee of the Month**

Renee Guerrieri, Secretary

Middle School Employee of the Month

Genifer Scaletta, Guidance Counselor

Economy Elementary

Michelle Hooten, PreK Teacher

State Street Elementary

Kim Roppa, FOCUS Teacher

Highland ElementaryAmy Wass, 1st Grade Teacher**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. Ambridge Area High School Course Selection

It is recommended to approve the 2024-2025 Ambridge Area High School Course Selection Book.

2. Ambridge Area Middle School Course Selection

It is recommended to approve the 2024-2025 Ambridge Area Middle School Course Selection Book.

3. 2024 Beaver County Band Festival

It is recommended the Ambridge Area School District will sponsor the 2024 Beaver County Band Festival on January 5, 2024. Hosting the event will be our Band Director Stephen Rogers. The event will include approximately 200 students from all of the schools in the county. They will use the High School Auditorium, music suite and the cafeteria. Student participation fees will cover the total cost.

4. Cheer Team Field Trip

It is recommended to approve the student attendance, registration fee of \$920.00 and application of the student discipline code for the high school varsity cheerleaders to travel to Walt Disney World to participate in the Universal Cheerleaders Association National High School Cheerleading Championship from February 9, 2024 through February 13, 2024. Reimbursement for expenses shall be governed by Board Policy 240 – Student Contests/Competitions and conditioned on attendance and event participation. Parents and/or guardians will be required to sign permission and release forms. Chaperones will be required to have current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Mrs. Smith moved to accept items 1-4, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. 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 \$3,684,928.26 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,329,957.12 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$95,798.03 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$56,857.51 be paid.

Mr. Keber moved to accept items 1-2, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Athletics and Public Relations

Mr. Zatchey and Miss Fitsko

1. Cooperative Sponsorship of Sports

It is recommended to approve a Cooperative Sponsorship of Sports Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Hopewell Area School District for the 2023-2024 spring season of Boys' Tennis.

Mrs. Fitsko moved to accept item 1, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Steering and Rules and Legislative**Mrs. Kehoe and Mrs. Fischer**1. Reorganization Meeting

It is recommended the Reorganization Meeting be scheduled on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Media Center.

2. December Board Meetings

It is recommended the monthly Meet and Discuss Meeting and Board Meeting be scheduled on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, immediately following the Reorganization Meeting.

3. Policy 815 – Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers and Network Resources – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading to update School Board Policy 815 – *Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers and Network Resources* based on updates issued this year related to data governance and security, and breach notification for computerized personal information.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to accept items 1-3, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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 approve Rachel Hazuda, as a Highland Elementary 5th Grade Teacher at a salary of \$48,781.00 (Step 1, Master), 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. Retirement

It is recommended to approve the resignation due to retirement of Michelle Hapich, Ambridge Area High School Math Teacher, effective January 5, 2024, with regret.

3. Retirement

It is recommended to approve the resignation due to retirement of David Prusick, a Para-Professional at the middle school, effective January 2, 2024, with regret.

4. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Alexis Medovitch from her position as a Kindergarten Teacher at State Street Elementary, effective December 11, 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.

5. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Kim Cuppett from her position as a Family and Consumer Science Teacher at the Ambridge Area Middle School, effective November 14, 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 Jeremy Wagaman from his position as a custodian at Highland Elementary, effective November 6, 2023, with regret.

7. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #2807 taking an intermittent leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave beginning November 7, 2023, not to exceed 12 weeks.

8. 2023-2024 Winter/Spring Coach

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

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| 1. <u>Bowling</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) George Bellinger, Volunteer Coach | No Remuneration |
| 2. <u>Baseball</u> | |
| a) Gregory Vukovcan, Middle School Coach | \$2,050.00 |

9. ABC Transit Bus Drivers / Aides / Substitutes

It is recommended to approve the individuals listed as operators, attendants, and maintenance for ABC Transit, Inc. for the 2023-2024 school year, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Van Driver

Tajia Rae Fuller

Peter Galvan

Carmenlita Ridout-Martin

Sean Cogis

Marylou Waxler

Rosa Hernandez-Gonzales

Joan Dayton, Van Driver & Aide

10. 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 High School Spanish.
Pending final review by the Bargaining Unit and the Solicitor.

11. Para-Educators (Teaching Assistants)

It is recommended to hire the following individual to fill a Para-Educator (Teaching Assistant) position per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association (ESPA/PSEA-NEA) collective bargaining agreement pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Kamala Shadd, Highland Elementary

12. Food Service Assistant

It is recommended to hire Juanita Dinuno, as a non-union Food Service Assistant at the high school, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Mrs. Smith moved to accept items 1-12, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XIII. Solicitor's Report

Ms. Turnbull wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

XIV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Thanked all the staff and students for being recognized. It is always good to hear the student council report.

Thanked the staff for all they do to make the district strive.

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.

Mrs. Romasco thanked Mrs. Smith and Mr. Keber for their service on the Board.

Leah Hartman, Baden

- Concerns with las of teachers in the classroom
- Her child is receiving an incomplete for the first 9 weeks of Geometry.
- Also with Gym and Art
 - Dr. Pasquerilla said we are working to fill the open positions as soon as possible and also explained the process of the grading and suggested the parent call and speak with Mr. Heard.

Kasi Devinney, Economy

- Why did some Board members not abstain from item 4 under Education and Technology?
 - Ms. Turnbull – This is not an ethics violation
- Questioned registration fee and disciplinary code for item 4 as well.
 - Dr. Pasquerilla – this is the registration fee for the coaches and the amount paid will follow the guidelines of the Board policy.
 - Students attending will follow the student disciplinary code as per policy.

Michael Bankovich, Conway

- Upset that his son does not have teachers in his STEAM, Gym, Art and Science. Because of this his son has two free periods a day.
 - Dr. Pasquerilla – we are trying to fill the positions. We are trying to get subs in and we try when we can to get certified subs. If we cannot get a sub in there we do use current teachers to cover the classes. We are continuing to work to get these positions filled.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 7:45 p.m. Mr. Keber moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Smith. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary