

Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Voting and Non-Voting Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Media Center on Wednesday, November 8, 2023.

I. Call to Order: Miss Fitsko called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

The Meet and Discuss Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is held on Wednesday, November 8, 2023. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Media Center.

II. Flag salute-please rise: Miss Fitsko asked all to rise for the flag salute.

III. Mrs. Fitsko 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.

IV. Roll Call

Miss Amy Fitsko, Vice President
Mr. Matthew Zatchey, Treasurer
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
Ms. Megan Turnbull, Solicitor

V. Mrs. Mueller read the Sunshine Law as follows:

The Board of School Directors held Executive Session(s) on Wednesday, November 8th to discuss:

- Personnel matter(s)
- Litigation or threatened litigation matters

VI. Correspondence

No Correspondence

VII. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda

VIII. Recognition/Presentation

Presentation of the 2024-2025 High School and Middle School Course Selection Books

Dr. Janice Zupsic, High School Principal

Mr. Ronnell Heard, Middle School Principal

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.

Riley Fallecker, Student

- Class Rank
- The new GPA calculation no longer provides accurate presentation of class ranking
- The students taking AP and Dual Enrollment are being punished.
 - Mr. Carpenter asked for clarification if the concern was more with class rank rather than GPA calculation.
- Riley said the new calculation not ranking fairly, concerns that it is not an accurate representation for college ranking within your peers.

Christina Briola, Harmony Twp., Teacher/Parent

- When talking about scholarship money class ranking does counts.
- As a teacher who makes recommendations for students, the applications do ask for ranking and where they are class percentage as they apply for the scholarships.
 - Mr. Carpenter clarified once again that we are not talking about changing the GPA calculation but using a different system for class ranking and class percentage.
- Mrs. Briola agreed.
- Mrs. Briola stated that it is not only Riley, but that Riley is here on behalf of many students.
- Mrs. Briola also stated the way it is now it would prevent students taking electives such as band and steel drums.

X. LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THIS MEETING**Education and Technology**

Mrs. Smith and Mr. Zatchey

1. **Black Student Union Club**

It is recommended that Carlyn Humphries and Tameki Tarver, the Black Student Union Club (BSU) Sponsors at the High School, be authorized to take 11th and 12th grade students in the Black Student Union Club to participate in the Historically Black College and University Tour (HBCU Tour) March 24th – March 30th, 2024. The students will be touring a number of colleges and universities. There will be no cost to the District, with the exception of the cost for the substitute Para-Professionals. All expenses will be obtained through the BSU and through fundraising. Parents or guardians will be required to sign permission and release forms. Chaperones will be required to have current clearances, and TB testing.

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

Finance and Budget and Building and Grounds**Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Keber**1. Award of Bid

It is recommended to award a contract for the repair/replacement of the Ambridge Area Middle School roof to Triangle Roofing Corporation in the amount of \$450,100.00.

2. Cameras

It is recommended to approve the bid proposal from Communications Consulting, Inc. to purchase of 35 cameras to be installed at the Ambridge Area High School at a total cost of \$37,790.20 through Omni State pricing. **\$37,225.00 will be paid for by the Targeted Equipment Grant.**

3. Ambridge Area Middle School Ice Machine Replacement

It is recommended to accept the bid proposal from Huckestein Mechanical to replace an ice machine at the Ambridge Area Middle School at a total cost of \$11,020.62 through the State bidding process (Co-Stars).

4. Ambridge Area Field House Ice Machine Replacement

It is recommended to accept the bid proposal from Huckestein Mechanical to replace an ice machine at the Ambridge Area Field House at a total cost of \$12,886.30 through the State bidding process (Co-Stars).

5. District Bleachers

It is recommended to accept the bid proposal from CM Eichenlaug Co. for the following projects through the State bidding process (Co-Stars):

- a) Installation of drive wheels on existing bleachers at the high school at a total cost of \$24,989.00.
- b) Installation of locks on existing bleachers at the middle school at a total cost of \$1,949.00.
- c) Installation of hardware to reattached bleacher to wall on existing bleachers at Economy Elementary at a total cost of \$1,969.00.

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept items 1-5, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous.

- Mr. Carpenter invited the representative from Triangle Roofing Corporation to speak on the roofing project.
 - Grant from Triangle stated the auditorium roof needs immediate replacement and to avoid further roof damage it will need preventative maintenance.
 - This replacement roof will have a 22 year life expectancy.

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. Director of Business and Operations

It is recommended to hire Michelle Amadio as the Business Manager and Director of Operations at a pro-rated salary of an annual \$79,000.00, effective November 8, 2023, as per the terms of the Employee Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Michelle Amadio, 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 approve Noah Rinker, as an Ambridge Area Middle School Mathematics Teacher at a salary of \$47,871.00 (Step 1, Bachelor), effective date to be determined based upon the completion of student teaching (Slippery Rock University), 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.

3. Professional Employee

It is recommended to approve Candice Vincent, as an Ambridge Area High School Chemistry Teacher at a salary of \$48,781.00 (Step 1, Master), effective to be determined, 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.

4. Mentor Teacher

It is recommended to approve the following mentor teacher assignments for the 2023-2024 school year, per the negotiated contract:

Mentor Teachers

Ben Holmes
Terri Moon-Kutzavich
Lauren Mawhinney

New Teachers

Shana Dowlin
Candice Vincent
Noah Rinker

5. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

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

<u>ACTIVITY/CLUB (High School)</u>		<u>SALARY</u>
JR Drill Team	Emily Gregory	\$1,200.00
National Honor Society	Carlyn Humphries	950.00
Bowling	Jennifer Bohrer	750.00

6. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Gianina Shaginaw from her position as a Food Service Worker at Economy Elementary, effective October 23, 2023, with regret.

7. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #2579 taking an intermittent leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave beginning November 21, 2023, not to exceed 12 weeks.

8. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #1751 taking an intermittent leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave beginning October 14, 2023, not to exceed 12 weeks.

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 Drivers

Noah Barrick

Jennifer Jones

Thomas Lunde

Andrew Mathews

Lauren Rummel

Brian Wilson

Melissa Henderson

10. Keystone Remediation Instructors

It is recommended to approve the following teacher as instructor for preparation of Keystone Remediation for winter testing, not to exceed six (6) hours per subject area, as follows:

Kent Withrow, Algebra

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

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept items 2-10, seconded by Mrs Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)

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.

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 \$_____ and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$56,857.51 be paid.

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.

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 – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first 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.

XII. President’s Address**XIII. Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. Pasquerilla thanked Dr. Zupsic and Mr. Heard for their presentations.

Also welcomed Mrs. Michelle Amadio as the District’s new Business Manager.

XIV. Solicitor’s 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.

Dr. Filipowski gave an update on ABC Transit and the good news that things are moving in a positive direction with filling the driver positions.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 7:55 p.m. Mr. Carpenter moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Fisher. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Mrs. June Mueller
Board Secretary**