

**AMBRIDGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MINUTES  
February 14, 2024**

**Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Media Center on Wednesday, February 14, 2024.**

**I. Call to Order**

The Meet and Discuss Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is held on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Media Center.

-Meeting called to order by Mr. John Carpenter at 7:02 PM

**II. Flag salute-please rise**

-Mr. John Carpenter asked all to rise for pledge.

**III. 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**

-Roll Call- Present: John Carpenter, Valerie Young, Matt Zatchey, Kelly Romasco, Cathy Fischer, Mary Jo Kehoe, Amy Fitsko, Garret Kovacevic, William Metz

Others Present: Dr. Joe Pasquerilla, Barry King, Megan Turnbull, Esquire, Michelle Amadio, Dr. Amy Filipowski

**V. Sunshine Law**

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss:

- Personnel matter(s)
- Information, strategy, and/or negotiation session relating to the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement
- Considering the purchase or lease of real estate
- Matters subject to attorney-client privilege and other confidentiality laws
- Litigation or threatened litigation matters
- Sensitive public safety issues
- Salary schedule and labor relations

-Dr. Pasquerilla read the Sunshine Law

**VI. Correspondence**

-No Correspondence

**VII. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda**

**VIII. 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

**IX. Recognitions and Presentations**

1. **Audit Presentation** - Mr. Peter Vancheri
2. **Refunding Update** - Mr. John McShane
3. **District Data Review**- Dr. Joseph Pasquerilla

**X. LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THIS MEETING**

**Personnel and Salary Schedule and Labor Relations**

**Ms. Young and Mr. Kovacevic**

**\*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. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Melissa Rhines, a paraprofessional at Highland Elementary School, effective January 29, 2024.

2. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Tameki Tarver, a paraprofessional at Ambridge Area Middle School, effective January 30, 2024.

3. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation for retirement of Dianne Harris, a Union kitchen worker at Economy Elementary School, effective March 1, 2024.

4. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Derek Redd, a custodian at Ambridge Area High School, effective February 16, 2024.

5. FMLA

It is recommended to approve employee #2276 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave effective January 22, 2024, not to exceed 60 days.

6. FMLA

It is recommended to approve employee #821 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave effective January 31, 2024, not to exceed 60 days.

7. Unpaid Leave

It is recommended to approve employee #582 for a one-time unpaid leave from February 6, 2024 through March 1, 2024.

8. Cafeteria Food Service Worker

It is recommended to ratify Elizabeth Vincent, as a 4-hour Union Kitchen Worker at Highland Elementary School as per the terms of the collective bargaining unit effective 9/26/2023.

9. Cafeteria Food Service Worker

It is recommended to ratify Stella Condit, as a 4-hour Union Kitchen Worker at Economy Elementary School as per the terms of the collective bargaining unit effective 10/5/2023.

10. Professional Employee

It is recommended to ratify Amanda Pfeiffer, as a State Street Elementary Kindergarten Teacher at a salary of \$47,871.00 (Bachelor, Step 1) pro-rated, effective February 7, 2024, 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 Act168 screening, and PDE certifications if applicable.

11. Technology Integrators

It is recommended to approve the following individuals to serve as the Technology Integrators at the Ambridge Area Middle School for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year, to be paid at a pro-rated stipend based upon the amount of \$1200.00, as per the collective bargaining agreement.

Lauren Mawhinney  
Krista Novak

12. ABC Transit Bus Driver/Aide

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.

Bus Driver/Bus Aide  
Bus Driver  
Bus Driver  
Bus Driver

Sabrina White  
Everth Baez Sevilla  
Randolph Campbell  
Dominic Marchionda

Bus Aide  
Bus Aide  
Van Driver

Mary Clutter  
Brittany Tucker  
Clair Seger

13. After-School Detention

It is recommended to ratify the following teachers to supervise for the after-school detention at the Ambridge Area High School. Teachers will be paid as per the collective bargaining agreement.

Anna Rubaker  
Stephen Rodgers  
Nicole Connolly

14. 2023-2024 Spring Coaches

It is recommended the following individual be ratified to fill the designated Spring coaching position 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.

Baseball

SALARY

- a) James Deane, Varsity Baseball Volunteer Coach
- b) Noah Rinker, Junior Varsity Baseball Coach

No Remuneration  
\$2200.00

15. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

It is recommended to rescind Carlyn Humpries as sole sponsor of National Honor Society for the 2023-2024 school year.

It is further recommended that the following individuals who have 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.

ACTIVITY/CLUB (High School)

SALARY

National Honor Society	Carlyn Humphries, Co-Sponsor	475.00
National Honor Society	Sarah Burns, Co-Sponsor	475.00
AATV AM Announcements Club	Stephen Rodgers, Sponsor	470.00 (pro-rated)

16. Mentor Teacher

It is recommended to approve the following mentor teacher assignments for the 2023-24 school year, be approved as per negotiated agreement.

Mentor Teacher  
Helen LeSeiko

New Teacher  
Amanda Pfeifer

-Items passed. Mrs. Fischer made a motion and Mr. Metz seconded. 9-0 vote to Items 1-11, 13, 14, and 16. Mr. Metz abstained from 12 and Mrs. Romasco abstained from Item 15. All others Board Members present voted yes for Items 12 and 15.

**Finance and Budget**

**Mr. Zatchey**

1. Educational Consortium for Telecommunications Savings

It is recommended to approve contract between Educational Consortium for Telecommunications Savings (ECTS) and Ambridge Area School District for the for the school year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 and includes application for discounts under the SREK Amendment to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, commonly called the E-Rate, for that school year.

-Mr. Zatchey made a motion and Mrs. Young seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

**XI. Committee Reports (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)**

**Education and Technology**

**Mrs. Romasco**

1. 2024-2025 Proposed School Calendar

It is recommended the Proposed 2024-2025 School Year Calendar be approved, as presented.

**Finance and Budget**

**Mr. Zatchey**

1. School District Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly school district bills in the amount of \$3,237,360.59 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of 1,262,013.92 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$154,101.68 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$43,818.10 be paid.

3. 2022-2023 Final Auditor's Report

It is recommended to accept the 2022-2023 final auditor's report.

4. Acceptance of Meaningful Watershed Education Experience (MWEE) funds

It is recommended to accept the funds from Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit for the MWEE Classroom Capstone Project. Funds are to be used to support learning, cover field trip costs, and/or to purchase

supplies for individual teacher's classroom based on the MWEE training. The funds total \$1440.00. Pam Wiegand-Green and Debbie Stieving will receive \$720.00 each for a classroom project.

**Buildings and Grounds**

**Mr. Metz**

1. Ambridge Area High School Hot/Cold Well Replacement

It is recommended to accept the bid proposal from Curran Taylor to replace a Hot/Cold Well at the Ambridge Area High School at a total cost of \$18,603.00 through the State bidding process.

Discussion Point

Ambridge Area Middle School Roof

-All Board Members agreed to adding the roof item to the next agenda.

**Athletics**

**Mrs. Fischer**

**Public Relations**

**Miss Fitsko**

**Steering and Rules**

**Mrs. Kehoe**

**Legislation**

**Miss. Fitsko**

**Labor Relations**

**Mr. Kovacevic**

**Personnel**

**Ms. Young**

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1. Ambridge Area Education Association (AAEA) Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between The Ambridge Area School District and Ambridge Area Education Association, to establish an agreement concerning Elementary Scheduling.

2. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association ESPA/PSEA-NEA regarding a four-day work week for the summer of 2024 be approved, as presented.

3. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Local 248 Ambridge Area School Employees AFSCME-AFL-CIO regarding a four-day work

week for the summer of 2024 be approved, as presented.

4. Slippery Rock University

It is recommended to approve Molly Wolf and Donna Green, Slippery Rock University Block 1 student teachers, at Economy Elementary for the Spring semester, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening. Both teachers will be placed with Kelly Bischak

**XII. President's Address**

-Mr. Carpenter shared that he was pleased to hear the district is doing much better financially and that the scores are increasing. The district is making progress.

**XIII. Solicitor's Report**

**XIV. Superintendent's Report**

-Dr. Pasquerilla also shared he is pleased with the scores and the hard work our students and teachers are doing.

**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.

-Community Member Mrs. Gergerich asked how many teachers we had that were Orton Gillingham trained. It was shared that we have teachers at every building. She asked about charter school costs. Mrs. Gergerich asked about the number of roofing bids. The solicitor shared we went through the bidding process and only one bid was submitted.

**XVI. Motion to Adjourn**

-Motion to adjourn meeting by Mr. Zatchey at 9:11PM. Seconded by Miss Amy Fitsko. All members agreed.