

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, March 13, 2024.

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

The Meet and Discuss Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

II. Mr. Carpenter asked all to rise for the Flag salute-please

III. Mr. Carpenter 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

- Mr. John Carpenter, President
- Mr. William Metz, Vice President
- Mr. Matthew Zatchey, Treasurer
- Mrs. Cathy Fischer
- Miss Amy Fitsko
- Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe
- Mrs. Kelly Romasco
- Mr. Garrett Kovacevic
- Ms. Valerie Young

Others Present:

- Dr. Joseph W. Pasquerilla, Superintendent
- Mr. Barry J. King, Assistant to the Superintendent
- Mrs. Michelle Amadio, Business Manager / Director of Operations
- Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary

V. Mrs. Mueller read the following Sunshine Law

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 to discuss:

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

VI. Correspondence

No Correspondence

VII. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda

No Amendment/Addendum

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 Public Comment

IX. Recognitions and Presentations

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. Professional Employee

It is recommended to hire Kristen Ferguson as Technology Supervisor at a salary of \$75,000.00 pro-rated, effective _____, as per the terms of the Act 93 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.

2. Paraprofessional (Teaching Assistant)

It is recommended to ratify the approval of Kathleen Dunmire as a Paraprofessional (Teaching Assistant) at Ambridge Area Middle School, effective March 4, 2024 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.

3. Cafeteria Utility Worker

It is recommended to ratify the approval of Brian Strong as a Cafeteria Utility Worker at the Ambridge Area High School, effective February 28, 2024 as per the terms of the collective bargaining agreement.

4. Rescind

It is recommended to rescind the approval of Amanda Mitchell as Girl’s Basketball Coach for the 2023-2024 school year.

5. Retirement

It is recommended to approve the resignation due to retirement of Kathleen Crago, a paraprofessional at the Ambridge Area Middle School, effective March 7, 2024.

6. FMLA

It is recommended to approve employee #2822 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave, beginning March 11, 2024 through June 11, 2024.

7. 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	Douglas Raegler
Van Driver	Turquoise Coleman
Van Driver	Edward Mitchell

8. 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.

<u>Baseball</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Nathan Scott, Varsity Baseball Volunteer Coach	No Renumeration
<u>Softball</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Jonathan Fisher, Varsity Softball Volunteer Coach	No Renumeration
<u>Boys' Volleyball</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Ronin Kittrell, Varsity Boys' Volleyball Volunteer Coach	No Renumeration
<u>Track</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Ryan Budny, Assistant Track Coach	\$1,900.00

9. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

It is 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.

<u>ACTIVITY/CLUB (High School)</u>		<u>STIPEND</u>
Thespian Club	Jessica Patterson	\$470.00

Ms. Young moved to accept items #1-9, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. Vote in favor was unanimous with Mr. Metz abstaining from item #7.

XI. Committee Reports (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)

Education and Technology

Mrs. Romasco

1. Orton Gillingham Training

It is recommended to approve the purchase of training licenses from the Institute for Multi-Sensory Education (IMSE) for 13,500.00. To be paid for through the Title II Grant monies.

2. Comprehensive Plan

It is recommended to approve the Ambridge Area School District Comprehensive Plan after the 28 days of public display, effective February 20, 2024. The plan is currently available on the District website.

3. National Academic Games League of America (AGLOA)

It is recommended that Dale Steigerwald be authorized to take students to the National Academic Games League of America (AGLOA) in which students will compete in a wide variety of Gifted activities related to Chapter 16 Gifted Individualized Education Plans. Mr. Steigerwald will be reimbursed per the contract with an expense report attached, which covers registration, fees, travel, lodging, and meals.

4. PCCD Grants

It is recommended to accept the PCCD Mental Health and School Safety Grants in the amount of \$40,000.00 to offset School Resource Officer costs and in the amount of \$132,548.00 to extend the contract for an Elementary School Counselor and Prevention Network Services.

5. 2024 PRE-K Counts Grantee Conference Meeting

It is recommended to approve Jo Ann Hoover to attend the 2024 Annual Pre-K Counts Grantee Meeting being held at PA Farm Show Complex and Expo Center in Harrisburg, PA from April 1 through April 3, 2024. All expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, meals) will be paid as per Board Policy 331, Job-Related Expenses. The approximate cost will be \$1,000.00 and paid through the PreK Grant.

6. Adventures in Education Club Field Trip

It is recommended that Larry Knopsnyder, an American Cultures Teacher at the High School, be authorized to take 10th-grade students in the Adventures in Education Club to Nashville, Tennessee from November 4th through November 8th. There will be no cost to the District, with the exception of the cost for the substitute teacher. Parents or guardians will be required to sign permission and release forms. Chaperones will be required to have current clearances, and TB testing.

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 \$3,042,528.09 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,280,709.16 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$ 105,300.47 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$61,940.37 be paid.

3. Adoption of the 2024-2025 BVIU General Operating Budget

It is recommended that the 2024 – 2025 Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit’s General Operating Budget be approved as presented. The Budget totals \$2,313,189.00. Ambridge Area School District share is \$21,600.70.

4. Berkheimer

It is recommended to authorize the Per Capita Tax Collection Agreement with Berkheimer through December 31, 2026 with associated terms and to adopt the related Resolutions appointing Berkheimer as the current Collector, Delinquent Collector and Tax Hearing Officer pursuant to the Local Taxpayers Bill of Rights, and adopting an Act 20 Schedule of Fees.

5. Refinancing of Bonds

It is recommended to adopt Resolution 2023-2024-07 as presented by Bond Counsel, a resolution authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds, in an amount not to exceed \$29,000,000, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Unit Debt Act, for the purpose of refunding the School District’s currently outstanding General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2014, in order to achieve debt service savings, after payment of costs of issuance, of at least two percent (2.00%).

Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Metz

1. Ambridge Area School District Pole Building

It is recommended to purchase a pole building from Riverside Metal Structures for the Ambridge Area School District at the awarded bid amount of \$41,408.50.

2. Ambridge Area Softball Field Bleacher

It is recommended to purchase a bleacher for the Ambridge Area Softball Field from Riddell All-American Sports at the cost of \$7,646.25.

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. Orton Gillingham Training

It is recommended the following elementary teachers a minimum of 30 hours to complete Orton Gillingham training at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement. Salary and benefits to be paid by grant funding. To be paid for through the Title II Grant monies.

- Jaclyn Cosky, Economy Elementary
- Lisa Kovach, Economy Elementary
- Tammy Kennedy, Economy Elementary
- Lynn Hartle, Economy Elementary
- Lauren Tierney, State Street Elementary

Melissa Paulos, State Street Elementary
Michelle Wilson, Highland Elementary
Jennifer Shannon, Highland Elementary
Greta Bible, Highland Elementary

2. PCCD School Mental Health Grant

It is recommended to approve the extension of Cory Bailey as a PCCD Grant Funded Elementary Guidance Counselor as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEA/PSEA Agreement. This position is contingent on the funding in the PCCD School Mental Health Grant and will not be continued at the end of the funding cycle, 12/31/2025.

XII. President’s Address

Mr. Carpenter had the opportunity to attend the musical and said it was dynamite. Mr. Carpenter also encouraged all to catch some of the spring sports and school activities.

XIII. Solicitor’s Report

Ms. Turnbull reminded all the deadline to turn in Financial Statements is May 1, 2024.

XIV. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Pasquerilla seconded what Mr. Carpenter said and congratulated the musical. Encouraged all to get out and enjoy the spring sports.

There will be a Budget Workshop held next week, Wednesday, March 20th at 6:30 p.m.

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.

No Comment

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 7:40 p.m. Mrs. Fischer moved to adjourn back into Executive Session, Ms. Young seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary