

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, October 18, 2023.

I. Call to Order: Mrs. Romasco called the meeting to order at approximately 7:15 p.m.

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District Board of Directors on Wednesday October 18, 2023 is now called to order.

II. Flag salute-please rise: Mrs. Romasco asked all present to rise.

III. Student Council Report

Highland Elementary 5th Grade

Aleeah Barkfelt

Timmy Bruno

Ian Fusco

Olivia McGarvey

Ritaj Rizki

Robyn Mayo

IV. 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.

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

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

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, October 18th discuss:

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

VII. Correspondence

No Correspondence

VIII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, September 13th Meet and Discuss Meeting Voting and Non-Voting and Wednesday, September 20th Board Meeting.

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Keber. All in favor.

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

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

X. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Smith moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. All in favor.

XI. Recognition/Presentation**Girls Volleyball**

Abby Reeves, 11th Grader, Class 3A Player of the Week.

Congratulations!

Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA)

Congratulations to 12th Grader Joseph Bellinger on earning a spot in the PMEA District 5 Honors Chorus Festival at Westminster College! Joey finished in 11th place on the vocal part of Tenor 2.

Beaver County Career & Technology Center

Kiarrah Byrd, 12th Grader, September Student of the Month for the Health Occupations Program

Congratulations!

Students of the Month

High School September Student of the Month

Pietro Pucci, 12th Grade
Aashna Sinha Roy, 11th Grade
Claire Elias, 10th Grade
Elizabeth Traupman, 9th Grade

High School September Extra Effort Award

Heidi Setzenfand, 12th Grade
Samantha Patton, 11th Grade
Jaylynn Campbell, 10th Grade
Bella Spencer, 9th Grade

Middle School September Students of the Month

Chase Powers-Brown, 8th Grade
Elizabeth Speicher, 7th Grade
Logan Barton, 6th Grade

Economy Elementary September Student of the Month

Nathan Racioppo, 5th Grade

Highland Elementary September Student of the Month

Kamrynn Lawson, 5th Grade

State Street Elementary September Student of the Month

Emma Ersher, 5th Grade

Employees of the Month

High School Employee of the Month

Kimberly Racioppo, Para-Professional

Middle School Employee of the Month

Brandie Johnson, Teacher

Economy Elementary

Cory Bailey, Guidance Counselor

State Street Elementary

Sandra Mutschler, Cafeteria Worker / Crossing Guard

Highland Elementary

Jennifer Shannon, 3rd 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.

Ron Wilson, Baden PA

- Spoke on behalf of Coach Campbell.
- Coach Campbell is there for the kids and this is an unfortunate incident.
- The parents too many times at all sports disrespect the coaches, including to using vulgarities.
- The District needs to do a better job and not let this happen to our coaches.
 - Ms. Turnbull, The Board and the District respects and appreciates all of our coaches. Please know being this is a personnel issue and cannot be discussed in a public form due to confidentiality.

XII. Committee Reports**Education and Technology**

Mrs. Smith and Mr. Zatchey

1. Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA)

It is recommended permission be granted to Todd Hartman, to take The High School Steel Drum Band to the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, PA April 18th – 19th, 2024 to perform during the 2024 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Annual In-Service Conference. Students who attend PMEA will be reimbursed as per Board Policy 240 (50% of travel cost or \$250.00 per student, whichever is less) for a maximum total of \$3,000.00. It is furthermore recommended to approve Todd Hartman attend the PMEA Conference. Mr. Hartman will be reimbursed as per Board Policy 331, Job Related Expenses.

2. Musical Trip

It is recommended permission be granted for Todd Hartman, Jessica Patterson and Jacob Craig take The High School Musical Students, Thespian Club Students and Stage Crew Students to New York City from March 8th – March 10th, 2024. The students will attend performances of the Lion King and the Blue Man Group. This is at no cost to the district. Parents or guardians will be required to sign permission and release forms. Chaperones will be required to have current clearances, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

3. National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Conference

It is recommended to approve Nicole Darroch to attend the National Science Teachers Association Conference being held in Kansas City, MO from October 25th through October 28th, 2023. This is the largest conference focused exclusively on science and STEM teaching for grades K-12 teachers of science. To be paid for by the by the NSTA Shell Science Grant.

4. Global Wordsmith Language

It is recommended to approve an agreement with Global Wordsmith Language Services to provide Interpretation Services.

5. BVIU 2023-2024 IDEA Allocation

It is recommended to accept the 2023-2024 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Allocation to the Ambridge Area School District, in the amount of \$411,318.32.

Mr. Zatchey moved to accept items 1-5, seconded by Mrs. Smith. 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 \$2,508,946.42 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,303,615.89 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$88,497.09 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$55,830.16 be paid.

3. 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) Lot 242, 0 Howard Street, Ambridge, PA Tax Parcel 64-002-0825.000, for the bid amount of \$1,457.25 to Hidden Gem House, LLC.

4. Maintenance Truck Purchase

It is recommended to approve the purchase of a 2023 Ford F-350 XL 4x4 SRW Pickup Truck with a Plow from Woltz & Wind Ford, Inc. in Heidelberg, PA in the amount of \$64,277.00. The bid for the truck was made through the State bidding process (Co-Stars). This is to replace the current truck. The truck is used for maintenance and snow plowing of District buildings.

5. CMS Controls HVAC Service

It is recommended to approve a one (1) year agreement with CMS Controls to provide HVAC maintenance, at a total cost of \$4,800.00.

6. Economy Elementary Air Handler Controller

It is recommended to accept the proposal of CMS Controls to install and program a new Air Handler Controller for the Multi-Purpose Room at Economy Elementary for a total cost of \$5,150.00 through State Bidding Co-Stars.

7. Grant Acceptance

It is recommended to accept the Walmart Community Grant in the amount of \$1,500.00. The grant will be used for middle school student supplies and food pantry. Genifer Scaletta was instrumental in securing this grant.

Mr. Keber moved to accept items 1-7, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Athletics and Public Relations

Mr. Zatchey and Miss Fitsko

1. Athletic Handbook

It is recommended to take the Athletic Handbook off the table.

Miss Fitsko moved to remove item 1 from the table, seconded by Mr. Keber. The vote in favor was unanimous.

2. Athletic Handbook

It is recommended to adopt the Ambridge Area School District Athletic Handbook for the 2023-2024 school year, **pending Solicitor review.**

Miss Fitsko moved to accept item 2, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Steering and Rules and Legislative

Mrs. Kehoe and Mrs. Fischer

1. PSBA Officer Elections

It is recommended the Board Secretary be directed to cast the vote of the Ambridge Area School Board for election of the following PSBA Slate of Candidates for 2023:

President-elect Allison Mathis, North Hills School District

Vice President Sabrina Backer, Franklin Area School District

Insurance Trust Marianne Neel
 Michael Faccinetto

Mrs. Kehoe moved to accept item 1, 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. 2023-2024 Winter Coach

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

- 1) Middle School Girls' Volleyball
 - a) Jennifer Ax, Head Coach \$2,050.00
 - b) Corrina Cooper, Assistant Coach \$1,350.00

- 2) Boys' Basketball
 - a) Nick Campalong, Assistant Coach \$2,410.00
 - b) Lisa Fox, Assistant Coach \$2,410.00

- 3) Middle School Boys' Basketball
 - a) Craig Wiltrek, Head Coach \$1,750.00

- 4) Wrestling
 - a) Ron Wilson, Assistant Coach \$2,400.00

- 5) Middle School Wrestling
 - a) Ron Wilson, Head Coach \$1,850.00
 - b) Larry Knopsnyder, Assistant Coach \$1,350.00

2. Permanent Contracts

It is recommended the following professional employee, who has completed three years of satisfactory service in the Ambridge Area School District as of the effective date designated, be given permanent professional contracts:

Paige Scherer, effective October 14, 2023

3. Technology Integrators

It is recommended to approve the Carrie Malinich as the Technology Integrator at Economy Elementary for the 2023-2024 school year, to be paid a pro-rated stipend of \$1,066.67, as per the collective bargaining agreement.

4. Resignation

It is recommended to accept the resignation of Shana Dowlin from her position as a caregiver at the Economy Elementary Before and After School Program, effective October 11, 2023, with regret.

5. Professional Employee

It is recommended to retroactively approve Shana Dowlin, as an Ambridge Area High School, Ambridge Area Middle School All Grade Levels, and All Elementary Schools STEAM Teacher at a salary of \$47,871.00 (Step 1, Bachelor), effective October 13, 2023, 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.

6. Foodservice Worker

It is recommended to approve Gianina Shaginaw as a non-union Food Service Assistant at Economy Elementary, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

7. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #109 taking an intermittent leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave beginning October 16, 2023, not to exceed 12 weeks.

8. Keystone Remediation Instructors

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

___, Algebra

___, English 10

Erin Hein, Biology

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.

AIDES

Shawna Allen
Tina Sheetz

BUS DRIVERS

Mellanie Lipscomb

VAN DRIVERS

Michael Bianchini
Shane Bonzo
Phillip Huggins
Thomas Hunt
Julius Kirland
Susan Shaw
Tina Sheetz
Krista Treemarchi
Eva Young

Mrs. Smith moved to accept items 1-9, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XIII. Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report.

XIV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated and thanked the students there were recognized this evening.

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.

Jamie Kolar, Ambridge, PA

- In support of Coach Campbell
- Parent was vulgar toward Coach Campbell
- Please reconsider any suspension for Coach Campbell.
- Coach Campbell does so much for the kids.
- Coach Campbell is the Defense Coordinator and the team needs him.

Donte Prentice, Student and Football Athlete

- The team is here to fight for our coach.
- Coaches are being disrespected by parents.

- Coach Campbell is a big part of our team
- The team is headed towards playoffs and need our Coach.
- Coach Campbell teaches us more than just football.
- Please consider letting Coach Campbell come back.

Coach McBride, Head Football Coach

- In support of Coach Campbell.
- Coach Campbell is my Co-Pilot.
- Coach Campbell cares about the kids and provides for our kids.
- Please consider giving Coach Campbell a chance to coach this week.

Dana Uvodich, Baden, PA

- In support of Coach Campbell.
- When her son was a freshman there were only 20 boys on the team and today the team is blessed to have the coaches they have to revitalize the program.
- Coach Campbell is not only a coach but a mentor, disciplinary, and a father figure.
- Coach Campbell is a powerful influence to the kids.
- The team is two games away from playoff, the team needs their coach.
- The coaching staff is wonderful to the team and to the community.

- Mrs. Fischer feels it is a disservice if we permit parents/fans to behave like this for not just Football but for every sport. This should not be tolerated.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 8:00 p.m. Mrs. Romasco adjourned back into Executive Session, seconded by Miss Fitsko.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Mrs. June Mueller
Board Secretary**