

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

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District Board of Directors on Wednesday, January 15, 2020, is now called to order.

**II. Flag Salute-Please rise**

**Mrs. Fischer asked all present to rise for the flag salute**

**III. Notice: Mrs. Fischer read the following:** 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. The opinions expressed by any member of the public do not necessarily reflect the view or opinion of the Ambridge Area School District Board of School Directors or the Ambridge Area School District, and are solely that of the speaker. The Ambridge Area School District Board of School Directors hereby expressly disclaims any and all responsibility or liability for any false, defamatory or slanderous statements expressed by the speaker.**IV. Roll Call**

Mrs. Cathy Fischer, President  
Mr. Scott Angus, Vice President  
Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe, Treasurer  
Mr. Chuck Campalong  
Ms. Jodi Gill  
Mrs. Terry Mylan  
Ms. Valerie Pedigo  
Ms. Meagan Trimbur  
Ms. Valerie Young

Others President  
Dr. Jo Welter, Superintendent  
Megan Turnbull, Solicitor  
Doug McCausland, Director of District Operations

**V. Sunshine Law: Mrs. Mueller read the following:**

Section 708 of the Sunshine Law permits agencies to hold executive sessions to discuss employment and personnel matters, labor relations and arbitration matters, purchase or lease of real estate up to the time an option or agreement is obtained, litigation or potential litigation, legal matters subject to Attorney Client Privilege and other agency business which if discussed in public would violate lawful privilege or would violate confidentiality laws.

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Sessions on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss:

- 1) Employment and Personnel Matters
- 2) Salary Schedule and Labor Relations
- 3) Matters subject to Attorney Client Privilege
- 4) Litigation Matters

**VI. Correspondence**

None

**VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of:** December 4<sup>th</sup> Reorganization Meeting, December 4<sup>th</sup> Meet and Discuss Non-Voting Meeting, December 11<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting

Mr. Angus moved to approve the Minutes, seconded by Mrs. Mylan. Vote in favor was unanimous.

**VIII. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report dated:** November, 2019 and December, 2019

Mrs. Fischer moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Mr. Campalong. Vote in favor was unanimous.

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

Addendum to the Agenda: Item #10 under Personnel

Mrs. Mylan moved to approve the Addendum, seconded by Mrs. Kehoe. Vote in favor was unanimous.

**X. Board President's Report****XI. Recognition/Presentation****Dr. Welter would like to recognize the District's Holiday Greeting Card Winners**

Alice Smedley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, State Street Elementary  
Morgan Hartman, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Economy Elementary  
Alena Strong, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Highland Elementary

**Mrs. Fischer would like to recognize the following students:**

**Jason Simms, 8<sup>th</sup> Grader,** for being recommended and participating in US Club Soccer id2 Training Camp in Chula Vista, CA

*A comprehensive national scouting and recommendation program is used to form a pool from which top players are invited to attend an id2 Training Camp. At the camp, players work with some of the nation's best coaches, play with and against some of the nation's best players in their age group, and are scouted by on-site U.S. Soccer staff. In addition to on-field sessions, the camps feature guest speakers, lectures/classroom sessions and other offerings, which make for a multi-faceted learning experience.*

**Angelena Bratton, 10<sup>th</sup> Grader,** for being the first competitor to participate in the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) program. Angelena has also been instrumental in the institution of our Black Student Union Club (BSU). She will hold the office of President. We are pleased to announce that Ambridge will host the NAACP ACT-SO Competition here in April.

**Jaden Hubbard, 12<sup>th</sup> Grader,** for her winning entry in the Martin Luther King Oratorical Contest sponsored by the Martin Luther King Celebration Committee.

**School Board Candidate Presentations and Question and Answer**

John Carpenter  
Randy Dawson  
Elizabeth Hawkins  
Bill Metz  
Kelly Romasco  
Valerie Young  
Mitch Yanyanin

**Presentation by Doug McCausland** – Financial Update 2020

**XII. 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' comment/question 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.

Comments:

Cast of the High School Musical spoke on behalf of the newly appointed Musical Staff. They also read quotes from many of the cast members not present, all stating that the change has been very positive impact. The rehearsals have been very professional and fun.

Carlina Powell  
Piper Dunlap  
Mona Indovina

The Musical Boosters/Parents of the musical cast spoke on behalf of the newly appointed Musical Staff. The parents first commended the past directors. They understand change is inevitable and that they are pleased with the change, they feel their children have been more positive and productive. They touched base of the hiring process and payment of stipend to the staff. For many years most of the staff, not including the Musical Director and Vocal Instructor, have not been Board approved or paid by the District. The Boosters have paid these stipends. However the Boosters are pleased that the Board along with Administrators will be reviewing of this process going forward.

Carla Powell, President – Ambridge  
Jen Setzenfand, Booster Treasurer - Economy

The Boosters thanked the Board Members for the opportunity to have a High School Musical

Adrianna Cephas, Ambridge

- Wanted to know how students were chosen for School Board recognition. Her elementary student won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the MLK contest and was not recognized by the Board.
  - The names are placed on the agenda for recognition by the Building principals.
- Asked why the public was not given a chance to speak on behalf of the School Board Candidates
  - The public is always given a chance to speak during Public Comment

Felicia Mycyk, Ambridge

- Thank the Board for allowing the formation of the High School Black Student Union Club, believes this is a step in the right directions. Stated this club is a Nationally Recognized Club and that it will not only benefit the black students but all students.
  - Ms. Gill made special recognition to Angelena Bratton for being instrumental in the formation of this Club.

Tracia Bratton, Ambridge

- Daughter Angelena Bratton, founder of the Black Student Union Club.
- Stated the way to stop students from enrolling into Cyber/Charter is to address the racism and racial slurs within the District, which are not currently being addressed
- Feels the District needs to be pro-active
- Black students voices need to be heard

**XIII. Committee Reports**

**Education and Technology**

**Ms. Trimbur**

**Points of Information**

**Kindergarten Registration**

Kindergarten Registration will be held February 10-12, 2020 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the following locations:

February 10	Highland Elementary
February 11	Economy Elementary
February 12	State St. Elementary

Evening appointments available:

- March 3 – from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the High School Media Center
- March 10 – from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the High School Media Center

Please call Cathy Hopkins at 724-266-2833, Ext. 1273 to schedule an appointment.

**BCAEC Band Day 2020**

The Beaver County Arts Educators Consortium is proud to sponsor annual Band Day on Friday, March 13, 2020. Hosting this event will be Ambridge Area's BCAEC steering committee representative, Todd Hartman. The event will be from 8:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. in the High School Bridger Theatre and music suite. Clinicians from the River City Brass Band, Slippery Rock University, and other professional freelance musicians will conduct masterclasses for high school woodwind, brass, and percussion students from BCAEC member districts. The BCAEC will be responsible for all expenditures associated with this event.

**Education and Technology****Ms. Trimbur**1. High School Course of Studies

It is recommended to ratify the approval of the 2019-2020 Ambridge Area High School Course of Studies Book.

2. JROTC Field Trip

It is recommended to approve MSgt. Thomas G. Short, III, Marine Corps JROTC Instructor, be authorized to take the JROTC unit to Parris Island, South Carolina for their annual Citizenship Development trip from February 24<sup>th</sup> through February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The purpose of this trip is to build teamwork, enhance the camaraderie amongst the cadets, to develop leadership skills and to increase unit cohesion. The aforementioned training is educational and in compliance with the required curriculum. The JROTC unit will incur the expense related to this trip. All expenses will be obtained through fundraising. 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.

3. Student Discipline

It is recommended to ratify discipline agreement 2019-2020-09 relevant to a Middle School student, effective December 12, 2019.

4. Student Discipline

It is recommended to ratify discipline agreement 2019-2020-10 relevant to a High School student, effective December 12, 2019.

5. Grand Canyon University Affiliation Agreement

It is recommended the Ambridge Area School District enter into an affiliation agreement with Grand Canyon University, at no cost to the District.

6. Grand Canyon University Student Teacher

It is recommended to approve, Nicoletta Elolo, a student from Grand Canyon University, for student teaching at Economy Elementary School for the 2019-2020 spring semester, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening. Nicoletta will be placed with Lisa Kovach.

7. Club Formation

It is recommended to approve the formation of the Black Student Union Club at the High School. The club is an organization to promote the African American, Caribbean, and African culture and awareness at the High School and the surrounding community.

The purpose is to...

Provide social and academic support and awareness for Students of the Associated Student Body

Promote excellence in the classroom and the community

Develop strong successful leaders of the future that go onto college and become successful

Promote the equal rights of black students as well as all minorities

8. Reinstatement of the Forensics Club

It is recommended to approve the reinstatement of the Ambridge Area High School Forensics Club. Forensics is a cross between a mock trial and a speech and debate club where students prepare and perform formal presentations to compete against students from other school districts. Currently, the minimum students required (15) are signed up and interested in participating.

9. JROTC

It is recommended that the tuition share for Non-District Students enrolled in the JROTC Program for the 2020-2021 be reduced as follows:

- From \$474.00 per class to \$200.00
- From \$3,591.00 all day Leadership Academy to \$2,000.00
- From \$6,257.00 Special Education Leadership Academy to \$6,000.00
- Transportation to be paid by the student's home district

Ms. Trimbur moved to accept items 1-9, seconded by Mr. Angus, Ms. Gill voted against items 3 and 4. Ms. Young abstaining from 1-9.

Comment:

Ms. Gill commented that she will not ratify items 3-4 without seeing what the agreement that she is voting on.

**Finance and Budget****Ms. Pedigo**1. School District Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly school district bills in the amount of \$2,373,252.89 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,384,878.42 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$65,319.30 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$51,355.39 be paid.

3. Capital Project Expenditures

It is recommended \$4,754.50 be paid from the Capital Projects Fund 39.

4. Special Counsel

It is recommended that Special Counsel, Law Offices of Taylor & Alsko be paid \$1,675.00.

5. Repository

It is recommended the Board approve the Sale of Property from the Beaver County Repository of Unsold Property for the following properties:

- a) 649 Merchant Street, Ambridge, PA Tax Parcel 10-002-0531.000, for the bid amount of \$1,913.00 to Gist Catering Inc.
- b) 540 Merchant Street, Ambridge, PA Tax Parcel 10-002-0910.000, for the bid amount of \$1,623.00 to Gist Catering Inc.

6. BVIU 2019-2020 IDEA Allocation

It is recommended to accept the 2019-2020 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Allocation to the Ambridge Area School District, in the amount of \$377,479.00.

7. BVIU 2019-2020 Allocation of Federal 619-IDEA B Funds

It is recommended to accept the 2019-2020 Allocation of Federal 616-IDEA B Funds to the Ambridge Area School District, in the amount of \$4,490.00.

8. Precision Substitute Teacher Services

It is recommended to increase the salary for a Substitute Teacher from \$95.00 to \$120.00 per day.

Ms. Pedigo moved to approve items 1-8, seconded by Ms. Gill. Ms. Young abstaining from items 1-8.

**Buildings and Grounds**

**Open**

**Athletics**

**Ms. Trimbur**

1. Boys’ Volleyball Team Overnight Tournament Participation Request

It is recommended to approve the high school Boys’ Varsity Volleyball Team to attend the following overnight tournaments:

- Northeastern High School, Manchester, PA – March 28, 2020
- Central York High School, York, PA – April 18, 2020

2. Boys’ Wrestling Team Overnight Tournament Participation Request

It is recommended to approve the high school Boys’ Wrestling Team to attend the following overnight tournament:

- West Branch High School, Morrisdale, PA – January 25, 2020

Mrs. Trimbur moved to approve items 1-2, seconded by Ms. Gill. Vote in favor was unanimous.

**Public Relations**

**Ms. Gill**

**Steering and Rules**

**Mrs. Kehoe**

1. Policy 137 – Home Education Programs – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final reading, to revise School Board Policy 137 – *Home Education Programs*, to comply with state law and regulations.

2. Policy 203-1 – HIV Infection – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final reading, to revise Policy 203.1 – *HIV Infection*, to provide a safe, healthy environment for students and employees.

3. Policy 251 – Homeless Students – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final reading, to revise Policy 251 – *Homeless Students*, to recognize the need to promptly identify homeless children and youths within the District, facilitate their immediate enrollment and eliminate existing barriers to their attendance and education, in compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.

4. Policy 255 – Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final reading, to adopt Policy 255 – *Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care*, to ensure the educational stability of children in foster care and to collaborate with the local children and youth agency and other school districts.

Ms. Trimbur moved to approve items 1-4, seconded by Mrs. Mylan. Ms. Young abstaining from items 1-4.

**Legislative**

**Mrs. Kehoe**

1. Resolution 2019-2020-05 – Beaver County Tax Collection Committee (BCTCC)Voting Delegate Appointment Resolution

It is recommended to adopt Resolution 2019-2020-05 and approve the appointment of Keith Bielby and L. Douglas McCausland, as representatives for Ambridge Area School District, to the Tax Collection Committee for Beaver County.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to approve item 1, seconded by Mr. Angus. Ms. Young abstaining from item 1.

**Salary Schedule and Labor Relations**

**Open**

**Personnel**

**Mr. Angus**

1. Resignation

It is recommended to ratify the resignation of Joyce Apple, a cafeteria worker at Economy Elementary, effective December 20, 2019, with regret.

2. Resignation

It is recommended to ratify the resignation of Marissa Niaros, a Long-Term Substitute at State Street Elementary, effective January 8, 2020, with regret.

3. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Ramon West, a Para-Professional at Highland Elementary, effective January 15, 2020, with regret.

4. Long-Term Substitute

It is recommended Sydney Kaercher be approved as a Long-Term Substitute at Economy Elementary, at a rate of 70% Step 1 Bachelors, \$29,954.00, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEE/PSEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening, retroactive to August 23, 2019.

5. Long-Term Substitute

It is recommended Taylor Marshall be approved as a Long-Term Substitute at State Street Elementary, at a rate of 70% Step 1 Bachelors, \$29,954.00, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEE/PSEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening, effective and pro-rated for January 7, 2020.

6. Long-Term Substitute

It is recommended Heaven Brown be approved as a Long-Term Substitute at Highland Elementary, at a rate of 70% Step 1 Bachelors, \$29,954.00, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEE/PSEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening, retroactive to August 23, 2019.

7. FMLA

It is recommended to approve employee #2323 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave beginning around January 5, 2020, not to exceed 12 weeks.

8. 2019-2020 Musical Positions

It is recommended the following be approved for the 2019-2020 Musical positions at the designated stipend, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening:

Liz Ambrose, Music Director -	\$1,800.00
Lawrence Karl, Choreographer-	\$1,500.00
Elyse Mylan, Volunteer Choreographer -	No Remuneration

9. Para-Educator (Teaching Assistant)

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

Shelton Hilliard, Highland Elementary  
Keenan Baker, Highland Elementary

Mrs. Angus moved to accept item 1 - 9, seconded by Mr. Campalong. Ms. Gill and Ms. Trimbur voted against item 8. Mrs. Mylan abstaining form item 8.

Comment:

Ms. Gill, Mrs. Kehoe, and Ms. Trimbur stated going forward the process of appointing Musical Staff will be reviewed.

10. School Board Director

It is recommended to appoint Valerie Young, a qualified elector of the District, to fill the present School Board Director vacancy.

Mrs. Mylan moved to accept item 10, seconded by Mrs. Kehoe. Vote in favor was unanimous.

**XIX. Solicitor's Report**

**XV. Superintendent's Report**

**XVI. 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.

1. Board Committee

It is recommended to approve the creation of a Disciplinary Committee, it is further recommended to appoint Ms. Jodi Gill as the Committee Chair.

Ms. Gill made the motion to accept item 1, seconded by Ms. Trimbur. Vote in favor was unanimous.

## 2. Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis

It is recommended to approve a qualitative and quantitative analysis of past Disciplinary Agreements.

Ms. Gill made the motion to accept item 2, seconded by Ms. Trimbur. Vote in favor was unanimous.

### Comments:

Vicky DeBona, Ambridge

- Spoke to the School Board Members in regards to bullying going on amongst each other at Public Meetings.
  - Ms. Fischer stated that going forward the Board will be working as a unified group

Roger Kowal, Economy

- Questioned whether or not a “Go Fund Me” page that has been created for a District Team, is against District policy.
  - Administration is in the process of adopting a policy
- Asked if there has been discussions and/or a decision made on adding an ATM machine on District grounds
- Would it be beneficial to pull the Football Team out of WPIAL
  - Dr. Welter said that this is being discussed with all Beaver County Superintendents at the Superintendent Advisory Monthly Committee Meeting. There are many obstacles of pulling you District out of WPIAL, mainly scheduling with other teams and getting the officials
  - Mrs. Fischer would like to get the community input on this by setting up a meeting and sending out a survey
  - Ms. Trimbur has been looking into the idea of this and talking with the community. It seems that the majority of people from the community that she has spoken are against pulling out of WPIAL but are for getting better coaching staff in place.

Niesha Pharr, Ambridge

- Thanked the Board for approving the Disciplinary Committee and the Black Student Union Club
- Concerns with racial slurs being made within the District and no reprimand against the students involved
- Recently her daughter was jumped on school grounds
- Students are leaving the District because of racial issues that are going on

Ron Miller, Economy

- Is in support of the Disciplinary Committee
- Believes that discipline begins at home and without a good home foundations it is difficult for some students to learn discipline

Elizabeth Hawkins, Economy

- Is there an update on the Superintendent search
  - Solicitor response – it is the objective of the Board to have a Superintendent identified by the end of the school year

**XVII. Motion to Adjourn**

At 9:00 p.m., Mrs. Fischer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Gill. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,  
June Mueller, Board Secretary