

Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Non-Voting Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, February 16, 2022.

I. Call to Order: Mrs. Romasco 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, February 16, 2022, is now called to order.

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

State Street Elementary 5th Grade Student Council

Caden Caler
Zoe Fabrizio
Auriah Anderson
Braden Vukovcan
Angel Brendle

Middle School National Junior Honor Society

Janna Rusnak, 8th Grade
Abby Smith, 8th Grade
Mikalah Wetzel, 8th Grade

Notice: 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.

III. Roll Call

Mrs. Kelly Romasco, President
Miss Amy Fitsko, Vice President
Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe, Treasurer
Mr. John Carpenter
Mr. Thomas Cephas
Mrs. Cathy Fischer
Mr. Rob Keber
Mrs. Smith
Mr. Matt Zatchey

Others Present
Dr. Joseph W. Pasquerilla, Superintendent
Mr. Barry J. King, Assistant to the Superintendent
Mrs. Bethann Eyth, Director of Business and Operations
Ms. Megan Turnbull, Solicitor
Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary

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

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, February 16th to discuss:

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

V. Correspondence

No Correspondence

VI. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, January 9th Meet and Discuss Non-Voting Meeting, Wednesday, January 9th Meet and Discuss Voting Meeting, and Wednesday, January 19th Board Meeting.

Mr. Zatchey moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

VII. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report dated: January 2022

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

VIII. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda

Added Item 8 and 9 under Salary Schedule and Labor Relations and Personnel.

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

IX. Recognition/Presentation**GFWC Woman's Club Literature State Street Student Winners**

Congratulation to the following General Federation of Women's Club (GFWC) Literature Winners:

Category Two for Grades 3-5

Ella Stimmel

Caden Caler

Deana Trautman

Zackary Bayer

Jaycenn Davis-Arnold

Leighahna Kachinski

*Ella will be moving to the State Level

The Art Division 1 Grades 1-2

Mila Berry
Holly Bell
Mason Blazier

Division 2 Grades 3-5

Milayna Potts
Caramia Cravotta
Alice Smedley
Abigail Dobich

*Mila Berry and Milayna Potts will go on to the District Level

Congratulations to all!

Student of the Month – High School

September Students of the Month

12th- Elliot Powell
11th- Micah Kwolek
10th- Heidi Setzenfand
9th- Saellyah Paolino

October Students of the Month

12th- Tyler Holman
11th- Emilie Clouse
10th- Emily Gray
9th- Maddy Palmer

November Students of the Month

12th- Abee Clear
11th- Zappula Lewis
10th- Alora Edwards
9th- Kailyn Turko

December Students of the Month

12th- Jenna Bechtold
11th- Brooklyn Colon
10th- Preston Korol
9th- Anewdys Rivera Rivera

January Students of the Month

12th - Haley Faltenovich
11th- Alex Aciento
10th- Mason Lewis
9th- Cody Roper

September Extra Effort

12th- Thomas Stowers
11th- Leila Ruckert
10th- Zach Bucka
9th- Amiracle Emerson Harmon

October Extra Effort

12th- Alexis Hitchens
11th- Christian Earle
10th- Joseph Janicki
9th- Kaitlyn Derochers

November Extra Effort

12th- None submitted
11th- Alyssa Kress
10th- Josh Horvath
9th- Savannah Jones

December Extra Effort

12th- Taraea Macon
11th- Jaida Kinter
10th- Aivah Wright
9th- Angelina Betters

January Extra Effort

12th- Dolores Ruiz Quinteros
11th- Julia Bennett
11th- Evan Scheib
10th- Kenoray Ronczka

Student of the Month – Middle School***January Student of the Month***

8th – Jazlyn Martinez
7th – Daron Cox
6th – Morgan Hartman

January Extra Effort

8th – Hannah Thear
7th – Ja'Zelle McIntosh
6th – Payton Lytle

Student of the Month – Economy Elementary***January Student of the Month***

5th – Alexander Pompeo

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated the students for all of their accomplishments.

X. 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 Comments.

XI. Committee Reports

Education and Technology

Mrs. Smith and Mr. Zatchey

1. BVIU 2021-2022 IDEA Allocation

It is recommended to accept the 2021-2022 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Allocation to the Ambridge Area School District, in the amount of \$496,252.40 and it is furthermore recommended to accept the additional amount of \$21,257.93 from ARP IDEA.

2. BVIU 2021-2022 619-IDEA B Funds

It is recommended to accept the 2021-2022 Section 6196 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Allocation to the Ambridge Area School District, in the amount of \$9,666.00, for children ages three through five.

3. K-12 Guidance Plan (339)

It is recommended to approve the submission of the K-12 Guidance Plan (339) to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The Plan was vetted through the Act 339 Advisory Council that included all stakeholders.

4. Act 91 Slippery Rock University Policy

It is recommended to approve the Act 91 Substitute Teaching for Student Teachers Policy to allow Slippery Rock University student teachers to act as substitute teachers during their student teaching semester.

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept items 1-4, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. 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 \$2,702,874.81 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,209,556.84 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$57,310.11 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$42,117.73 be paid.

3. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve the request by the Borough of Baden for the real estate tax exoneration for the years 2011 through 2016 for Parcel No. 13-003-0608.000, 672 State Street, Baden, PA. To be purchased by Eichhorn Enterprises.

4. Repository

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

- a) 672 State Street, Baden, PA Tax Parcel 13-003-0608.000, for the bid amount of \$1,865.00 to Eichhorn Enterprises.

5. BCWAN Consortium

It is recommended the Ambridge Area School District should participate in the BCWAN Consortium for Telecommunications and Internet Access Services. Pricing through the Beaver County Intermediate Unit, is approximate \$1,596.93 per month beginning July 1, 2022, and ending on June 30, 2022. The District has participated in this Consortium in the past.

Mrs. Fischer moved to accept items 1-5, seconded by Mr. Keber. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Athletics and Public Relations**Mr. Zatchey and Miss Fitsko**1. Baseball Batting Cage

It is recommended to approve the Ambridge Baseball Booster Organization to construct a batting cage at the School Street baseball field, at no initial cost to the district.

Miss Fitsko moved to accept item 1, seconded by Mr. Keber. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Steering and Rules and Legislative**Mrs. Kehoe and Mrs. Fischer**1. Policy 137.1 – Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to adopt School Board Policy 137.1 – *Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students*, to approve participation in the district’s extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletic programs by a student enrolled in a home education program who meets all the conditions stated in Board policy.

2. Policy 150 – Title I Comparability of Services – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to revise School Board Policy 150 – *Title I Comparability of Services*, to remove the language “Method of Determination” based on changes to the online tool used to create the Comparability Assurance Form for submission to the PA Department of Education, Division of Federal Programs.

3. Policy 800.1 – Electronic Signatures/Records – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to adopt School Board Policy 800.1 – *Electronic Signature/Records*, to outline guidelines for the use and acceptance of electronic signatures and records in connection with school entity programs and operations, as well as electronic recordkeeping requirements for compliance with state and federal laws and regulations and the school entity’s Records Management Plan.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to accept items 1-3, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Personnel and Salary Schedule and Labor Relations**Mr. Cephas and Mrs. Smith**1. Slippery Rock University Field Placements

It is recommended to approve the following Slippery Rock University students, to complete observations hours within the Ambridge Area School District, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Elaina Toth, to be placed at the high school with Greg Helsel
 Alyssa Machtley, to be placed at the high school with Christina Briola`
 Ethan Smith, to be placed at the high school with Kim Bogati
 Jake Ernst to be placed at the high school with Chris Yannessa
 Sabina Whitney to be placed at the high school with Chris Yannessa
 Trevor Morrison, to be placed at the high school with Larry Knopsnyder
 Lukas Lepley, to be placed at the high school with Larry Knopsnyder
 Kayla Werner, to be placed at the high school with Kent Withrow
 Taylor Smith, to be placed at the high school with Michelle Hapich
 John Gargas III, to be placed at the high school with Eric Harbison
 Haylee Fleishman, to be placed at the middle school with Ashley Simpson
 Nicholas Blake, to be placed at the middle school with Carl Baker
 Anthony Malloy, to be placed at the middle school with Carl Baker

Kailey Burke, to be placed at the middle school with Ken Grafton
 Annabelle Chipps, to be placed at the middle school with Amy Braund
 Gracey Buckley, to be placed at the middle school with Brenna Wandel
 Elizabeth Szczerbiak, to be placed at the middle school with Steven Perciavalle
 Grace Bewty, to be placed at the middle school with Amy Fedorek
 Jennifer Gillette, to be placed at the middle school with Amy Padgett
 Marley Hoffman, to be placed at the middle school with Lauren Mawhinney
 Sonny Yungwirth, to be placed at the middle school with Brad Olenic
 Blaise Kehl, to be placed at the middle school with Don Ayers
 Kasey Scheller, to be placed at the middle school with Jan Rusnak

2. Internship

It is recommended that the Board approve a School Psychology Intern for the 2022-2023 School Year. The intern will provide additional support for students through psychological counseling, assessment reporting, participating in Child Study teams and SWPBIS team, and other duties assigned by the supervising school psychologist. The contracted internship pays \$20,000.00 for the school year and is being paid for using ESSERS ARP 7% Set-Aside Funds.

3. 2021-2022 Spring Coaches

It is recommended to approve the following individuals to fill the designated spring coaching positions for the 2021-2022 school years 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 and coaches can hold spring sports as normal.

1) <u>Boys Volleyball</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Jason Benkowski, Varsity Assistant	\$2,400.00
b) Glenn Freed, Middle School Coach	\$2,050.00
c) Aaron Mueller, Middle School Assistant Coach	\$1,350.00
d) Aaron Mueller, Volunteer	No Remuneration
e) Josh Jones, Volunteer	No Remuneration
f) Lee Smith, Volunteer	No Remuneration
g) Cole Hopkins, Volunteer	No Remuneration
2) <u>Baseball</u>	
a) Jason Gerle, Assistant Coach (Split Stipend)	\$1,200.00
b) TBD, Assistant Coach (Split Stipend)	\$1,200.00
c) Michael Mellor, Middle School Coach	\$1,350.00
3) <u>Girls Lacrosse (Club)</u>	
a) Dave Ilko, Head Coach	No Remuneration
b) Vicky Freed, Assistant Coach	No Remuneration

4) Track

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| a) Logan Erickson, Volunteer Coach | No Remuneration |
| b) Preston Moore, Volunteer Coach | No Remuneration |

4. Resignation

It is recommended to accept the resignation due to the retirement of Judith Ozenich from her position as a food service worker at the high school, effective February 18, 2022, with regret.

5. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Sam Rosatone, a hall monitor at the Middle School, effective February 25, 2022, with regret.

6. Para-Professionals (Teaching Assistants)

It is recommended to approve the following individual as Para-Professional (Teaching Assistant), 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.

Carlyn Humphries, High School

7. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify employee #1410 taking an intermediate leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave beginning January 26, 2022, not to exceed 12 weeks.

8. 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 workweek for the summer of 2022 be approved.

9. 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 workweek for the summer of 2022 be approved.

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

XII. President's Address

Nothing to report.

XIII. Solicitor's Report

Provided an update on Ridge Road authorization for the sale and lease of this property is moving forward. There will be a zoning hearing in front of Economy Borough next Monday, February 21st and will be added for Board approval at the March Board meeting.

The buyers for Anthony Wayne owned by the district intend to close on this property within the next six months.

The Board has been working with its community partners to develop an SRO program that is intended from its previous existence. We have worked with partners to justify the program at the county level. Separately reached out to the Department of Community of Economic and Development which is a state agency that helps support municipalities and school districts and received positive feedback from them as well as and Pennsylvania Department of Education so we are hopeful with sup that we will convince all those who need convincing that this is a worthwhile endeavor to the extent that if it doesn't and there is a plan b and c to exhaust the best options and moving to the others beyond.

XIV. Superintendent's Report

Congratulated all of the students and staff who have been working hard with winter sports and holiday concerts. Looking forward to the spring sports, musical and concerts. Thank you all for your support of the school system.

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.

Britney Hysong, Baden PA

- Asked if the Board met as a whole to discuss the possible closure of State Street Elementary.
 - Mrs. Romasco, we did vote at the last meeting to advertise a public heard for the possible closure of State Street Elementary, but prior to that, the Board did not meet.
- Concerns that there was an appraisal done at State Street and using tax dollars to pay for this at this stage.
 - Ms. Turnbull stated this is done in advance to the public hearing as part of a financial analysis when considering the closure of a school.

Desiree Conrad, Ambridge PA

- Asked why the order of the appraisal of State Street Elementary was not voted on by the entire Board at a public meeting.

Dorothy Traupman, Baden PA

- Concerns with Mr. Zatchey discussing with community members about the closure of State Street Elementary.
 - Mr. Zatchey stated it is up to the Board president to make the decision for ordering the appraisal of State Street Elementary and also noted that the district is losing enrollment.

Amber Terry, Ambridge, PA

- Concerns with a lack of diversity within the district.
- Concerns with racial problems and bullying within the district.

Jana Winne, Baden, PA

- Read the definition of a School Board and its rule to lead the district and follow the recommendations of the Superintendent.
- Has concerns with Dr. Pasquierlla stating at a public meeting he did not recommend moving forward with looking at the possibility of closing State Street Elementary and the Board going against that recommendation.

Caitlin Sipes, Baden, PA

- Asked when the appraisal was ordered.
- Asked why the entire Board did not vote on ordering the appraisal
 - Mrs. Romasco stated that the appraisal was ordered prior to the public meeting to meet the timelines of having the financial information for the public hearing to share with the community.

Kayla Naughton, Ambridge, PA

- Concerns with the Board not working together.
 - Ms. Turnbull stated there is a timeline to follow with the possible closure of a school. There is an immediacy to all that goes into following the timelines and there is almost not enough time to make this happen for next year, and most times appraisal typically takes multiple weeks to schedule.

Christine Paluso, Freedom, PA

- Why is the possible closure of State Street Elementary on the table, it is for financial reasons.
 - Mrs. Romasco stated the Board has not had a chance to communicate this and they will have the opportunity to communicate “why” during the public hearing scheduled for February 28th.

Bobby Mooreland

- Concerns that the students have been through so much with COVID and school closures and now dealing with the possibility of their school closing and switching schools.
 - Mr. Carpenter stated that the vote that was taken to proceed with the public hearing was only to look at the options but it was not a vote to close State Street and does not feel that there is a pre-determined decision on this.

Nicole Tekula, Economy Boro

- Spoke on behalf of the children in regards to the stress of having siblings in other schools. There are not enough bus drivers now to transport the children and now this will make the bus rides even longer being further away from their school. Asked the Board to look at this decision from the eyes of a child.

Michael Winne

- Feels that the Board's plan may have been something exciting for the community but feels that in the way in which this came out and the community it will only be an uphill battle now. He hopes the Board will have all the information needed to present to the public at the hearing on the 28th.
- Concerns about a school closure impacting the students.
 - Mrs. Romasco is hoping all attend on the 28th to review all data collected and just to have a conversation about the possible closure.
 - Mrs. Kehoe stated that she did not feel this was the right time to look at a possible closure with the Charter School proposing a new charter school opening in the district.

Mrs. Fitsko announced the Musical dates and ticket sales.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At 8:30 p.m. Mrs. Romasco made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. June Mueller
Board Secretary