

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, April 10, 2024.

I. Mr. Carpenter called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m.

The Meet and Discuss Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

II. Mr. Carpenter asked all present to rise for the flag salute.

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

Others Present:

Dr. Joseph W. Pasquerilla, Superintendent
 Mr. Barry J. King, Assistant to the Superintendent
 Ms. Megan Turnbull, Solicitor
 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 Executive Session(s) on Wednesday, April 10th to discuss:

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

VI. Correspondence

Mrs. Mueller stated she was in receipt of a binder of communications dated April 4, 2024 to April 10, 2024 submitted by Baden Academy Charter School in support of the renewal, which will be circulated to the Board.

VII. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda

VIII. Recognition/Presentation

Mrs. Michelle Amadio - 2024-2025 Proposed Final Budget Presentation

IX. 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.

Kasi Deviny, Economy Boro

- How much money will be transferred from the fund budget?
- Is the funding for books for all levels or elementary only?
 - Dr. Pasquerilla stated the proposed budget is still subject to change it is anticipated expenditure and revenue and the dollar amount is a conservative estimate utilization of fund balance.
 - Grant funding will be utilized to purchase science books for K-5 and the 2023-2024 budget expenditures were increased by \$100,000 to purchase the new standards science and math for middle school and high school.

Mr. Zatchey asked the total dollar amount the district transfers out to Charter/Cyber schools.

- Mrs. Amadio stated based on the new proposed 24-25 budget we expect an increase of \$664,836.00 in Charter/Cyber tuition.
- To date the district paid \$5,640,919.00. Dr. Pasquerilla sated roughly 6-7 million per year.

X. LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THIS MEETING

Finance and Budget

Mr. Zatchey

1. 2024-2025 Proposed Final Budget

It is recommended to approve the Proposed Final General Operating Fund Budget for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year with Expenditures of \$58,979,828.00. The Proposed Final Budget is on display for public inspection at the Administration Office and online on our website.

2. Grant Acceptance

It is recommended to accept the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Stronger Connections Title IV Competitive Grant in the amount of \$583,370.00. The funding will be used for mental health supports and safety.

3. TIPS (The Interlocal Purchasing System)

It is recommended the district become a member of TIPS, a national purchasing cooperative that offers access to competitively procured purchasing contracts to its members in compliance with the School Code for Procurement Law Compliance. **Pending solicitor final review.**

Mr. Zatchey moved to accept items 1-3, seconded by Mr. Metz. Mr. Kovacevic voted against items #1 and 3. Vote was unanimous for item 2.

Salary Schedule and Labor Relations

Mr. Kovacevic

1. Ambridge Area Educational Support Personnel Association Cafeteria Branch Agreement

It is recommended to approve the agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association Cafeteria Branch for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2030. **Pending solicitor final review.**

Mrs. Fischer moved to accept item 1, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Personnel

Ms. Young

***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 Spring Coaches

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

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1) <u>Middle School Softball</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Jorge Alvarez, Assistant Coach | \$2,050.00 |
| b) Troy Hartman, Volunteer Coach | No Remuneration |
| c) Brian Strong, Volunteer Coach | No Remuneration |
| 2) <u>Track</u> | |
| a) Dakota Pritchard, Assistant Coach (split stipend) | \$1,000.00 |
| 3) <u>Boys' Volleyball</u> | |
| a) David Stuebgen, Volunteer | No Remuneration |

2. 2024-2025 Head Coaches

It is recommended the following individual be approved to fill the designated head coaching position for the 2024-2025 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 sports as normal.

<u>Wrestling</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Larry Knopsnyder	\$4,300.00

3. Boys’ Basketball coach

It is recommended to approve Jonas Ankrom as the Boys’ Basketball Head Coach at a salary of \$6,000.00, for the 2024-2025 season, as per the employee 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 sports as normal.

4. Girls’ Basketball coach

It is recommended to approve Lethera Harrison as the Girls’ Basketball Head Coach at a salary of \$6,000.00, for the 2024-2025 season, as per the employee 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 sports as normal.

5. 2024-2025 Coaches

It is recommended the following individuals be approved to fill the designated fall coaching positions for the 2024-2025 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 fall sports as normal.

1) <u>Football</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Shane Newhouse, Assistant Coach	\$4,200.00
b) Neil Tkatch, Assistant Coach	\$4,200.00
c) Ron Wilson, Equipment Manager	\$3,500.00
d) Tom Baranyak, Weightlifting Coach	\$3,500.00
e) Shane Dablock, Middle School Coach	\$3,350.00
f) Greg Kimbrough, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
g) Craig Wiltrek, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
h) Mike Zmijanac, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
i) Deonte McIntosh, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration

6. Homeless Liaison Coordinator

It is recommended to ratify Jo Ann Hoover as a Homeless Liaison Coordinator to be paid a stipend of \$2,833.00 for the 2023-2024 school year.

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.

Van Drivers

Brandon Call

Meghan Dawson

Paul Montell

Aides

Diane Gilliam

Belinda Williams

8. Professional Employee

It is recommended to approve Ty Baker, as an Ambridge Area Middle School / High School Mathematics Teacher at a salary of \$48,781.00 (Step 1, Master), effective date to be determined based upon the completion of student teaching (Slippery Rock University), 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, and PDE certifications if applicable.

9. Mentor Teacher

It is recommended to approve the following teacher assignment for the 2023-2024 school year, as per the collective bargaining agreement:

Mentor Teacher

Kent Withrow

New Teacher

Ty Baker

10. Professional Employee

It is recommended to approve the extension of Cory Bailey as a Grant Funded Elementary Guidance Counselor as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEE/PSEA Agreement. This position is contingent on grant funding and will not be continued if grant funding is not secured. This extension is for January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026. **To be paid for through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Stronger Connections Title IV Competitive Grant.**

11. Retirement

It is recommended to approve the resignation due to retirement of Mary Lehocky, a Paraprofessional at the Ambridge Area Middle School, effective July 15, 2024, with regret.

12. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Daniel Kalenak, a custodian at Economy Elementary, effective April 5, 2024, with regret.

Mrs. Fischer moved to accept items #1-12, seconded by Mrs. Kehoe. Vote was in favor was unanimous With Mr. Kovacevic abstaining from item #3 and Mr. Metz abstaining from item #7.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)**Education and Technology****Mrs. Romasco**1. CT – Evolv Express Dual Lane

It is recommended to accept a quote from Ink Labs Buffalo LLC for a four (4) year period for two (2) CT – Evolv Express Dual Lane scanners/software and support at a cost of \$231,577.00 to provide security at schools. **To be paid for through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Stronger Connections Title IV Competitive Grant.** Through the national bidding process TIPS.

2. Rachel’s Challenge Professional Development

It is recommended to approve the purchase of Rachel’s Challenge Professional Development, Digital Resources, and Staff, Student and Community Sessions at a cost of \$31,750.00. **To be paid for through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Stronger Connections Title IV Competitive Grant.**

3. McGraw Hill Elementary Science

It is recommended to approve the adoption of a five (5) year McGraw Hill science series, *Inspire Science*, grades K-5. The total cost of this series is \$284,612.67. **\$250,000.00 will be paid through the Ready to Learn Grant.**

4. Savvas Learning Company LLC Science

It is recommended to approve the adoption of a five (5) year Saavas Learning Company science series, *Elevate Science*, grades 6-8. The total cost of this series is \$137,591.40.

5. Savvas Learning Company LLC Math

It is recommended to approve the purchase of a five (5) year Savvas Learning Company math series, *enVision Math*, and digital licenses, High School/Middle School Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry. The total cost of the series is \$133,470.21.

6. Senior Project

It is recommended the Ambridge Area High School Senior Projects Manual for the 2024-2025 school year be approved.

7. Tuition Income

It is recommended to approve the attendance of student #363433 in accordance with School Board Policy 607 – *Tuition Income* for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year, and to assess a tuition charge in accordance with the School Code in the total amount of \$2,327.14.

8. 2024 Adventures in Education Club Field Trip Addendum

It is recommended to approve the Adventures in Education Club to use Charleston, SC as an alternate field trip location to the already Board approved field trip to Nashville, Tennessee, which was approved at the March 20, 2024 Board meeting for the purpose of pricing comparison.

9. Club Formation

It is recommended to approve the formation of a district wide club, Mary Makers Club, to promote STEAM Education with the sponsor to be paid a stipend of \$470.00 as per the contracted rate.

10. WIDA Annual Conference

It is recommended Michelle Druga and Tracy Parsons attend the WIDA Annual Conference at David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh, PA from October 16 – October 18, 2024. All expenses (registration, fees, travel, meals) will be paid as per Board Policy 431, Job Related Expenses. The total cost will be approximately \$1,000.00 per person.

11. Category 2 E-Rate Funding

It is recommended to approve a contract between the Ambridge Area School District and Communications Consulting, Inc (using Category 2 E-Rate funding) for District Network Equipment for Economy Elementary, Middle School, High School and the Field House. The total cost of the project is \$193,091.00. Pending E-Rate funding approval, the E-Rate program will pay 80% (\$154,472.80) of the total cost. The Ambridge Area School District will pay approximately 20% (\$38,618.20) of the total cost.

12. Mental Health Support

It is recommended to approve a contract between the Ambridge Area School District and the Prevention Network for five (5) days a week at the High School, two (2) days a week at the Middle School, and one (1) day a week at each elementary school for the 2024-2025 school year to provide mental health support at a cost of \$106,000.00. **To be paid for through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Stronger Connections Title IV Competitive Grant.**

13. Summer Credit Recovery Program

It is recommended to approve a Summer Credit Recovery Program to provide high school students the opportunity to recover course credits. The program is tentatively scheduled based on adequate enrollment for Wednesday, June 12, 2024 through Tuesday, June 25, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Ambridge Area High School. This is at no cost to the district.

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 \$1,849,723.10 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,300,332.93 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$68,207.47 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$54,524.85 be paid.

3. Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA)

It is recommended to approve the renewal dues for the 2024-2025 Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA) membership for a total cost of \$14,565.42.

Building and Grounds

Mr. Metz

1. Concrete Pad Project – Pole Building

It is recommended to accept the bid proposal from ____ for the grading, site work, base preparation and installation of a concrete pad for the district’s pole building for a total cost of ____ through the bidding process.

2. Window Film Coverings

It is recommended to accept the quote for window film coverings from Novum Design to be used throughout the district for safety purposes for the total cost of \$24,142.92 through the State bidding process (Co-Stars). **To be paid for by the PCCD School Mental Health & Safety and Security Grant.**

Athletics

Mrs. Fischer

Mrs. Fischer thanked all the coaches being approved at tonight’s meeting.

Public Relations

Miss Fitsko

Steering and Rules

Mrs. Kehoe

Legislative

Miss Fitsko

XII. President’s Address

Mr. Carpenter thanked the Admin Team for their support and for securing the grants, which allow the district to do so many amazing things for our students.

XIII. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated students for their work in the classroom and a great job to the students in our musical. Looking forward to spring sports and seeing our athletes compete as well as our clubs and musical department.

XIV. Solicitor's Report

Ms. Turnbull, the district is in receipt of the Baden Academy request for charter renewal and therefor the district has an obligation to gather and review data, conduct a walkthrough at Baden Academy with the Administration Team. The Admin Team will then make a recommendation to the School Board. The Board is obligated to advertise a public hearing in advance, the hearing is contingent on Board action and if the Board goes a different direction that hearing will be cancelled. The advertisement in advance was for transparency.

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. This period for public comment prior to the standing committee reports will be limited to one-half hour.

Maximillion Elliot, 318 Park Road

- Son is a 2018 Baden Graduate and a 2024 Ambridge HS Graduate
- Baden Academy shaped her son.
- In support of BAC charter renewal

Tina Iorifido, Ambridge, PA

- In support of BAC Charter Renewal
- Elected Official of Ambridge and an Ambridge Graduate
- Daughter attended BAC

Caitlin Davidson, Ambridge, PA

- Ambridge Graduate
- In support of BAC Charter Renewal
- Staff member at BAC

Kendyll Witowich, Baden, PA

- BAC Student
- In support of BAC Charter Renewal
- BAC help me find my voice.

Hilary Witowich, Baden, PA

- BAC Parent and Staff Member
- In support of BAC Charter Renewal
- Urged the Board to take into account voices of Parents, Students and Staff

Joan Rim, Ambridge, PA

- 25 year Resident
- TA at BAC
- Licensed Relator in Beaver County
- In Support of BAC Charter Renewal
- Thanked the Board for their time.

Cathy, 308 Sunset Drive, Freedom, PA

- TA at BAC
- In support of BAC Charter Renewal

BAC Parent

- 3 Children in BAC
- BAC feels safe
- In support of BAC Charter Renewal

Fabiola Gergerich, Ambridge, PA

- #2, pg. 2 Grant Acceptance – how will it help students?
- #6, pg. 3 Homeless Liaison – how does it help students?
- #3, pg. 5 McGraw Hill Books – is this digital or books?
- #12, pg. 6 Mental Health Support – are parents involved/
- #2, pg. 7 Window Coverings – how is it safety/
 - Dr. Pasquerilla
 - Grant funding help with funding Prevention Network, Elementary Guidance Counselor, Rachel's Challenge which incorporates parent involvement
 - Mental Health, yes parents are notified and resources are shared.
 - Many communications with parents to support students.
 - Book purchase – hands-on and some online components as we are a one-to-one school.
 - Window coverings – State Police did an assessment on how we can be a safer school, we have purchased new door locks and loudspeakers at the middle school, and added fencing to our elementary playgrounds. We can in under budget and adding window coverings was suggested by State Police to add coverage and safety.
 - Homeless Liaison, Mrs. Hoover, does wonderful work across the district. Works with homeless families to continue students' education. Secures help with temporary housing for families and food. We appreciate the extra time spend to further the students' education.
 - Mrs. Fischer added that Mrs. Hoover is an integral part of our district and community and she goes above and beyond.

Amada Heshler, Freedom, PA

- How much money did the district spend on Provident Charter?
- Parent of BAC.
- In support of BAC Charter Renewal and the Arts.
 - Dr. Pasquerilla – we have one district student who attends Provident Charter.

Mr. Carpenter

- You have shared your passion concerning BAC and we have heard it. It is a tough decision and I know how passionate you all feel about this, I urge you to share this with the State of Pennsylvania as well.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 8:50 p.m., Mrs. Kehoe made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

**Respectfully Submitted,
June Mueller
Board Secretary**