

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, May 8, 2024.

I. Mr. Carpenter called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m.

The Meet and Discuss Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 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
 Mr. Garrett Kovacevic
 Mrs. Kelly Romasco
 Ms. Valerie Young

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, May 8th to discuss:

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

VI. Correspondence

VII. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda

VIII. Recognition/Presentation

IX. Mr. Carpenter read the following statement: 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 Comment

X. LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THIS MEETING

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>Baseball</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Christopher Rinker, Volunteer Coach, retroactive | No Remuneration |
| b) Arthur Ammon, Volunteer Coach | No Remuneration |

2. Stipend Adjustment

It is recommended to approve the stipend adjustment for Dakota Pritchard to be paid the full stipend of \$2,000.00 for his position as Track Assistant Coach.

3. 2024-2025 Coaches

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1) <u>Boys’ Soccer</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) David Stuebgen, Head Coach | \$4,300.00 |
| 2) <u>Girls’ Soccer</u> | |
| a) Ashley Braswell, Assistant Coach | \$2,400.00 |

- b) Madison Edwards, Volunteer Coach No Remuneration
- c) Sarah Burns, Volunteer Coach No Remuneration
- 3) Football
 - a) James Maseth, Volunteer Coach No Remuneration
- 4) Cheer
 - a) Halee Jones, Volunteer Coach No Remuneration
- 5) Girls' Golf
 - a) Nolan Colaric, Assistant Coach \$1,050.00
- 6) Boys' Golf
 - a) Phillip Goerig, Assistant Coach \$1,050.00
- 7) Cross Country
 - a) Corinna Cooper, Assistant Coach \$1,850.00

4. FMLA

It is recommended to approve Employee #2973 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave, beginning May 6, 2024, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

5. After-School Tutoring

It is recommended to retroactively approve the following teachers for after-school tutoring per contract terms for spring 2024.

- Amanda Pfeifer, Teacher
- Lynn Hartle, Substitute Teacher
- Justine Jedry, Substitute Teacher

6. 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 Driver

- Jacqueline Tazel
- Raymond Blackham
- Avonna Henry
- Sarah Skees, Aide

7. Resignation

It is recommended to accept the resignation of Michael Malinich from his position as a Technology Support Technician, effective June 28, 2024, with regret.

8. Retirement

It is recommended to approve the resignation due to retirement of Vivian Jarostowski from her position as a cafeteria employee at the high school, effective May 31, 2024, with regret.

9. 2024-2025 District Course and Section Adjustments

A. It is recommended to approve the alterations of the following positions for the 2024-2025 school year:

- 1. Economy Elementary School Academic Intervention Teacher
- 2. Highland Elementary School Learning Support, Emotional Support, and Autistic Support All Grade Levels.

Vote was unanimous with Mr. Metz abstaining from item 6 and Mrs. Romasco abstaining from item 3. 2)c.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)

Education and Technology

Mrs. Romasco

1. Allegheny Intermediate Unit

It is recommended to approve the Comprehensive Service Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to provide specialized student services.

2. AOT Service Agreement Renewal

It is recommended to renew the service agreement with Associated Occupational Therapy for the 2024-2025 school year, at a minimal increase.

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 \$2,255,550.64 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,237,43793 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$92,702.40 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$50,088.19 be paid.

3. Final Budget for the 2024-2025 School Year

It is recommended to approve Resolution 2024-2025-01 adopting the Final General Operating Fund Budget for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year in the amount of \$59,485,338.00. The final budget includes no tax increase and the millage rate complies with the reassessment anti-windfall provisions of Act 1 of 2006, as amended.

4. Resolution – Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion

It is recommended to approve Resolution 2024-2025-02 implementing the Act 1 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion be adopted.

5. Resolution Providing for Real Estate Installment Payment

It is recommended to approve Resolution 2024-2025-03, a resolution authorizing the collection of real estate taxes during the 2024-2025 fiscal year in installments.

6. Audit Engagement

It is recommended to approve an agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Hosack, Specht, Muetzel and Wood LLP for School District Financial and Real Estate Tax Collector Audits, at a cost of \$21,500.00 for the Year Ended June 30, 2024; \$22,350.00 for the Year Ended June 30, 2025; \$23,500.00 for the Year Ended June 30, 2026.

7. Gifts in Kind

It is recommended to accept the donation from Dr. Brittany Kinol, the district dentist, for her services rendered at no charge to the district. The donor has received no goods or services in return for this gift.

Dr. Pasquerilla thanked Dr. Kinol for her willingness to act as our District Dentist on top of donating her services. It is appreciated for what she has done for our students.

8. Student/Athletic Insurance

a) It is recommended that the United States Fire Insurance Company (PSBA endorsed) be approved for **voluntary** student insurance coverage for the 2024-2025 school year beginning August 1, 2024. Goodwin & Gruber Agency will act as the insurance broker. The medical limits are \$250,000.00 for a one-year period. The rate for school-time coverage is \$22.50 and \$90.00 for 24-hour coverage.

b) It is recommended that United States Fire Insurance Company be approved for student **athletic** coverage at a cost of \$12,007.00 to insure interscholastic athletes, band, and cheerleaders. The medical limit for sports is \$1,000,000.00 with a two-year benefit period. Plan 1 which pays all medical expenses “Usual & Customary” will be used. The premium includes a field trip endorsement for all one-day field trips (in Pennsylvania) for coverage up to \$2,500.00 per student.

9. Ambulance Service

It is recommended to approve an agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Non-Profit Emergency Services of Beaver County, Medic Rescue, for a period of one year commencing on July 1, 2024, at an annual fee of \$3,600.00. (Increased by \$100.00 from last year)

Building and Grounds

Mr. Metz

1. Economy Elementary Outdoor Classroom

It is recommended to approve Economy Elementary PTA to donate the building and installation of an outdoor classroom/Gaga Ball Pit to be used for outdoor teaching, recess and school events. The donor has received no goods or services in return for this gift.

Dr. Pasquerilla thanked the PTA for their services and willingness to give our students the opportunity to enjoy this. This is the second Ball Pit they have donated.

2. Head Start of Beaver County Lease Agreement

It is recommended to approve a lease agreement for the Head Start of Beaver County Program with the effective date of June 1, 2024, and end on May 31, 2025, **pending solicitor review.**

Athletics

Mrs. Fischer

1. Wrestling Mats

It is recommended to purchase wrestling mats from Resilite The Mat Company at a total cost of \$21,688.60 through the State bidding process (Co-Stars).

Public Relations

Miss Fitsko

Steering and Rules

Mrs. Kehoe

1. Policy 249 – Anti-Bullying/Cyberbullying – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading of School Board Policy 249 – *Anti-Bullying/Cyberbullying*, and update on the first reading. Policy 249 is to provide all students and employees with the right to a safe and civil educational environment, free from harassment or bullying.

Legislative

Miss Fitsko

1. Board of School Directors of the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit (BVIU) Mail Ballot

It is recommended the 2024 mail ballot be cast for the 2024-2025 Board of School Directors of the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit. The term of the Board of School Directors of the BVIU elected by this ballot shall be for three (3) years beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2027 as provided in the School Code.

XII. President's Address

Mr. Carpenter thanked Dr. Kinol for her for her amazing gift of kindness.

Mr. Carpenter stated that he had the change to attend the high school band concert and it was dynamite, every year it gets a little better. Mr. Carpenter also recognized the Show Choir, which is run by students with the guidance of their teachers.

Mr. Carpenter was happy to announce the musical was awarded eleven Mancini nominations. Our Musical received nominations from every category. The most nominations County-Wide.

XIII. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla echoed what Mr. Carpenter had to say.

Dr. Pasquerilla had the chance to attend some of the athletic senior nights and wished our spring sports the best of luck as the finish their seasons.

XIV. Solicitor's Report

Ms. Turnbull stated that the district initiated a lawsuit against Rhodes Transit nine months ago claiming a breach of contract. The litigation has ended on the district side.

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.

Fabriola Gergerich, Ambridge, PA

- Update on Baden Academy Charter Renewal
- How many district students attend Provident
- How much did it cost the district in the Rhodes Transit Litigation?
- What is the millage rate?
- The Item to approve the ambulance service – how many times did the district use this service?
- The Item to approve Head Start – how many students attend?
- The Item to approve wrestling mats – that is a lot of money.
 - Ms. Turnbull answered questions 1-3.
 - BAC – The board took action to utilize their formal right and scheduled a hearing to give the board a chance to hear all information. The hearing has not yet been scheduled.
 - Rhodes Litigation – Rhodes did not defend of dispute so it was a small cost, not a large investment.
 - Millage– waiting for the county assessment to calculate the mileage.
 - Dr. Pasquerilla
 - Ambulance Service – Primarily at every athletic event, not used often but available. It is important to have this.

Head Start – This is a program across the county and they rent a classroom at Economy Elementary. We do not have the exact number of students yet and the number of students will come down to the number of staff.

Wrestling Mat – we would like to acknowledge our student athletes and help them to be well-rounded students in whatever program their passion is, and we need to update our equipment.

Randy Dawson, Ambridge, PA

- Does the Athletic Insurance cover cheer, band and out of state coverage.
- Mr. Dawson stated that the service fee the district pays to Medic Rescue is split with Economy Ambulance. Beaver County Emergency Services travel the entire district at no charge.
 - Michelle Amadio, Business Manager, will get the answer on the Athletic Insurance for the Board and for Mr. Dawson

Hilary Witowich, Baden PA

- Renew Baden Academy Charter

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 8:50 p.m., Mrs. Fischer moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Young. All in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. June Mueller
Board Secretary