

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, August 14, 2024.

I. Mr. Carpenter called the meeting to order at approximately 7:15 p.m.

The Meet and Discuss Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is held on Wednesday, August 14, 2024. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, August 21, 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
Mrs. Cathy Fischer
Miss Amy Fitsko
Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe
Mr. Garrett Kovacevic
Mrs. Kelly Romasco

Others Present:

Dr. Joseph W. Pasquerilla, 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, August 14th to discuss:

- Personnel matter(s)
- Matters subject to attorney-client privilege and other confidentiality laws

VI. Correspondence

No Correspondence

VII. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda

VIII. Recognition/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.

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. Professional Employee

It is recommended to approve Robert Prokopchak as an Ambridge Area High School Biology Teacher at a salary of \$48,971.00 (Step 1, Bachelor), effective August 20, 2024, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEA/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.

2. Professional Employee

It is recommended to approve Erin Wolf as an Ambridge Area Middle School ELA Teacher All Grade Levels at a salary of \$48,971.00 (Step 1, Bachelor), effective August 20, 2024, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEA/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.

3. Professional Employee

It is recommended to approve Olivia Pietropola as a State Street Elementary Fourth Grade Teacher at a salary of \$48,971.00 (Step 1, Bachelor), effective August 20, 2024, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEA/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.

4. Professional Employee

It is recommended to approve Kristina Coscarelli as a Highland Elementary School Emotional Support All Grade Levels Teacher at a salary of \$48,971.00 (Step 1, Bachelor), effective August 20, 2024, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEA/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.

5. Extended School Year Services

It is recommended to ratify Lisa Patton as a Substitute Paraprofessional for the Extended School Year services to students from Monday, July 15, 2024 through Thursday, July 18, 2024 and Monday, July 22, 2024 through Thursday, July 25, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Highland Elementary and the High School at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement.

6. Mentor Teacher

It is recommended to approve the following teacher assignments for the 2024-2025 school year, as per the collective bargaining agreement:

<u>Mentor Teacher</u>	<u>New Teacher</u>
Jamie Wellman	Alexis Patton
Amy Fedorek	Jordan Simpson
Kent Withrow	Brianna Hunt
James Litzinger	Megan Racioppo
Teri Moon-Kutzavich	Robert Prokopchak
Jamie Scafuri	Erin Wolf
Suzanne McKenzie	Olivia Pietropola
Jamie Wellman	Kristina Coscarelli
Michelle Wilson	Nicole Kelly

7. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

It is recommended the following individuals who have applied for the specified posted positions for the 2024-2025 school year be approved at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement, provided the school year allows and sponsors are able to hold activities as normal.

<u>ACTIVITY/CLUB (High School)</u>		<u>SALARY</u>
SH Pep Band	Stephen Rodgers	\$1,200.00
Tri-M Music Honor Society	Stephen Rodgers	\$ 470.00
AATV AM Announcements	Stephen Rodgers	\$ 470.00
Chess Club	Terri Moon-Kutzavich	\$ 470.00
Art Club	Jamie Orth	\$ 470.00
Bible Club	Jamie Orth	\$ 470.00
Teen Leadership Club	Kim Bogati	\$ 470.00

8. Posted Positions: Department Heads and Building Heads

It is recommended the following individuals who have applied for the specified posted positions for the 2024-2025 school year be approved at the salary designated in the negotiated agreement, pending receipt of current clearances and drug screening:

<u>DEPARTMENT HEADS</u>		<u>SALARY</u>
<u>Secondary:</u>		
Science	Terri Moon-Kutzavich	\$1,365.00

Social Studies	Chris Yannessa	\$1,365.00
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9. Retirement

It is recommended to ratify the resignation due to the retirement of Greg Helsel from his position as an Ambridge Area High School English Teacher, effective August 13, 2024, with regret.

10. Resignation

It is recommended to ratify the resignation of Nicole Darroch from her position as an Elementary STEAM Teacher All Buildings, effective June 28, 2024, with regret. The District reserves the right to retain the employee for the sixty (60) days statutory period or until relieved of duties, whichever occurs first.

11. Resignation

It is recommended to ratify the resignation of Madison Byers from her position as an Ambridge Area High School Learning Support/Emotional Support/Autistic Support/Life Skills/Transition/Special Education Teacher, effective August 12, 2024, with regret. The District reserves the right to retain the employee for the sixty (60) days statutory period or until relieved of duties, whichever occurs first.

12. Resignation

It is recommended to accept the resignation of Joseph Lamenza from his position as the Ambridge Area High School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, effective September 30, 2024 or until relieved of duties, whichever occurs first, with regret.

13. Resignation

It is recommended to ratify the resignation of Stella Condit from her position as a four (4) hour union kitchen worker at Highland Elementary, effective July 3, 2024, with regret.

14. Part-Time Secretary

It is recommended to ratify the approval of Stella Condit as the Economy Elementary School Part-Time Secretary, effective August 5, 2024 as per the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association – ESPA/PSEA-NEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

15. 2024-2025 Fall/Winter Coaches

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

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|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1) <u>Football</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Austin Ludovici, MS Football Coach | \$3,350.00 |

- b) Dalton Janicki, MS Volunteer Coach No Remuneration
- 2) Boys’ Soccer
 - a) Johnathan Miller, Volunteer Coach No Remuneration
- 3) Girls’ Basketball
 - a) Savannah Fischer, Assistant Coach \$2,410.00

16. 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:

Gianna Sinatra, effective July 21, 2024

Miss Fitsko moved to approve items 1-16, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous with Mrs. Fischer abstaining from item 15. 3) a).

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)

Education and Technology

Mrs. Romasco

1. Adagio Health (AHI) Memorandum of Understanding – PowerUp

It is recommended to approve an MOU between the Ambridge Area School District and Adagio Health to implement the PowerUp Eat Right Nutrition Education Program.

2. WIDA Virtual Conference

It is recommended Sarah White attend the virtual WIDA Conference from October 16 – October 18, 2024. The registration will be paid as per Board Policy 431, Job Related Expenses. The total cost will be approximately \$225.00.

3. Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit (BVIU) Title I Agreement

It is recommended to approve a Service Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit. The BVIU will provide Title I reading services.

4. Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) Title I Agreement

It is recommended to approve a Service Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. The AIU will provide Title I reading services.

5. Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV Nonpublic School Title Services (MIU IV) Title I Agreement

It is recommended to approve a Service Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV. The MIU IV will provide Title I reading services.

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 \$1,444,526.07 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,121,946.43 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$31,230.02 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$15,719.32 be paid.

3. Disposal of Textbooks at Ambridge Area Middle School

It is recommended to dispose of unusable textbooks with copyright dates of 2018 (see Appendix A), which are no longer used in the District curriculum at the Middle School, as per Board Policy 706-1 - *Disposal of Surplus Property and Obsolete Equipment*.

Appendix A

4. Grant Acceptance

It is recommended to accept the following Fresh Fruit and Vegetable grants from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of Food and Nutrition. This award is to provide free fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the school day. Leigh Anne Holman and the Food Service Group were instrumental in securing the grants.

- a) Total amount of \$20,262.00, awarded to Highland Elementary School.
- b) Total amount of \$16,500.00, awarded to State Street Elementary School.

Building and Grounds**Mr. Metz**1. State Street Freezer

It is recommended to ratify a quote from Richard Refrigeration, LLC to replace the freezer at State Street Elementary cafeteria at a total cost of \$10,321.00 through the State contract pricing (Co-Stars).

2. Crossing Guards

It is recommended that crossing guards be placed at locations throughout the Ambridge Area School District for the 2024-2025 school year as listed below:

10th Street and Duss Avenue
 5th Street and Duss Avenue
 8th Street and Duss Avenue
 15th Street and Church Street
 State Street and Harmony Road

Athletics**Mrs. Fischer****Public Relations****Miss Fitsko****Steering and Rules****Mrs. Kehoe**1. Policy 200 – Enrollment of Students – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading to revise School Board Policy 200 – *Enrollment of Students*, to include the requirements for advanced enrollment of children of military families.

2. Policy 202 – Eligibility of Nonresident Students – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading to revise School Board Policy 202 – *Eligibility of Nonresident Students*, to include the requirements for advanced enrollment for students experiencing educational instability.

3. Policy 217 – Graduation – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading to revise School Board Policy 217 – *Graduation*, for legal liability purposes regarding adoption and posting of graduation requirements in compliance with state law and regulations.

4. Policy 254 – Educational Opportunity for Military Children – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading to adopt School Board Policy 254 – *Educational Opportunity for Military Children* to include the requirements for advanced enrollment of military families.

Legislative**Miss Fitsko****XII. President’s Address**

Mr. Carpenter stated it was nice to see all the activities starting up and is looking forward to another great school year.

XIII. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Pasquerilla thanked all of the staff for all of their hard work preparing for the opening of another great year.

XIV. Solicitor’s Report

Ms. Turnbull stated she will be covering Professional Boundaries with the staff on opening day. Ms. Turnbull wished the district luck in the new school year.

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

- Does the district hold exit interviews
- Is there a replacement for the resignation from the position of Emotional Support Teacher
- Was there technology purchased for Kindergarten
- What safety measures are in place regarding sports and transgender students sharing the dressing rooms
 - Mr. Carpenter stated that he has been observing other school districts and the shortage of teachers and commented that now all schools are in competition for teachers nationwide. Ambridge is now competing with schools with high pay scales.
 - Mr. Carpenter also stated it is encouraging to see the number of new hires here in the district because it is hard to recruit staff.
 - Dr. Pasquerilla said that the district will be working through Prevention Network regarding emotional support until the position is filled.
 - Dr. Pasquerilla stated that the technology purchased was for replacement devices for Kindergarten.
 - Dr. Pasquerilla stated that the district will comply with all laws and regulations set forth by the government regarding transgender students and follow WPIAL guidelines.
 - Ms. Turnbull added that district policies are clear about inappropriate behavior and that is taken seriously.
 - Miss Fitsko stated that she has inquired about exit interviews.
 - Miss Fitsko suggested a Google Doc form for employees exiting to give their feedback.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 7:49 p.m. Mrs. Fischer moved to adjourn, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. June Mueller

Board Secretary

Appendix A

6TH GRADE- 81 BOOKS (At least 61 - I could not get into last classroom)

Houghton Mifflin Science: Student Edition Single Volume Level 6 2008

ISBN-10: 0-618-49228-3 / 0618492283

7TH GRADE- 125 BOOKS

Glencoe Science: Level Red, Student Edition Volume Level 7 2008

ISBN-13: 9780078778063

8TH GRADE- 275 BOOKS

Glencoe Science: Level Blue, Grade 8, Student Edition (- integrated Science)

ISBN 10: 0078778107

Published by McGraw-Hill Education, 2008