

Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Voting and Non-Voting Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, October 9, 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, October 9, 2024. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Media Center.

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
 Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe
 Mr. Garrett Kovacevic
 Mrs. Kelly Romasco
 Mr. Mathew Zatchey

Others Present:

Dr. Joseph W. Pasquerilla, Superintendent
 Dr. Amy Filipowski, Assistant Superintendent
 Mrs. Michelle Amadio, Business Manager / Director of Operations
 Ms. Megan Turnbull, Solicitor
 Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary

V. Mrs. Mueller read the following Sunshine Law

The Board of School Directors held Executive Session(s) on Wednesday, October 9th to discuss:

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

VI. Correspondence

No Correspondence

VII. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda

VIII. Recognition/Presentation

Mario Leone - Ambridge Borough Manager

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.

Christina Briola, Harmony Township, AASD Teacher/Parent

- Why is the Superintendent's salary not posted in the point of information?
- Why were the Superintendent's Goals not posted on the website?
- On today's agenda there are three new teachers and one administrator being hired and their salaries were posted.
- Teachers' salary is public knowledge.

Ms. Turnbull

- It is required to add a statement to the district website whether or not the Superintendent met the requirements. The statement identifies the areas and domains that the Superintendent is evaluated on. These are annually negotiated items that are worked on and collaborated on by the School Board. The Superintendent provides proof and justification that he has done so. This is done so every year and is appropriate for his role. The salary increase is a percentage clearly stated in his contract and this information can be requested through the Right-to-Know process.

Mrs. Fischer

- Asked how many years Ms. Turnbull has been a Solicitor for our district and asked if this is how the Superintendent's evaluation and shared information has been done in years past.
- Mrs. Turnbull has been with the district going on seven years and yes, this is how it has always been done for prior Superintendents and consistent with other districts.

X. LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THIS MEETING**Education and Technology****Mrs. Romasco**1. Blue Ribbon

It is recommended that Melissa Ramer and two additional district employees (TBD) be approved to attend The 2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools Recognition Ceremony being held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC from November 7, 2024 through November 8, 2024. The ceremony will recognize Economy Elementary School as being named one of the prestigious 2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools by the United States Department of Education. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes schools that excel academically. All expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, meals) will be paid as per Board Policy 331, Job Related Expenses.

Congratulations to the Economy Elementary Staff!

2. Sunbelt Staffing, LLC Agreement

It is recommended to approve a staffing agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Sunbelt Staffing, LLC to provide contracted services with VocoVision for the provision of bilingual psychological services on an as needed basis. This is at a rate of \$130.00 per hour.

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept items 1-2, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. The 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.**

Point of Information:

The Board of School Directors assessed the Superintendent's performance and determined that he met the agreed-to performance standards for the 2023-2024 school year. His compensation for the 2024-2025 school year will be adjusted consistent with his employment agreement.

1. Coordinator of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

It is recommended to hire Meghan Watelet as the Coordinator of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment at a pro-rated annual salary of \$100,000.00, effective date to be determined, as per the terms of the Act 93 Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act168 screening, and PDE certifications if applicable.

2. Professional Employee

It is recommended to retroactively approve Nicole Feeley as an Ambridge Area High School/All Elementary Schools Health and Physical Education Teacher at a salary of \$48,971.00 (Step 1, Bachelor), effective October 9, 2024 as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEEA/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 retroactively approve Joie Dusold as an Ambridge Area High School Learning Support/Emotional Support/Autistic Support/Life Skills/Transition/Special Education Teacher at a salary of \$51,171.00 (Step 1, Master+30), effective October 8, 2024, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEEA/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 retroactively approve Michael Falgione as an Ambridge Area High School Chemistry Teacher at a salary of \$49,881.00 (Step 1, Master), effective October 7, 2024, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEEA/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. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

It is recommended the following individual who has applied for the specified posted position 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 can hold activities as normal.

<u>ACTIVITY/CLUB (Middle School)</u>		<u>SALARY</u>
Yearbook	Jordan Simpson	\$470.00

6. 2024-2025 Spring Coaches

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

<u>Softball</u>		<u>Stipend</u>
Joseph Georgakis, Volunteer Coach		No Remuneration

7. Technology Integrators

It is recommended to approve the following individual to serve as the Technology Integrator in their assigned building for the 2024-2025 school year, to be paid a stipend of \$1,200.00, as per the collective bargaining agreement:

State Street Elementary
Tim Buresh

8. ABC Transit Bus Driver/Aide

It is recommended to approve the individuals listed as operators, attendants, and maintenance for ABC Transit, Inc. for the 2024-2025 school year, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Heather Vilella, Van Driver
Jakob Clawson, Van Driver
Tonya Hayes, Van Driver
Denise Stasiowski, Van Driver
Patricia Steals, Van Driver
Barbara Schmidley, Aide

9. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify Employee #27 taking an intermittent leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave, beginning October 8, 2024, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

10. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify Employee #2381 taking an intermittent leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave, beginning September 13, 2024, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

11. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify Employee #1764 taking an intermittent leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave, beginning October 8, 2024, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

12. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Megan Fitzgerald from her position as an Ambridge Area School District Psychologist Grades K-12, effective November 25, 2024, with regret.

13. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Kristin Lucarini-Lowes from her position as a kitchen worker at State Street Elementary, effective October 11, 2024, with regret.

14. Resignation

It is recommended to ratify the resignation of Timothy Richards from his position as a Hall Monitor at the middle school effective September 21, 2024, with regret.

15. Slippery Rock University Student Teacher

It is recommended to approve Carson Gabbard, a Slippery Rock University student for student teaching at Highland Elementary for the fall semester, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening. Carson will be placed with Jennifer Shannon.

16. District Dentist

It is recommended to approve Dr. Brittany Kinol as the District Dentist for the 2024-2025 school year, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug test, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

17. 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:

Michelle Hooten – October 13, 2024

Mr. Kovacevic moved to accept items 1-17, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)**Education and Technology****Mrs. Romasco**1. Cheer Team Field Trip

It is recommended to approve the student attendance, coaches' registration fee of \$1,497.00, and application of the student discipline code for the high school varsity cheerleaders to travel to Walt Disney World to participate in the Universal Cheerleaders Association National High School Cheerleading Championship from February 6, 2025, through February 11, 2025. Reimbursement for expenses shall be governed by Board Policy 240 - Student Contests/Competitions and conditioned on attendance and event participation. 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.

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 \$1,801,228.11 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,287,031.84 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$111,409.00 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$ 52,416.85 be paid.

3. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve the Borough of Ambridge's request dated August 6, 2024, to exonerate delinquent 2024 school taxes pursuant to the Pennsylvania Property Donation Statute for the following tax parcels, with the condition that should either property sell in the future to a non-tax exempt entity, a pro-rata share of the proceeds will be remitted to the District, less the Borough's direct costs of acquisition.

- a) Tax Parcel 12-006-0101-010, 0 Merchant Street, Ambridge, PA
- b) Tax Parcel 12-006-0101-002, 1401 New Economy Drive, Ambridge, PA

4. Repository Settlement

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

- a) Tax Parcel 09.002.0211.000, 308 Park Road, Ambridge, PA for the bid amount of \$212.00 to be purchased by Ambridge Borough.
- b) Tax Parcel 09.002.0718.000, 407 Melrose Avenue, Ambridge, PA for the bid amount of \$158.80 to be purchased by Ambridge Borough.
- c) Tax Parcel 10.003.0321.000, 511 Glenwood Avenue, Ambridge, PA for the bid amount of \$153.60 to be purchased by Ambridge Borough.
- d) Tax Parcel 10.003.0318.000, 505 Glenwood Avenue, Ambridge, PA for the bid amount of \$387.05 to be purchased by Ambridge Borough.
- e) Tax Parcel 09.005.0706.000, 4 Glenwood Drive Rear, Ambridge, PA for the bid amount of \$186.00 to be purchased by Ambridge Borough.

Building and Grounds**Mr. Metz**1. Snowplow

It is recommended to accept the proposal from Meiters LLC, to purchase and install a snowplow on a district truck. This is at a total cost of \$9,760.00. The district obtained two quotes and this was the lowest bidder.

2. NRG/Direct Energy for Natural Gas

It is recommended to approve a three-year contract extension between the Ambridge Area School District and NRG/Direct Energy for Natural Gas on the Columbia Gas System to commence on September 1, 2025. The Western Pennsylvania Natural Gas Consortium Committee recommended the contract extension. This is a no increase in cost.

Athletics

Mrs. Fischer

Public Relations

Miss Fitsko

Steering and Rules

Mrs. Kehoe

Legislative

Miss Fitsko

XII. President’s Address

Mr. Carpenter congratulated Economy Elementary on an outstanding achievement!

XIII. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated Economy Elementary, the Board will recognize Economy Elementary at next week’s scheduled Board meeting. I am proud of the staff, students, parents, and community.

As the fall season ends, congratulations to all of the athletics and arts. Congratulations to the coaches and staff for a great season.

XIV. Solicitor’s Report

Ms. Turnbull will be attending the PSBA Solicitors Association’s annual conference at Kalahari Resorts & Convention Center on Monday, October 7th to represent Beaver County and the surrounding county and will share materials with the Board.

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.

Ian McDowell, Ambridge Pa

- Asked if the Board approves and creates the Superintendent’s standards.
- Why did the Board vote to renew the Superintendent’s contract during the summer months?
- When will the busing be fixed?
- When will the district compensate parents due to transportation issues?

Ms. Turnbull

- Each Board member collaborates.

Mr. Carpenter

- Asked Ms. Turnbull if there was any issue with the timing of the renewal? Ms. Turnbull responded that all Sunshine Laws were met that a letter was sent to all Board members in advance of notice and that there was a public notice as well.

Dr. Pasquerilla

- Asked Kristen the VP of ABC Transit to speak on the progress of hiring bus/van drivers.

Kristen Anthony, VP of ABC Transit

- We are making significant progress in hiring
- Hired an additional CDL driver.
- 2 candidates passed all clearances and will move to the next step.
- 4 drivers will start next week.
- New classes offered for van drivers to move up to bus drivers.
- Getting van drivers hired lets the current van drivers move up to bus drivers.
- There has been a change in staffing which will now allow for focus on individual items.
- The goal is to make progress moving forward.
- We have room for improvement.
- We are working to eliminate double back bus runs.
- Increased sign-on bonus.
- If a PTA/PTO member refers someone to the company, the organization will receive money to use as they please. So far, we have not had referrals from the PTA/PTO groups.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 8:25 p.m., Mrs. Fischer moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Kehoe. All in favor.