

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, November 13, 2024.

I. Ms. Young 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, November 13, 2024. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

II. Ms. Young asked all present to rise for the Flag salute.

III. Ms. Young 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. William Metz, Vice President
Ms. Valerie Young, Treasurer
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, November 13th to discuss:

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

VI. Correspondence

No Correspondence

VII. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda

No amendments.

VIII. Recognition/Presentation

Welcome Coordinator of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment – Meghan Watelet

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 Devinney, Economy Borough

- Asked the Board have discussions on the following polices listed on the agenda: 233, 805, 805.1, and 805.2

X. LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THIS MEETING**Education and Technology**

Mrs. Romasco

1. Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (PASBO)

It is recommended to ratify the approval of Michelle Amadio, the District Business Manager and Director of Operations to attend the PASBO Business Manager Boot Camp held in Harrisburg, PA November 5 through November 7, 2024. This is designed for business managers to develop and support leaders in school business operations. All expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, meals) will be paid as per Board Policy 331, Job-Related Expenses. The approximate cost will be \$1,000.00.

2. Mission Vision

It is recommended to rescind the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Ambridge Area School District and Vision to Learn, approved at the June 19, 2024 Board Meeting, due to lack of funding for the non-profit group. It is further recommended to approve Mission Vision, an organization that will provide free vision screenings and glasses to students who need them but cannot afford them. The district does not incur any expense or liability.

Mrs. Fischer moved to approve items 1-2, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

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 hire Jason Ash as an Ambridge Area Middle School Learning and Emotional Support Teacher All Grades at a salary of \$49,881.00 (Step 1, Master), December 3, 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.

2. Professional Employee

It is recommended to hire Kelly Hartley as an Ambridge Area Middle School Learning Support and Emotional Support Teacher All Grades at a salary of \$49,881.00 (Step 1, Master), effective November 18, 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 hire Madison Linck as a Highland Elementary PreK Teacher at a salary of \$48,971.00 (Step 1, Bachelor), effective November 6, 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. Maintenance Worker

It is recommended to retroactively hire Steven Lavery as a Full-Time Maintenance Worker at Highland Elementary as per the terms of the Local 248 Ambridge Area School Employees, AFSCME – AFL – CIO negotiated agreement, effective November 6, 2024, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

5. Food Service Worker

It is recommended to retroactively hire the following individuals as Food Service Workers as per the terms of the collective bargaining agreement, effective November 4, 2024, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Cherylann Mattioli, High School

Breanna Kress, Middle School

Jasmine Marchesin, Economy Elementary

6. 2024-2025 Fall/Winter/Spring Coaches

It is recommended the following individual be approved to fill the designated 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.

1. <u>Boys' Soccer</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Don Ayers, Middle School Coach	\$2,050.00
b) Gianna Sinatra, Middle School Coach	\$1,350.00
2. <u>Girls' Soccer</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Gianna Sinatra, Middle School Coach	\$2,050.00
b) Don Ayers, Middle School Coach	\$1,350.00
3. <u>Girls' Volleyball</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Megan Fitzgerald, Assistant Coach	\$2,400.00
4. <u>Cheerleader</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Jenn Phillips, Head Coach	\$4,300.00
b) Amanda Palshaw, JV Coach	\$1,950.00
c) Emily O'Malley, Middle School Coach	\$1,350.00
5. <u>Wrestling</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Ron Wilson, Assistant Coach	\$2,400.00
b) Ron Wilson, Middle School Coach	\$1,850.00
c) Larry Knopsnyder, Middle School Coach	\$1,350.00
6. <u>Girls' Basketball</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) James Barton, Assistant Coach	\$2,410.00
b) Craig Wiltrek, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
7. <u>Boys' Basketball</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Lisa Fox, Assistant Coach	\$2,410.00
b) Craig Wiltrek, Middle School Coach	\$1,750.00
c) Marlon Kittrell, Middle School Coach	\$1,750.00
d) Austin Ludovici, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration

7. FMLA

It is recommended to approve Employee #464 taking an intermittent leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave, beginning October 8, 2024, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

8. FMLA

It is recommended to approve Employee #702 taking an intermittent leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave, beginning October 28, 2024, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

9. FMLA

It is recommended to approve Employee #734 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave, beginning January 6, 2025, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

10. FMLA

It is recommended to approve Employee #3003 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 335, Family and Medical Leave, beginning September 24, 2024, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

11. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

It is recommended the following individuals who have 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>
Bowling	Jennifer Bohrer	\$750.00
	George Bellinger, Volunteer	No Remuneration
Club Hope	Christeen Ceratti, Co-Sponsor	\$235.00
	Brad Olenic, Co-Sponsor	\$235.00

12. Resignation

It is recommended to accept the resignation of Abbey Ishida from her position of Ambridge Area Middle School Learning Support and Emotional Support All Grades, effective November 8, 2024, with regret.

13. Resignation

It is recommended to accept the resignation of Sayra Frausto-Marquez from her position of Paraprofessional at Highland Elementary, effective October 21, 2024, with regret.

14. 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.

- Ethel Burson, Van Driver and Aide
- Michael Kummer, Van Driver and Aide
- Denise Robinson, Van Driver
- Judith Woodring, Charter Driver
- Osman Award, Van Driver
- Agnes Miller, Van Driver
- Lori Mason, Van Driver

15. Geneva College Student Teacher

It is recommended to approve Deja Debelak, a Geneva College student for student teaching at the middle school for the spring semester, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening. Deja will be placed with Amy Fedorek.

16. Mentor Teacher

It is recommended to rescind Jeff Modrovich as the mentor teacher for Nicole Feeley and approve Jennifer Sirianni as the mentor teacher for Nicole Feeley.

Mrs. Fischer moved to approve items 1-16, seconded by Mrs. Romasco. Mr. Zatchey voted against item 6. Coaches / Wrestling a.) and b.). Mr. Kovacevic voted against items 1-16.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)**Education and Technology****Mrs. Romasco**1. Ambridge Area High School Course Selection

It is recommended to approve the 2025-2026 Ambridge Area High School Course Selection Book.

2. Ambridge Area Middle School Course Selection

It is recommended to approve the 2025-2026 Ambridge Area Middle School Course Selection Book.

3. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ambridge Area School District and Western PA Psych Care to provide prevention, assessment, and treatment services to district students.

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 \$4,063,844.10 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,316,899.91 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$115,861.75 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$58,994.19 be paid.

Building and Grounds**Mr. Metz****Athletics****Mrs. Fischer**1. W.P.I.A.L

It is recommended to approve Marena Baker to represent the Ambridge Area School District as an independent/individual W.P.I.A.L gymnast. The Board further authorized Terri Gazda to serve as her sponsor/coach at all practices and meets.

Public Relations**Miss Fitsko****Steering and Rules****Mrs. Kehoe**1. Reorganization Meeting

It is recommended the Reorganization Meeting be scheduled on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

2. December Board Meeting

It is recommended the monthly Meet and Discuss Meeting and Board Meeting be scheduled on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, immediately following the Reorganization meeting.

3. Policy 103 – Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading to revise Policy 103 – *Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students* to provide updated definitions for sex, religious creed, and race.

4. Policy 104 – Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading to revise Policy 104 – *Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff* to provide updated definitions for sex, religious creed, and race.

5. Policy 233 – Suspension and Expulsion – First Reading

It is recommended, as the first reading to revise School Board Policy 233 – *Suspension and Expulsion* to make revisions to the compulsory school age regarding attendance/school work after expulsion.

6. Policy 803 – School Calendar – First Reading

It is recommended, as the first reading to update School Board Policy 803 – *School Calendar* to address the alteration of the school calendar in cases of emergency to reflect the current School Code provisions.

7. Policy 805 – *Emergency Preparedness and Response* – First Reading

It is recommended, as the first reading to revise School Board Policy 805 – *Emergency Preparedness and Response* to update policy language addressing law enforcement agencies to reflect the current School Code terminology.

8. Policy 805.1 – *Relations with Law Enforcement* – First Reading

It is recommended, as the first reading to update School Board Policy 805.1 – *Relations with Law Enforcement* to update policy language and legal citations to reflect the current School Code provisions addressing school safety and security incident reporting and coordination with law enforcement agencies.

9. Policy 805.2 – *School Security Personnel* – First Reading

It is recommended, as the first reading to update School Board Policy 805.2 – *School Security Personnel* to update language addressing the training requirements for the School Safety and Security Coordinator and terminology related to incident reporting to law enforcement and PDE was updated in accordance with current School Code provisions.

10. Policy 806 – *Child Abuse* – First Reading

It is recommended, as the first reading to update School Board Policy 806 – *Child Abuse* to update the language on reporting to law enforcement to reflect the current School Code provisions.

11. Policy 819 – *Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response* – First Reading

It is recommended, as the first reading to revise School Board Policy 819 – *Suicide Awareness, Prevention, and Responses* to address the correlation between threat assessment teams and crisis response/intervention teams when addressing suicide prevention and response and to reflect current terminology.

12. Policy 903 – *Public Comment in Board Meetings* – First Reading

It is recommended, as the first reading to revise School Board Policy 903 – *Public Comment* to change the title from Public Participation in Board Meetings to Public Comment in Board Meetings to focus on the purpose of the Sunshine Act requirement for residents and taxpayers to be provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on matters of concern.

13. Policy 904 – *Public Attendance at School Events* – First Reading

It is recommended, as the first reading to update School Board Policy 904 – *Public Attendance at School Events* to update the language on reporting to law enforcement to reflect the current School Code provisions.

Legislative

Miss Fitsko

XII. President's Address**XIII. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Pasquerilla stated the middle school incident is now a police investigation and the safety and security is of the outmost importance.

Dr. Pasquerilla thanked Missy Ramer and Dr. Filipowski for accepting the Blue Ribbon School Award Ceremony in Washing D.C. The award will be on display at Economy Elementary School.

XIV. Solicitor's Report**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.

Rodger Kowal, Economy

- Coaches being hired – are there enough student-athletes to participate in all of these sports? Has the district thought about co-ops with other school districts?
- How did a weapon get into the middle school?
- Will it be safe for students to come back into the school?
 - Dr. Pasquerilla
 - Extracurricular activities are always important and we have encouraged students to join.
 - Our programs have been building
 - We have a co-op with Hopewell SD for our tennis teams.

Daniel Ricci, Ambridge

- Has a daughter in 7th grade
- Daughter is terrified to go back to school
- How did the detector not detect the weapon
 - Ms. Gannon stated that the district takes threats seriously and is wholeheartedly concerned with the students'/staff safety and that this is now an ongoing police investigation and, therefore cannot be discussed with the public.

Dave Zoranic

- Firefighter
- District policy failed or the policy wasn't followed
- Someone needs to be held accountable.
 - Mrs. Fischer
 - We all have children in the district and we are all concerns
 - We will share more information on this incident when we can we will do everything and anything to keep our schools safe.

Judi Walls, Ambridge

- What will the district do different tomorrow to keep the students safe?
- We need to teacher the children to say when something is wrong and report this.

Brittney Moreland, Baden

- Not point in having metal detectors if they are not used and policy is not followed through.

Isac Colits, Baden

- Security breach
- Students see it failed
- Breach of trust
- Students and parents have no truck
- We need specifics as to what the district will do going forward
 - Mrs. Fischer
 - Suggested having an assembly with counselors on hand
 - Asked Dr. Pasquerilla to reach out to staff and students

Dennis Tierney

- Did not receive a phone call
- When the email was sent to the teachers stating they were in lockdown why didn't the parents know?
- How did a weapon get into the school?

Christina Briola Teacher/Parent

- Concerned with students/staff coming back into the buildings
- Concerned for colleges
- What will we do tomorrow that we did not do today?

Kristan Kelley, Ambridge

- What can be implemented so that students can feel safe?
- What is the plan going forward?

Dr. Pasquerilla

- We received a Stronger Connections Grant, which helped us to facilitate Rachel's Challenge.
- We have been implementing this program through the building levels.
- We have been promoting our programs, clubs, arts, and sports so that all students can feel welcomed.

Glenn Sylvester, Economy

- I want to hear what will make it different tomorrow – I want to hear an answer.
- Each and every day use resources to make it safer.
- Utilize morning check-ins.
- Encourage students to report incidents.
- Use all staff for check-ins and continue checking throughout the school day.
- Do better than today.
- Learn from what occurred and continue to make improvements.

- Collaborate with the police.
- Use programs.
- Improve the weaknesses
- Create relationships with the police.

Katie Morgan, Ambridge

- Does the district have safety committees?
 - Dr. Pasquerilla
 - Yes, we have building, and district level safety committees.
 - I act as the Interim Safety Coordinator.
 - We hold monthly meetings with the Chief of Police, SROs and staff.
 - I met with the Principal before the Board meeting and will meet with the Principal after the Board meeting.
 - I will do everything in my ability to keep our students safe

Mr. Metz

- Feels the administration should consider a virtual day tomorrow for staff and students.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 8:20 p.m., Mrs. Fischer moved to adjourn, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. June Mueller
Board Secretary