

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, December 4, 2024.

I. Mr. Carpenter called the meeting to order immediately following the Reorganization Meeting at approximately 6:45 p.m.

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District Board of Directors on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, is now called to order.

II. 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.

III. Roll Call

- Mr. John Carpenter, President
- Ms. Valerie Young, Vice President
- Mr. Garrett Kovacevic, Treasurer
- Mrs. Cathy Fischer
- Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe
- Miss Amy Fitsko
- 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

IV. Mrs. Mueller read the Sunshine Law

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, December 4th to discuss:

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

V. Correspondence

No Correspondence

VI. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, November 13th Meet and Discuss Meeting Voting and Non-Voting and Wednesday, November 20th Board Meeting.

Miss Fitsko moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. All in favor.

VII. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda

Amended item 3 under Finance and Budget to read approval of a one-year extension.

Mrs. Romasco moved to approve the amendment, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

VIII. Recognition/Presentation

SciYinz Squad Chain Reaction Competition

Students in the Ambridge Area Middle School attended the SciYinz Squad Chain Reaction Competition at the Carnegie Science Center on Thursday, November 21, 2024. It allowed students in middle school the opportunity to design, build, test, and showcase contraptions and compete with other middle schools.

Earned 2nd Place Team, 8th Grade TEAM 1

- Sidney Fabian
- Rulon Andrews
- Tyler Wolf
- Rylan Wolf
- Brandon Patton

Earned Most Creative Theme, 7th Grade TEAM 13

- Alice Smedley
- Isabella Dellach
- Jayda Palmer
- Mikennly Johnson
- Kendall Hare

Congratulations to these students!

Students of the Month

***Please Note: If students are unable to attend, they will have the opportunity to be recognized in January.**

High School November Students of the Month

- Mara Ilko, 12th Grade
- Janna Rusnak, 11th Grade
- Charles Stefanik, 10th Grade
- Sana Haidasse, 9th Grade

High School November Effort Awards

- Alizabeth Bohrer, 12th Grade
- Logan Szymoniak, 11th Grade
- Isabella Rivera, 10th Grade
- Evan Antolic, 9th Grade

Middle School November Students of the Month

Emma Pinchot, 8th Grade
Isabella Dellach, 7th Grade
Elise Young, 6th Grade

Economy Elementary November Student of the Month

Josh Maddox, 5th Grade

Highland Elementary November Student of the Month

Xander Turner, 5th Grade

State Street Elementary November Student of the Month

Martin Kirsch, 5th Grade

November Employees of the Month

High School Employee of the Month

Nicole Connolly, Social Studies Teacher

Middle School Employee of the Month

Heidi Bober, Special Education Teacher

Economy Elementary

Carrie Malinich, Intervention Teacher

State Street Elementary

Suzanne McKenzie, 4th Grade and Science Teacher

Highland Elementary

Katherine Kuczma, Building Secretary

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 Comments

IX. Committee Reports**Education and Technology****Mrs. Kelly Romasco**1. Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officers (PASBO)

It is recommended Michelle Amadio, the District Business Manager and Director of Operations be approved to attend the PASBO Annual Conference and Exhibits being held at the Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA March 11 – 14, 2025. The purpose of this conference is to provide members with education, training, professional development, and timely access to legislative and policy news. All expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, meals) will be paid as per Board Policy 331, Job Related Expenses. The approximate cost will be \$1,157.13.

2. Student Discipline 2024-2025-01

It is recommended to approve the discipline agreement for student #300524 relevant to a Middle School student, effective November 14, 2024.

Mrs. Romasco moved to approve items 1-2, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Finance and Budget**Mr. Matthew Zatchey**1. School District Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly school district bills in the amount of \$1,607,613.65 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,401,577.89 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$59,625.88 be paid.

3. NRG/Direct Energy for Electric

It is recommended to approve a one-year contract extension between the Ambridge Area School District and NRG/Direct Energy for Electricity with Duquesne Light to commence on December 1, 2024. Cost is based on the current market.

Mr. Zatchey moved to approve items 1-3, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Building and Grounds**Mr. William Metz**1. District Truck Repairs

It is recommended to retroactively approve the payment of an invoice from Schafers Service Inc. for annual inspection and necessary repair work done on a district truck in the total amount of \$4,870.18.

Miss Fitsko moved to accept item 1, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. Mr. Zatchey voted against item 1.

Athletics

Mrs. Cathleen Fisher

Public Relations

Miss Amy Fitsko

**Point of Information - Holiday Needs for our District Families
Ambridge Area High School:**

Nico Caprini Senior Project

- Canned Goods
- Lunch Items
- Snacks
- Breakfast items to Supplement
- Any other Dried Holiday Food Items

Contact Christina Briola at cbriola@ambridge.k12.pa.us

Holiday Meals

- 10 Holiday Hams
- Milk
- Vegetables
- Bread/ rolls
- Eggs
- Milk
- Vegetables
- Fresh Fruit
- Any other Perishable Holiday Food Items
- Monetary Donation are also accepted

Contact Leigh Anne Holman at leighanne.holman@ambridge.k12.pa.us

- ***Donation Start Date: December 3, 2024***
- ***Donation Deadline: December 17, 2024***
- ***Distribution Date: December 18, 2024***

Steering and Rules

Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe

1. Policy 103 – Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students – Third and Final Reading

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

2. Policy 104 – Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff – Third and Final Reading

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

3. Policy 233 – Suspension and Expulsion – Third and Final Reading

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

4. Policy 803 – School Calendar – Third and Final Reading

It is recommended, as the third and final 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.

5. Policy 805 – Emergency Preparedness and Response – Third and Final Reading

It is recommended, as the third and final 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.

6. Policy 805.1 – Relations with Law Enforcement – Third and Final Reading

It is recommended, as the third and final 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.

7. Policy 805.2 – School Security Personnel – Third and Final Reading

It is recommended, as the third and final 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.

8. Policy 806 – Child Abuse – Third and Final Reading

It is recommended, as the third and final 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.

9. Policy 819 – Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response – Third and Final Reading

It is recommended, as the third and final 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.

10. Policy 903 – Public Comment in Board Meetings – Third and Final Reading

It is recommended, as the third and final 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.

11. Policy 904 – Public Attendance at School Events – Third and Final Reading

It is recommended, as the third and final 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.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to approve items 1-11, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Legislative

Miss Amy Fitsko

Salary Schedule and Labor Relations

Mr. Garret Kovacevic

Personnel

Mrs. Valerie Scott

***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. Slippery Rock University Student Teachers

It is recommended that the following Slippery Rock University student be approved for student teaching for the spring semester, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening and TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Meadow Conley to be placed with Susan Parisi

2. Mentor Teacher

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

Mentor Teacher

Patty Weale
Lauren Metz
Dawn Gonzalez

New Teacher

Jason Ash
Kelly Hartley
Madison Linck

3. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #2579 be approved for an intermittent leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave, beginning November 26, 2024, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

4. 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.

Dana May, Van Driver
Jalen Tigner, Van Driver

5. Retirement

It is recommended to accept the resignation of Linda Hunt, due to her retirement from the position of a custodian at Economy Elementary, effective December 31, 2024, with regret.

Mrs. Romasco moved to approve items 1-5, seconded by Mrs. Kehoe. The vote in favor was unanimous.

X. President's Report

Mr. Carpenter – Appreciates all and is confident that all are here doing their best for the community students and staff. Looking forward to working together.

XI. Solicitor's Report

Ms. Turnbull – Best wishes to the Ambridge community and families through the holidays.

XII. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla – To all that were recognized this evening, thank you for making us proud. Wishing the staff, students, and community a Happy Holiday!

XIII. 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.

Shaun Duguay, Ambridge

- Questioned Policies 6-9 under Steering and Rules
- Concerns with staff and the way they treat students.
- Staff lack constructive communication.
- Accountability should be the same for staff as it is for students.
- Would like a breakdown of the expenditures from the Stronger Connections Grant.

➤ Ms. Turnbull

- ✓ The policies are being updated by the school code.
- Dr. Pasquerilla
 - ✓ The Stronger Connection Grant funds were used for scanners, Rachel's Challenge Program, and extended the term of an elementary Guidance Counselor.

XIV. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 7:35 p.m., Miss Fitsko motioned to adjourn, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary