

**Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Media Center on Wednesday, March 20, 2024.**

**I. Mr. Carpenter Called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.**

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District Board of Directors on Wednesday March 20, 2024 is now called to order.

**II. Mr. Carpenter asked the Highland Elementary Student Council to lead us in the Flag salute-please rise**

**III. Student Council Report- Highland Elementary School**

Timothy Bruno  
Olivia McGarvey  
Aleeah Barkfelt  
Ritaj Rizki  
Ian Fusco  
Robin Mayo

**IV. 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.

**V. Roll Call**

Mr. John Carpenter, President  
Mr. Matthew Zatchey, Treasurer  
Mrs. Cathy Fischer  
Miss Amy Fitsko  
Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe  
Mrs. Kelly Romasco  
Mr. Garrett Kovacevic  
Ms. Valerie Young

Others Present:

Dr. Joseph W. Pasquerilla, Superintendent  
Mr. Barry J. King, Assistant to the Superintendent  
Mrs. Michelle Amadio, Business Manager / Director of Operations  
Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary

**VI. Mrs. Mueller read the following Sunshine Law:**

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss:

- Personnel matter(s)
- Litigation or threatened litigation matters
- Sensitive public safety issues

**VII. Correspondence**

No Correspondence

**VIII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> Meet and Discuss Meeting Voting and Non-Voting and Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting.**

Mrs. Fischer moved to accept the February 14<sup>th</sup> minutes, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

Mrs. Romasco moved to accept the February 21<sup>st</sup> minutes, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

**IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda**

No amendment/addendum

**X. Recognition/Presentation**

**Students of the Month**

**High School February Students of the Month**

- Brianna Smith, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Savanna Jones, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Jayda Lorenc, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Natalie Korol, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

**High School February Effort Awards**

- William Townsend, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Anthony Fultz, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Sebastain Maseth, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Samuel Cooper, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Middle School February Students of the Month**

- Peyton Freehling, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Angel Amaya Vigil, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Brinley Raymer, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Economy Elementary February Student of the Month**

- Avery Brodmerkel, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Highland Elementary February Student of the Month**

Mark Smith, Kindergarten

**State Street Elementary February Student of the Month**

Qyidaar Knox, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**February Employees of the Month**

**High School Employee of the Month**

Ryan Harbison, Helpdesk

**Middle School Employee of the Month**

Stuart Rusnak, School Nurse

**Economy Elementary**

Sean Beighley, Fourth Grade Teacher

**State Street Elementary**

Amy Hoback, Third Grade Teacher

**Highland Elementary**

Shana Dowlin, STEAM Teacher

**Art Work Selection for Lyla in the Loop TV Show**

Harper Mott, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

Recognized for contributing Artwork for the Production Lyla in the Loop. Her artwork will be seen on the show, Lyla in the Loop, on PBSKids.org starting February 5<sup>th</sup>.

**2024 PA TSA Region 1 Conference**

The Technology Education department is pleased to announce the results from the 2024 PA TSA Region 1 Conference, which was held on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Blackhawk High School, Beaver Falls, PA.

Twenty members of the local *Ambridge Area High School Chapter of the Technology Student Association (TSA)*, competing against over 200 students from eight local schools, captured fifty-six individual and team awards. They are now eligible to compete against hundreds of students at our State Conference that will be held at Seven Springs Resort on April 17-20, 2024.

**Biotechnology Design**

1<sup>st</sup> Abby Smith, Janna Rusnak, Logan Szymoniak, Makenzie Majercik, Hannah Larimore, Kade McGovern

**Board Game Design**

3<sup>rd</sup> Cody Roper, Kade McGovern, Jonathan Cermak, Mara Ilko, Camden Mawhinney  
5<sup>th</sup> Jayda Lorenc, Nyahna Collins, Janna Rusnak, Hannah Larimore, Kaitlyn Desrochers

**Children's Stories**

4<sup>th</sup> Makenzie Majercik, Natajha Alexander, Ryen Reichart, Hannah Larimore

**CAD Engineering**

7<sup>th</sup> Cody Roper

**Dragster Design**

2<sup>nd</sup> Janna Rusnak

4<sup>th</sup> Tyler Rambo

5<sup>th</sup> Logan Szymoniak

6<sup>th</sup> Kaitlyn Desrochers

8<sup>th</sup> Abby Smith

**Structural Design**

2<sup>nd</sup> Kaitlyn Desrochers, Axton Denny

3<sup>rd</sup> Jayda Lorenc, Kade McGovern

6<sup>th</sup> Tyler Rambo, Conner Brenner

**Systems Control Technology**

3<sup>rd</sup> Nyahna Collins, Kaitlyn Desrochers, Jayda Lorenc

**Technology Problem Solving**

9<sup>th</sup> Jayda Lorenc, Kade McGovern

**PA Logo Design**

1<sup>st</sup> Makenzie Majercik

**Dragster Design Cont.**

10<sup>th</sup> Hannah Larimore

11<sup>th</sup> Cody Roper

13<sup>th</sup> Camden Mawhinney

**Extemporaneous Presentation**

5<sup>th</sup> Madelyn Palmer

**Music Production**

1<sup>st</sup> Mara Ilko, Jonathan Cermak, Camden Mawhinney

**On Demand Video**

1<sup>st</sup> Abby Smith, Janna Rusnak, Logan Szymoniak, Makenzie Majercik

3<sup>rd</sup> Natajha Alexander, Ryen Reichart, Nyahna Collins, Hannah Larimore

**Photographic Technology**

2<sup>nd</sup> Makenzie Majercik

5<sup>th</sup> Natajha Alexander

**Chapter Team – Written**

1<sup>st</sup> Camden Mawhinney

3<sup>th</sup> Cody Roper

- 4<sup>th</sup> Abby Smith
- 5<sup>th</sup> Mara Ilko
- 6<sup>th</sup> Hannah Larimore
- 7<sup>th</sup> Janna Rusnak
- 8<sup>th</sup> Logan Szymoniak

**Forensic Science – Written**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Madelyn Palmer
- 11<sup>th</sup> Abby Smith
- 13<sup>th</sup> Ryen Reichart

**Mr. Benjamin Holmes, Mrs. Pamela Green, Mr. Zachary Dugan and Mrs. Kristin Holmes** served as **Co-advisors** for the Ambridge Area High School Chapter of TSA at the conference.

**MS TSA Region 1 2024 Results**

Eleven members of the local *Ambridge Area Middle School Chapter of the Technology Student Association (TSA)*, competing against over 100 students from six local schools captured nineteen individual and team awards. They are now eligible to compete against hundreds of students at our State Conference that will be held at Seven Springs Resort on April 17-20, 2024.

Please congratulate the following members for their accomplishments:

**Challenging Tech Issues**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Isla Ozenich, Oliver Ozenich
- 5<sup>th</sup> Chase Powers-Brown, Christian Roberts
- 6<sup>th</sup> Lendale Ruckert, Gabe Bader

**Problem Solving**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Evie Bogati, Jayde Palmer
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Chase Powers-Brown, Gabe Bader

**CO2 Dragster**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Chase Freyermuth
- 5<sup>th</sup> Gabe Bader
- 6<sup>th</sup> Chase Powers-Brown

**Coding – Written**

- 9<sup>th</sup> Hayden Giles
- 10<sup>th</sup> Drayden Hertnecky

**Forensic Technology - Written**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Isla Ozenich

**Technology Bowl - Written**

- 8<sup>th</sup> Oliver Ozenich
- 9<sup>th</sup> Jayda Palmer

12<sup>th</sup> Christian Roberts

**Mr. Scott Setzenfand** served as **Advisor** with **Mrs. Shana Dowlin** assisting the Ambridge Area Middle School Chapter of TSA at the conference.

**Future Business Leaders of America Regional Leadership Conference**

Jason DeSantis – 5<sup>th</sup> in Computer Solving

**FLAG Program**

Samantha Patton - For participating in the FLAG program and now will be eligible to take the FAA 107 test to receive her drone pilot license.

**Ambridge Youth Basketball**

**IN-HOUSE PROGRAM**

Ethan Meyer  
Paul Hazelwood  
Adam Thear  
Kayden Gazda  
Jaislynn Banks  
Logan Zurbach  
Owen Smedley  
Zachary Meyer  
Zayveon Aspiotes  
Kai Coups  
Isaac DeLuigi  
Ace Crumb  
Justin Hysong  
Alivia Hysong  
Xavier Hill  
Kaiden Lee  
Hassan Jones  
Gavin West

Coach- Lethera Harrison  
Junior Coach- Shae'lynn Smalley  
Junior Coach- Brooke Boronski

**4th Grade Girls- 1st Place Champions**

Nia Rooks  
Kamari Hayes  
Lyrikk Hines  
Milyn Hayes  
Aubreyonna Delon-Delugi  
Layla Ravello  
Carly Belkot  
Ky'aer Motton  
Kj'uante Olden  
Camille Gilbert

Danica Ridout

Coach- Stephanie Barton

Coach- Marcus Barton

**5th Grade Girls- 3rd Place**

Bella Berry

Victoria Dean

Nijhaya Collins

Gabrielle Rullo

Allayah Dais

Robyn Mayo

Aliviah Bishop

Aireonna Jamen

Aleigha Wright

Ritaj Rizki

Julianna Reese

Coach- Farrah Clanagan

Coach- Marcena Shephard

**6th Grade Girls- 2nd Place**

Rajael Westover

Brinley Raymer

Lily Buchanan

Harmony Barton

Danica Beauford

Kendall Hare

Robyn Mayo

Coach- Marshayla Underwood

**4th Grade Boys- 1st Place Champions**

Anthony Crawford

Martin Kirsch

Jace Shakespeare

Bryden Bishop

Keir Gilliam

Zy'Meir Moore

Bayani Strong

Kayge Delon-Delugi

Khyree Farrington

Coach- Curtis Crawford

**5th Grade Boys- 3rd Place**

Riley Barton  
Jack D'Emilio  
Adrian Martin  
Sincere Jones  
Mekhi Seymour  
Chamaur Owens  
King Tyson  
Keir Gilliam

Coach- Tyreik Hayes  
Coach- Ashanti Brielle  
Coach- Damarri Jones

**6th Grade Boys- 3rd Place**

Logan Barton  
Gage Lloyd  
Braelon Williams  
Landon Musser  
Reed Leseiko  
Grant Zatchey  
Quinn Zatchey  
Zion Ray  
Michael Williams  
Avant Kirby  
Rayan Iham  
Julian Lee  
Julius Lee

Coach- Jeff Shakespeare  
Coach- Lori Musser

**Ambridge Youth Wrestling**

Our Ambridge Youth Wrestling program had another incredible year! We're thrilled to see the program flourishing thanks to the hard work and dedication of our amazing parents from the Senior and Junior classes. Their commitment has truly set the stage for our success, and we're seeing it pay off. This year, six of our student athletes clinched first place in the WAWA Championship Tournament, with an additional four securing third place. We're especially proud of our first-place finish in the inaugural female-only division. Many others on the team also excelled in local tournaments, some achieving their first victories while others added to their impressive records. And the season's not over yet! Dominic DeRiggi is headed to the state wrestling championships, and we're cheering him on every step of the way. Huge thanks to our dedicated trainer, Amanda, who keeps our athletes safe and sound with her expertise and care. We're also incredibly grateful for the support of the district, particularly Diane, who ensures we have everything we need to succeed. Her constant presence and warm smile truly make her the face of our program. We would like to honor Diane with a small token of our appreciation for all she does to make our program a success.



Jack Hostetter  
Luka Unis  
Max Fabanich  
Theodore Parish  
Maverick Mason  
Brantley Turner  
Eugene Sturdivant  
Royal Cobbs  
Riley Wallace  
Myles Moore  
Chance Strickland  
Luke Stimmel  
Bruno Unis  
Nolan Spencer  
Thomas Little  
Gemma Boyt  
Brody Rice  
Luca Fabanich  
Parker Parish  
Vinny Manganello  
Parker Pitaro  
Jimmy Pielin  
Darren Jeffries  
Dominic DeRiggi  
Derek Dixon  
Henry Buglak  
Dezmond Motton  
Jacob Walls  
Lucas Wolf  
Maximus Dablock  
Tyson Kelley  
David Walls Jr

**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

**XI. Committee Reports****Education and Technology****Mrs. Romasco**1. Orton Gillingham Training

It is recommended to approve the purchase of training licenses from the Institute for Multi-Sensory Education (IMSE) for 13,500.00. To be paid for through the Title II Grant monies.

2. Comprehensive Plan

It is recommended to approve the Ambridge Area School District Comprehensive Plan after the 28 days of public display, effective February 20, 2024. The plan is currently available on the District website.

3. National Academic Games League of America (AGLOA)

It is recommended that Dale Steigerwald be authorized to take students to the National Academic Games League of America (AGLOA) in which students will compete in a wide variety of Gifted activities related to Chapter 16 Gifted Individualized Education Plans. Mr. Steigerwald will be reimbursed per the contract with an expense report attached, which covers registration, fees, travel, lodging, and meals.

4. PCCD Grants

It is recommended to accept the PCCD Mental Health and School Safety Grants in the amount of \$40,000.00 to offset School Resource Officer costs and in the amount of \$132,548.00 to extend the contract for an Elementary School Counselor and Prevention Network Services.

5. 2024 PRE-K Counts Grantee Conference Meeting

It is recommended to approve Jo Ann Hoover to attend the 2024 Annual Pre-K Counts Grantee Meeting being held at PA Farm Show Complex and Expo Center in Harrisburg, PA from April 1 through April 3, 2024. 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 and paid through the PreK Grant.

6. 2024 Adventures in Education Club Field Trip

It is recommended that Larry Knopsnyder, an American Cultures Teacher at the High School, be authorized to take 10th-grade students in the Adventures in Education Club to Nashville, Tennessee from November 4<sup>th</sup> through November 8, 2024. There will be no cost to the District, with the exception of the cost for the substitute teacher. Parents or guardians will be required to sign permission and release forms. Chaperones will be required to have current clearances, and TB testing.

Mrs. Romasco moved to accept items #1-6, seconded by Ms. Young. Vote in favor was unanimous.

**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 \$3,042,528.09 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,280,709.16 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$ 105,300.47 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$61,940.37 be paid.

3. Adoption of the 2024-2025 BVIU General Operating Budget

It is recommended that the 2024 – 2025 Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit’s General Operating Budget be approved as presented. The Budget totals \$2,313,189.00. Ambridge Area School District share is \$21,600.70.

4. Berkheimer

It is recommended to authorize the Per Capita Tax Collection Agreement with Berkheimer through December 31, 2026 with associated terms and to adopt the related Resolutions appointing Berkheimer as the current Collector, Delinquent Collector and Tax Hearing Officer pursuant to the Local Taxpayers Bill of Rights, and adopting an Act 20 Schedule of Fees.

5. Refinancing of Bonds

It is recommended to adopt Resolution 2023-2024-07 as presented by Bond Counsel, a resolution authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds, in an amount not to exceed \$29,000,000, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Unit Debt Act, for the purpose of refunding the School District’s currently outstanding General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2014, in order to achieve debt service savings, after payment of costs of issuance, of at least two percent (2.00%).

Mr. Zatchey moved to accept items 1-5, seconded by Miss Fitsko. Vote in favor was unanimous.

**Building and Grounds****Mr. Metz**1. Ambridge Area School District Pole Building

It is recommended to purchase a pole building from Riverside Metal Structures for the Ambridge Area School District per the awarded bid at the cost of \$41,408.50.

2. Ambridge Area Softball Field Bleacher

It is recommended to purchase a bleacher for the Ambridge Area Softball Field from Riddell All-American Sports at the cost of \$7,646.25.

3. Ambridge Area High School Stage Light Bar

It is recommended to approve the purchase of a Stage Light Bar for Ambridge Area High School from Vincent Lighting Systems for \$4,830.00.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to accept items 1-3, seconded by Ms. Young. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Athletics Mrs. Fischer

Public Relations Miss Fitsko

Miss Fitsko congratulated all students and staff that recognized at this evenings meeting.

Steering and Rules Mrs. Kehoe

Legislation Miss Fitsko

Labor Relations Mr. Kovacevic

Personnel and Salary Schedule 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. Orton Gillingham Training

It is recommended that the following elementary teachers receive a minimum of 30 hours to complete Orton Gillingham training at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement. Salary and benefits to be paid by grant funding. To be paid for through the Title II Grant monies.

- Jaelyn Cosky, Economy Elementary
- Lisa Kovach, Economy Elementary
- Tammy Kennedy, Economy Elementary
- Lynn Hartle, Economy Elementary
- Lauren Tierney, State Street Elementary
- Melissa Paulos, State Street Elementary
- Michelle Wilson, Highland Elementary
- Jennifer Shannon, Highland Elementary
- Greta Bible, Highland Elementary

2. PCCD School Mental Health Grant

It is recommended to approve the extension of Cory Bailey as a PCCD Grant Funded Elementary Guidance Counselor as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEA/PSEA Agreement. This position is contingent on the funding in the PCCD School Mental Health Grant and will not be continued at the end of the funding cycle, 12/31/2025.

3. Rescind

It is recommended to rescind the approval of Vicky Freed as the 2023-2024 Girls’ Lacrosse assistant coach.

4. 2023-2024 Coaches

It is recommended the following individuals be ratified 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.

Girls’ Lacrosse

a) Paige Scherer, Assistant Coach

Stipend

No Remuneration

Boys’ Tennis

a) Marian Puet, Assistant Coach

\$1,050.00

Boys Volleyball

a) Brendan Jones, Volunteer Coach

No Remuneration

5. 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.

Bus Driver

Kokou Avia-Gbedu

John Mollett

6. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Sharon Kilmer, nurse at State Street Elementary, effective March 27, 2024.

Ms. Young moved to accept items #1-6, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. Vote in favor was unanimous.

**XII. President’s Report**

Mr. Carpenter stated that if you are paying attention, you will see all the positives happening in the district.

Mr. Carpenter encouraged all to check out all that is happening on the website.

**XIII. Solicitor’s Report**

Noting to report.

**XIV. Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated all the students recognized this evening for all of their hard work in academics and athletics and the staff for all their hard work throughout the year.

Dr. Pasquerilla announced the district was awarded a mental health grant for \$580,000.00 that will help with school safety such as metal detectors at the middle school, continued elementary counselor, and up to date technology. Dr. Pasquerilla thanked our State Representative and Admin Office for their help in security this grant.

**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.

The District’s Comprehensive Plan that was approved sets forth goals and objectives for the district’s mission. The committee was made of community stakeholders.

No Public Comments

**XVI. Motion to Adjourn**

**At approximately 7:55 p.m. Mrs. Kehoe moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Young. All in favor.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary**