

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Cafeteria on Wednesday, March 16, 2025.

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 19, 2025, is now called to order.

II. Mr. Carpenter asked all to rise as the Economy Elementary Student Council leads us in the Flag salute

Economy Elementary Student Council

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. Valerie Scott, Vice President
Mr. Garrett Kovacevic, Treasurer
Mrs. Cathy Fischer
Miss Amy Fitsko
Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe
Mrs. Kelly Romasco

Others Present:

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

V. Mrs. Mueller read the following Sunshine Law

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, March 19th to discuss:

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

VI. Correspondence

No Correspondence

VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, February 12th Meet and Discuss Meeting and Wednesday, February 19th Board Meeting

Miss Fitsko moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Scott. All in favor.

VIII. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report dated: February 2025

Miss Fitsko moved to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Mrs. Scott. All in favor.

IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda

Added Item 4 under Personnel

Miss Fitsko moved to approve the addendum, seconded by Mrs. Scott. All in favor.

Amended Item 3 under Building and Grounds

Mr. Carpenter moved to approve the amendment. All in favor.

X. Recognition/Presentation

February Students of the Month

High School Students of the Month

Aidyn Iorfido, 12th Grade
Jazlyn Martinez, 11th Grade
Natalie Korol, 10th Grade
Moriah Janicki, 9th Grade

High School Effort Awards

Taylor Freehling, 12th Grade
Henry Budzak, 11th Grade
Daron Cox, 10th Grade
Dillion Ferguson, 9th Grade

Middle School Students of the Month

Maliya Kamzelski, 8th Grade
Kayla Jones, 7th Grade
Stella Newmyer, 6th Grade

Economy Elementary Student of the Month

Isabel Eckendahl, 5th Grade

Highland Elementary Student of the Month

Isabella Beagle, 5th Grade

State Street Elementary Student of the Month

Ellie Ankrom, 5th Grade

February Employees of the Month**High School Employee of the Month**

Valerie Misencik, Guidance Secretary

Middle School Employee of the Month

Chris Ceratti, Music Teacher

Economy Elementary

Erica Warix, Paraprofessional

State Street Elementary

Jessica Niemeier, First Grade Teacher

Highland Elementary

Nicole Vlcek McQuillan, 4th Grade Learning Support Teacher

Ambridge Area High School Basketball

Congratulations to Ambridge Area High School Basketball Player Jared Astorino, 11th grader, for achieving the 1000-point milestone on Friday, February 7, 2025, basketball game against Hopewell School District.

Cheer Team

The Ambridge High School Cheerleading program continues to excel at the highest levels of competition while fostering school spirit and academic excellence. This season, our team has achieved remarkable success:

- **UCA High School Nationals** – Semi-Finalist
- **PIAA State Championship** – Finalist, Top 10
- **WPIAL District Championship – 2A Small Division Winner & 2A Overall Winner**, PIAA Qualifier
- **UCA High School Regionals** – Division Winner & Bronze Medalist
- **Franklin Regional Invitational** – Silver Medalist
- **Thiel College Competition** – **Game Day Champions, Small Varsity Champions, Overall Grand Champions**
- **IUP Pennsylvania State Championship** – Silver Medalist (Game Day), Bronze medalist (Small Varsity Traditional)
- **Thomas Jefferson Invitational** – Silver Medalist (Game Day)

In addition to our competitive achievements, Ambridge proudly **hosted Beaver County's largest-ever cheer competition, Battle at the Bridge, featuring over 60 teams.**

Our **Middle School program continues to grow each year**, with increasing participation and talent development.

Additionally, **our varsity cheer program has the highest number of female athletes compared to any other varsity sport at Ambridge.** Not only are our athletes excelling on the mat, but they are also thriving in the classroom—**our team boasts one of the highest GPAs among all athletic programs, with many cheerleaders enrolled in advanced courses and honors classes.**

Our athletes are dedicated year-round, participating during **football season, competitive spirit season, and basketball season**, showcasing their commitment and versatility.

Congratulations to Ambridge Cheer!

2025 US Naval Academy Summer Seminar

Congratulations to Lily Carpenter, 11th grader, for being accepted to the US Naval Academy Summer Seminar that will occur in June of 2025. Lily is part of the Beaver County Civil Air Patrol Squadron 704. She is their Flight commander and is currently ranked as Cadet Chief Master Sergeant.

Beaver County Career & Technology Center Student of the Month

Daniel Runner, 12th Grade

Congratulations to the GFWC Woman's Club of Baden Student Art Winners 2024-2025

Division 1 Grades K-2

Taryn Hill, 2 nd Grade:	1 st Place, Economy Elementary
Katarina Cottage, 2 nd Grade:	2 nd Place, Economy Elementary
Sage Chmura, Kindergarten:	3 rd Place, State Street Elementary
Jensen Dean, 2 nd Grade:	4 th Place, State Street Elementary
David Torres Oliveros, 2 nd Grade:	5 th Place, Economy Elementary
Onyx Chmura, Kindergarten:	6 th Place, State Street Elementary
Joel Chandler, 1 st Grade:	Honorable Mention, Highland Elementary

Division 2 Grades 3-5

Amelia Salopek, 5 th Grade:	1 st Place, Economy Elementary
Garrin Tierney, 5 th Grade:	2 nd Place, Economy Elementary
Jordan Ax, 5 th Grade:	3 rd Place, Economy Elementary
Clementine Logan, 3 rd Grade:	4 th Place, State Street Elementary
Mila Berry, 5 th Grade:	5 th Place, State Street Elementary
Aurora Hinklin, 4 th Grade:	6 th Place, Highland Elementary
Madison Warix, 5 th Grade:	Honorable Mention, Economy Elementary

Good luck to Luca Fabanich, 5th Grade State Street, who will now compete at the state level in the Literature Division.

Division 3 Grades 6-8 Middle School Students

Alyssa Walker, 8 th Grade:	1 st Place
Emma Pinchot, 8 th Grade:	2 nd Place
Aowyn Cogley, 8 th Grade:	3 rd Place
Quinn Denny, 7 th Grade:	4 th Place

Aowyn Cogley, 8th Grade: 5th Place
Isabella Dellach, 7th Grade: 6th Place
Emma Pinchot, 8th Grade: Honorable Mention
Raegan Keber, 8th Grade: Honorable Mention

Division 4 High School Students

Aaden Meadows, 10 Grade, 1st Place
Nora Marchionda, 11th Grade, 2nd Place
Aaden Meadows, 10th Grade, 3rd Place
Claire Marchionda, 9th Grade, 4th Place
Firdaus Abbassi, 11th Grade, 5th Place
Megan Conover, 12th Grade, 6th Place
Luz Rafaela Chirinos Adan, 11th Grade, Honorable Mention

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.

Josh Gill, Economy Borough

- Concerns with the MS Roof Project and the strong chemical smell
- Requested an RR Quality Report

Dr. Pasquerilla stated there was a third-party contractor that was brought in to test the odor and check the air quality and see that it was in compliance.

XI. Committee Reports

Education and Technology

Mrs. Kelly Romasco

1. Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit (BVIU) Cyber Service Agreement

It is recommended to approve a five (5) year Cyber Service Agreement with the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit (BVIU) beginning July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030, to provide a partnership with the Ambridge Area School District and Seneca Valley School District to operate an online instruction program to administer online instruction for credit recovery and alternative education opportunities to students. This is approximately a 3% increase. **Pending Solicitor's review.**

2. Senior Projects

It is recommended that the Ambridge Area High School Senior Projects Manual for the 2025-2026 school year be approved.

3. National Academic Games League of America (AGLOA)

It is recommended that Caitlin Bajgier be authorized to take ten students to the National Academic Games League of America (AGLOA) in which students compete in a wide variety of Gifted activities related to Chapter 16 Gifted Individualized Education Plans. The event will be held from April 25th through April 28th, 2025, in Arlington, VA. Students will be reimbursed as per Board Policy 240 (50% of travel cost or \$250.00 per student, whichever is less) for a maximum total of \$3,000.00. The teacher will be reimbursed for all expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, meals) as per Board Policy 431, Job-Related Expenses. The teacher's approximate total cost is \$1,020.00.

4. 2025 Pre-K Counts Grantee Conference Meeting

It is recommended that Jo Ann Hoover be approved to attend the 2025 Annual Pre-K Counts Grantee Meeting being held at Kalahari Resorts & Convention Center, Poconos Manor, PA from April 29, 2025 through May 1, 2025. All expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, meals) will be paid as per Board Policy 331, Job-Related Expenses. The approximate cost will be \$1,119.00 to be paid through the Pre-K funds.

5. Building Solutions for Continuous Improvement Conference 2025

It is recommended that Dr. Janice Zupsic be approved to attend the Third Annual Building Solutions for Continuous Improvement: Strengthening Communications, Prioritization, and Capacity Conference being held at PATTAN, Harrisburg, PA from July 30th through July 31st, 2025. 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.

6. PA Leadership Settlement

It is recommended to accept the settlement agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and PA Leadership Charter School to resolve the underpayment of tuition to the PA Leadership Charter School during the 2016-2017 school year in the amount of \$1,442.81.

Mrs. Romasco moved to approve items 1-6, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. 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 \$2,999,062.04 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,320,798.34 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$57,605.38 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$83,310.41 be paid.

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

It is recommended that the 2025-2026 Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit's General Operating Budget be approved. The Budget totals \$2,340,106.00. Ambridge Area School District contributes \$21,744.58.

4. Inter-State Studio

It is recommended to approve Inter-State Studio to provide school photography for the Ambridge Area School District. **Pending Solicitor review.**

5. Repository Settlement

It is recommended the Board approve the Sale of Property from the Beaver County Repository of Unsold Property for the following properties to be purchased by Ambridge Borough:

- a) Tax Parcel 10.002.0416.000, located at 701 Merchant Street, Ambridge, PA, to be purchased by Ambridge Borough for the bid amount of \$172.50.
- b) Tax Parcel 10.002.0531.000, located at 649 Merchant Street, Ambridge, PA, to be purchased by Ambridge Borough for the bid amount of \$215.30.
- c) Tax Parcel 09.002.0525.000, located at 307 Merchant Street, Ambridge, PA, to be purchased by Ambridge Borough for the bid amount of \$80.10.
- d) Tax Parcel 09.002.0127.000, located at LOT 384, 435 Maplewood Avenue, Ambridge, PA, to be purchased by Ambridge Borough for the bid amount of \$172.20.
- e) Tax Parcel 09.002.0128.000, located at LOT 384, 0 Maplewood Avenue, Ambridge, PA, to be purchased by Ambridge Borough for the bid amount of \$166.90.

6. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve the Borough of Ambridge's request dated March 4, 2025, to exonerate all delinquent school taxes, as presented, 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 10.002.0416.000, 701 Merchant Street, Ambridge, PA
- b) Tax Parcel 10.002.0531.000, 649 Merchant Street, Ambridge, PA
- c) Tax Parcel 09.002.0525.000, 307 Merchant Street, Ambridge, PA
- d) Tax Parcel 09.002.0127.000, LOT 384, 435 Maplewood Avenue, Ambridge, PA
- e) Tax Parcel 09.002.0128.000, LOT 384, 0 Maplewood Avenue, Ambridge, PA

7. Repository Settlement

It is recommended the Board approve the Sale of Property from the Beaver County Repository of Unsold Property for the following properties to be purchased by Terry Rosinsky:

- a) Tax Parcel 13.006.0211.000, located at LOT 22, Grant Avenue, Baden, PA, to be purchased by Terry Rosinsky for the bid amount of \$2,200.00.

- b) Tax Parcel 13.006.0212.000, located at LOT 23, Grant Avenue, Baden, PA, to be purchased by Terry Rosinsky for the bid amount of \$2,200.00.

8. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve tax exoneration regarding the collection of Real Estate Tax, conditioned upon mutual municipal and county reciprocal exonerations for the same years, relevant to the following properties to be purchased by Terry Rosinsky:

- a) Tax Parcel 13.006.0211.000, LOT 22, Grant Avenue, Baden, PA, for the real estate taxes from 2007 to present.
- b) Tax Parcel 13.006.0212.000, LOT 23, Grant Avenue, Baden, PA, for the real estate taxes from 2007 to present.

9. Repository Settlement

It is recommended the Board approve the Sale of Property from the Beaver County Repository of Unsold Property for the following properties to be purchased by Maggie and Keona Colbert:

- a) Tax Parcel 51.001.0205.000, located at 0 Blair Aly, South Heights Boro, PA to be purchased by Maggie and Keona Colbert for the bid amount of \$1,727.00.
- b) Tax Parcel 51.001.0802.001, located at 0 Route 151, South Heights Boro, PA to be purchased by Maggie and Keona Colbert for the bid amount of \$1,267.50.

10. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve tax exoneration regarding the collection of Real Estate Tax, conditioned upon mutual municipal and county reciprocal exonerations for the same years, relevant to the following properties to be purchased by Maggie and Keona Colbert:

- a) Tax Parcel 51.001.0205.000, located at 0 Blair Aly, South Heights Boro, PA, for the real estate taxes from 2019 to present.
- b) Tax Parcel 51.001.0802.001, located at 0 Route 151, South Heights Boro, PA, for the real estate taxes from 2017 to present.

11. Hawley Consulting Group

It is recommended to approve the proposal from Hawley Consulting Group to complete the post-retirement medical evaluation (GASB 75) for both the June 30, 2025 and June 30, 2026 reports at a cost not to exceed \$5,600.00.

Mr. Carpenter moved to approve items 1-11 seconded by Mrs. Romasco. Miss Fitsko voted against item 6 and Mr. Kovacevic voted against items 3, 6, 8, and 10. The vote was unanimous for items 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 11.

Building and Grounds**Mr. William Metz**1. Middle School Roof Project – Third Phase

It is recommended to accept the 2023 bid proposal from Triangle Roofing to complete the third phase of the middle school roof replacement for the cost of \$1,419,600.00, **pending solicitor review**.

2. Tree Removal

It is recommended to approve Jules Lawn Care and Tree Removal LLC to remove trees inside of the middle school courtyard for a total cost of \$12,800.00.

3. Access Control System

It is recommended that a proposal from Communications Consulting, Inc. (CCI) be accepted to replace an access controller for an exterior door at the middle school at a cost to be determined through state contracting pricing (Co-Stars).

4. PA/Intercom System

It is recommended to accept a proposal from Horizon Information Services to replace the PA/Intercom System at State Street Elementary for a total cost of 32,641.50 through state contracting pricing (Co-Stars).

Miss Fitsko moved to approve items 1-4, as amended, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. Mr. Kovacevic voted against item 2.

Athletics**Mrs. Cathleen Fischer**1. Gifts in Kind

It is recommended to accept a donation from the Ambridge Youth Baseball Organization in the amount of \$9,000.00. The funds will be used to provide maintenance for the Baden Baseball Fields. The donor has received no goods or services in return for this gift.

Mrs. Fischer moved to approve item 1, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Public Relations**Miss Amy Fitsko****Steering and Rules****Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe**1. Policy 246 – School Wellness – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final reading, to revise School Board Policy 246 – *School Wellness* to modify the number of times per year the Wellness Committee will meet. The committee will meet a minimum of (2) two times per year rather than (4) four times per year.

2. Policy 210 – Use of Medications – Third Reading

It is recommended, as a third reading, to update School Board Policy 210 – *Use of Medications* for the administration of prescribed medication to a student during school hours in accordance with the directions of the parent/guardian or family physician will be permitted only when failure to take such medicine would jeopardize the health of the student or the student would not be able to attend school if the medication were not available during school hours.

3. Policy 210.1 – Possession/Use of Asthma Inhaler/Epinephrine Auto-Injectors – Third Reading

It is recommended, as a third reading, to update School Board Policy 210.1 – *Possession/Use of Asthma Inhaler/Epinephrine Auto-Injectors* to permit students in the district schools to possess asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors and to self-administer the prescribed medication in compliance with state law and Board policy.

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

Legislative

Miss Amy Fitsko

Salary Schedule and Labor Relations

Mr. Garrett 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. 2025-2026 Fall Coaches

It is recommended that the following individuals be approved to fill the designated coaching positions for the 2025-2026 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>High School Girls' Soccer</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Ashley Braswell, Assistant Coach	\$2,400.00
b) Sarah Burns, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
c) Madison Edwards, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration

2. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #590 be approved for an intermittent leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave, beginning March 24, 2025, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

3. Hall Monitor

It is recommended to hire Brittany Moylon as a Hall Monitor at the middle school, effective March 24, 2025, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association (ESPA/PSEA/NEA), pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

4. Resignation

It is recommended to accept the resignation of William Metz from his position as an Ambridge Area School District Board Member, effective March 19, 2025, with regret.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to approve items 1-3, seconded by Miss Fitsko. Miss Fitsko abstained from item 3 and Mrs. Romasco abstained from item 1. 1)b). The vote was unanimous for items 2-4.

XII. President's Report

Mr. Carpenter stated he is proud of our students and congratulated all who were recognized at tonight's meeting. Congratulations to the Lacrosse Team on their first win of the season.

XIII. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla – Great job to the students and athletes, music and art department students on their recognitions.

XIV. Solicitor's Report

Nothing to 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.

Moriah Janicki, 9th Grade Student

- Thanked Dr. Pasquerilla and Dr. Zupsic and all Board members for responding to her request to increase the credit limits.
- Ms. Janicki would like to increase credits to 13.

Dr. Pasquerilla commended Ms. Janicki on how she presented her request and all her hard work. He is very proud of her and what a great role model for all, a class act. Dr. Pasquerilla did caution the Board when changing the significant limits if the Board decides to make changes.

The Board congratulated Ms. Janicki on her hard work and presented available choices and possible solutions.

Stephanie Priore, Economy Borough

- The district needs to be made more attractive for hiring and maintaining workers to fill positions such as teachers, paraprofessionals and nurses.
- Adding benefits for paras.
- Competitive pay.
- Reduce class sizes.
- Urged the board to consider this.

Josh Gill, Economy Borough

- Add EVOLV training for staff.
- Purchases EVOLV for all buildings.
- Hold town hall meetings with the community.
- Appreciated the way things were handled with his son's issues so quickly.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 9:00 p.m. Miss Fitsko moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. All in favor.