

**Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Non-Voting and Voting Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Cafeteria on Wednesday, March 12, 2025.**

**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, March 12, 2025. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

**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  
Miss Amy Fitsko  
Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe  
Mrs. Kelly Romasco  
Mr. Matthew Zatchey

Others Present:

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

**V. Mrs. Mueller read the following Sunshine Law**

The Board of School Directors held Executive Session(s) on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss:

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

**VI. Correspondence**

No Correspondence

**VII. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda**

**VIII. Recognition/Presentation****March Marks the 40th Anniversary of Music In Our Schools Month! – Mr. Todd Hartman**

For 40 years, March has been designated by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) as Music in Our Schools Month (MIOSM). The positive impact of music education in the lives of students lasts a lifetime. Therefore, ensuring equitable access to music education for the youngest members of our society—students—is paramount.

Every day, in classrooms and rehearsal rooms across our school district, music educators dedicate themselves to reaching all students with life-changing musical experiences. Parents, administrators, and the wider community often only see the wonderful results of music performances; however, we miss the months of practice and rehearsals and more importantly the learning process that takes place to make it all happen.

I encourage members of our community to acknowledge and celebrate music education as an essential part of every student's educational journey.

**District Jr High Choir**

The PMEA District 5 Jr. High Chorus Fest took place at Greenville HS, January 31<sup>st</sup>. There was a 7<sup>th</sup>&8<sup>th</sup> grade ensemble and a 9<sup>th</sup> grade ensemble. Representing our MS were 8<sup>th</sup> graders:

Leighahna Kachinski  
Ella Stimmel  
McKenzie Walters

Representing our HS in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade ensemble were:

Morgan Hartman  
Kendall Romo

**District Choir.**

The PMEA District 5 Chorus Festival took place at Rochester HS, Feb. 5-7. Representing the high school was:

Cody Roper

**Honors Band**

The PMEA District 5 Honors Band took place at Grove City College, December 12-14, 2024. The festival consists of 96 students from 23 school districts in Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, and Mercer counties. The following AAHS students successfully auditioned for the following spots in the ensemble.

Samantha Waschak – Bass Clarinet, 1<sup>st</sup> chair  
Samantha Patton – Bb Clarinet, 21<sup>st</sup> chair  
Lana Holcomb – Tuba, 6<sup>th</sup> chair

**District Band**

The PMEA District 5 Band took place at Mercer Area High School, January 22-24, 2025. This festival included 142 students, representing 41 different school districts. The following students were selected and received the following spots after the auditions.

Samantha Waschak – Bass Clarinet, 1<sup>st</sup> chair

Samantha Patton – Bb Clarinet, 24<sup>th</sup> chair

Lana Holcomb – Tuba, 6<sup>th</sup> chair

Mara Ilko – Flute, 10<sup>th</sup> chair

**District Jazz**

The PMEA District 5 Jazz Festival will take at Slippery Rock University, February 14-15, 2025.

The festival consisted of 60 students from 13 school districts. The following AAHS students successfully auditioned for the following spots in the ensemble.

McKayla Lebeck – 1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet, band 3

J.R. Koster – 2<sup>nd</sup> Alto Sax, Band 3

**Region Band**

The PMEA Region 1 Band Festival was hosted by Ambridge Area High School, March 6-8, 2025. This festival consisted of 151 students, representing 65 different school districts from 9 counties, including Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Mercer, Washington, and Westmoreland counties. The band was guest conducted by Col. Michael Colburn, retired director of the Presidents' Own Marine Band in Washington, D.C. The AAHS students that participated this past weekend were:

Mara Ilko – Flute 2

Samantha Waschak – Bass Clarinet

Samantha Patton – Bb Clarinet 3

J.R. Koster – Alto Sax 2

Lana Holcomb – Tuba

McKayla Lebeck – Trumpet 2

Jonathan Kwolek – Percussion

Jazlyn Martinez – Bari Sax

A special acknowledgment goes to Samantha Waschak, who came VERY close to qualifying for the All-State festival. Only 1 out of 6 bass clarinets could reach States. She was no. 2!

**District Jr. High Band**

The PMEA District Jr. High Band Fest will take place at North Catholic HS, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Representing the Middle School are:

Caden Caler

Robert Calvin

Kalina Hernandez

Maria Hill

Alyssa Smith

Elizabeth Speicher

Noah Tusick

Representing the HS are 9<sup>th</sup> graders:  
Alexander Fay  
Maegan Fitzgibbons  
Stella Homich  
Taylor Samarco

**Audit Presentation - Mr. Peter Vancheri**

**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.

No comment.

**X. LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THIS MEETING**

**Salary Schedule and Labor Relations**

**Mr. Garrett Kovacevic**

1. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association ESPA/PSEA-NEA regarding a four-day work week for the summer of 2025 be approved, as presented.

2. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Local 248 Ambridge Area School Employees AFSCME-AFL-CIO, regarding a four-day work week for the summer of 2025 be approved, as presented.

Mrs. Fisher moved to approve items 1-2, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Personnel****Mrs. 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. 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.

William Noakes, Van Driver

Ryan Culberson, Van Driver

Leo Glaab, Van Driver

Zachary Denner, Van Driver

Tenida Green, Van Driver

Crystal Mizenko, Van Driver

Annette Funk, Bus Driver

Justin Bishop, Aide

2. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #3137 be approved for a leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave, beginning March 17, 2025, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

3. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Joseph Fortune, from his position as a Paraprofessional at the high school, effective March 3, 2025, with regret.

4. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Martin Flannery from his position as a Hall Monitor at the high school, effective March 4, 2025, with regret.

5. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Kimberly Buglak from her position as a Paraprofessional at Economy Elementary, effective March 14, 2025, with regret.

6. 2024-2025 Spring Coaches

It is recommended that the following individuals be approved to fill the designated coaching positions 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.

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|---|-----------------|
| 1.) <u>Softball</u>                       | <u>Stipend</u>  |
| a) Alexandra Fontana, Middle School Coach | \$1,350.00      |
| 2.) <u>Track</u>                          |                 |
| a) Dakota Pritchard, Volunteer Coach      | No Remuneration |
| b) Ryan Budny, Volunteer Coach            | No Remuneration |

7. 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.

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|--|----------------|
| 1.) <u>Girls'/Boys' Cross County</u>   | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Edward Cooper, Head Coach           | \$4,300.00     |
| b) Corinna Cooper, Middle School Coach | \$1,850.00     |
| 2.) <u>Boys' Soccer</u>                | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Ryan Meadows, Assistant Coach       | \$2,400.00     |
| b) Don Ayers, Middle School Coach      | \$2,050.00     |
| c) Giana Sinatra, Middle School Coach  | \$1,350.00     |
| 3.) <u>Girls' Soccer</u>               |                |
| a) Giana Sinatra, Middle School Coach  | \$2,050.00     |
| b) Don Ayers, Middle School Coach      | \$1,350.00     |
| 4.) <u>Football</u>                    |                |
| a) Shane Dablock, Middle School Coach  | \$3,350.00     |

8. Substitute Cafeteria/Food Service Assistants

It is recommended to retroactively approve Breanna Kress for placement on the substitute cafeteria/food service assistant list, effective March 3, 2025, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to act 168 screening.

Miss Fitsko moved to approve items 1-8, seconded by Mrs. Romasco. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Building and Grounds****Mr. Metz**1. State Street Cafeteria Boiler

It is recommended to retroactively approve a quote from Rayburg Appliance Service, Inc. to purchase and install a boiler at State Street Elementary for the total cost of \$15,231.93. This was the lowest bid.

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

**XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)****Education and Technology****Mrs. Romasco**1. 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 25<sup>th</sup> through April 28<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**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 \$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 09.002.0127.000, 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.

**Building and Grounds**

**Mr. 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 \$1,500,511.00, **pending solicitor review.**

2. Tree Cutting

Placeholder

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

It is recommended to accept a donation from the Ambridge Youth Baseball Organization in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_. 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.

**Public Relations****Miss Fitsko****Steering and Rules****Mrs. Kehoe****1. Policy 246 – School Wellness – Third Reading**

It is recommended, as a third 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 – Second Reading**

It is recommended, as a second 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 – Second Reading**

It is recommended, as a second 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.

**Legislative****Miss Fitsko****XII. President's Address**

Mr. Carpenter – with the state of spring sports, I hope all get a chance to get out and see the students.  
- Congratulations to the musical staff and students for a phenomenal job!

**XIII. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Pasquerilla – recognized the Music Department and Musical students and staff, great job! Proud of our students!

**XIV. Solicitor's Report**

Ms. Gannon – 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. This period for public comment prior to the standing committee reports will be limited to one-half hour.

Matt Wagner, Economy Borough

- Daughter was the target of a threat at Economy Elementary.
- Did not find out that his daughter was the target until after she was sent to school that day.
- Met with the principal to discuss a plan for when the offender came back into school.
- Asked for a phone call before that student would be back in school to prepare his daughter and did not receive that phone call.
- Thanked Board members who responded to his concerns.
- Asked for better communications so that others do not experience what his family had to experience.

Board discussion on what resources were made available to students due to this threat being made to a fellow student. Also, discussed mental health resources being made available for students and ways of communicating to families in the future, under the law and what is allowed to be discussed with the families of the victim.

Dr. Pasquerilla stated the district trusts and works with the police department in these situations and understands the frustration and continues to do the best we can within the parameters.

Mr. Carpenter stated he and all the Board members are sensitive to the matter, but due to all students' privacy and protection by law, certain details cannot be discussed with even the Board members.

Stefanie Hall, Economy Borough

- Concerns with the size of the 4th-grade classes
- 29 students in the calls, with 30% being ESL students.
- Is there a discussion on hiring an additional teacher?
- Concerns with the cleanliness of Economy Elementary.
- Concerned that her daughter now sits next to the student who made the threat to another student.
- Better communications to parents in these situations.
- Would like to see metal detectors at the elementary-level buildings.
- Is there a psych evaluation done before allowing the offender to return to school?
- Daughter was not offered counseling.

Dr. Pasquerilla stated that Mr. Bailey, the elementary level counselor, went into all 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms to offer support.

Fabiola Gergerich, Ambridge, PA

- Pg. 7 – #5 and 6 - Repository Settlement
- Pg. 8 – Roofing – is the contract available for public review?
- Pg. 9 – School Wellness – Are students taught the transmission of viruses?
- With the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence Day, is the school district planning anything?
- With PDE discussion – is the school planning ahead?

Ms. Gannon – Agreements/Contracts are public record and can be requested through a Right-to-Know form filed with the district.

Dr. Pasquerilla – will note the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary as we are always looking for opportunities to share history.

**XVI. Motion to Adjourn**

At approximately 9:00 p.m. Miss Fitsko made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. All in favor.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Mrs. June Mueller**  
**Board Secretary**