

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Cafeteria on Wednesday, April 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, April 16, 2025, is now called to order.

II. Mr. Carpenter asked all present to rise while the Highland students led the Flag salute

Highland Elementary Student Council

Andromeda Hardison Kilvington

Cora Bitts

Isaac DeLuigi

Jude El Hayel

Reiland MacMiller

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

Mr. Matthew 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 an Executive Session on Wednesday, April 16th to discuss:

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

VI. Correspondence

No Correspondence

VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, March 12th Meet and Discuss Meeting and Wednesday, March 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: March 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**X. Recognition/Presentation****National Tournament for Academic Games League of America**

10 of our students have qualified for the National Tournament for Academic Games League of America, which will take place in Arlington, Virginia, from April 25-28, 2025. These students have demonstrated exceptional critical thinking, strategy, and problem-solving skills across various academic challenges, earning their spot among the nation's top competitors. Their dedication and hard work throughout the season have truly paid off, and we are incredibly proud of their achievements.

Representing the Middle School are:**7th Grade**

Jayda Palmer
Simon Singh

6th Grade

Britney Fodor
Johannah Hustead
Mia Paganie
Jace Singh

Representing Economy Elementary School are:**5th Grade**

Wyatt Harmon
Nora McDowell
Mason Schweikert

Representing Highland Elementary School is:**5th Grade**

Trinity Smith

Beaver County High School Senior Art Competition

Congratulations to Nicolette Young, 12th Grader, for winning the school art award for her painting entitled:

Santé et Tranquillité

The artwork was displayed at the Merrick Art Gallery.

Ambridge Area Middle School Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Mia Paganie, 6th Grader, for winning the Ambridge Area Middle School Spelling Bee. She will be competing against fellow winners from every school in Beaver County's 6th-grade Spelling Bee on May 14th.

Also, congratulations to Michael Springer, who will also attend as a runner-up.

Good luck!

Varsity Wrestling

Congratulations to the Varsity Ambridge Area High School Wrestling Team and congratulations on a wonderful career!

BRIDGER SECTION 2A FINALISTS:

Dean Chalupiak – 12th Grade - 160LB 4TH

Quinn Tkatch - 11th Grade - 172LB 6TH

Dylan Wrotny – 12th Grade - 285LB 6TH

Ambridge Youth Wrestling

The 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, the organization had many wrestlers make the WAWA championship podium, with several getting 1st place! 2 Keystone State Championship Qualifiers, Amari Law and Luca Fabanich, Amari Law took 5th place! 5 Pennsylvania Youth Wrestling Championship Qualifiers, Max DaBlock, Dominic Deriggi, Dezmond Motton, Luca Fabanich, and Gemma Boyt, Gemma took 5th place! Qualifying for the State level tournaments is not an easy task, we're proud of all of the athletes, their hard-work and dedication is unmeasurable.

In addition, many others on the team also excelled in local tournaments, some achieving their first victories while others added to their impressive records.

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, coaches, parents, and janitorial staff who work together to make our program successful.

Wrestlers:

Brody Rice
Dominic DeRiggi
Eugene Sturdivant
Gemma Boyt
Jack Hostetter
James Pielin
Jason Sipes
Jayce Yeardie
Kadyn Johnson
Karson Gulish
Kole Szuchy
Levi Vanyo
Logan Barber
Luca Fabanich
Mase Shepherd
Matteo Fabian
Maverick Mason
Max Fabanich
Parker Pitaro
Patrick Marsilio
Patrick Morgan
Rowdy Guyer
Zachai Blankenship
Maximus Dablock
Jaiden Sipes
Xavier Michalik
Luka Unis
Amari Law
Jaxson Goodwin
Michael Orth
Luke Stimmel
Lucas Hostetter

Winter Youth Basketball

Congratulations to Omari Gill, 1st Grader, for being named the MVP of the Year!

A message from the Coach:

I will truthfully say I'm honored to write this as honored as I was to have him on the team this year. This all started from when he set foot on the court on his first day. We all lined the kids up, all new, all excited, but one stood out by the end of practice on his first day and that is Omari Gill. Since day one, he has shown great sportsmanship, leadership, compassion, and the willingness to help. There is much more to the sport than being a "valuable" player, but I must say his skills are also bar none. Unlike the very few that showed their above average skills on shooting, dribbling, passing and dedication to the sport, Omari's CONSISTENCY to be an above average player, combined with the person his parents helped develop him into, is why he was chosen for the MVP for the year. I am looking forward to seeing the growth and continued success of Omari next season.

Jesse Hernandez “Coach H”

March Students of the Month

High School Students of the Month

Kyra Davis, 12th Grade
Samantha Waschak, 11th Grade
Emily Wissner, 10th Grade
Liam Cooper, 9th Grade

High School Effort Awards

Julien Hubbard, 12th Grade
Ryanne Stonehouse, 11th Grade
Juan Klinsic, 10th Grade
Shae’lynn Smalley, 9th Grade

Middle School Students of the Month

Izabelle Galvan, 8th Grade
Evie Bogati, 7th Grade
Aleeah Barkfelt, 6th Grade

Economy Elementary Student of the Month

Greyson Priore, 5th Grade

Highland Elementary Student of the Month

Parker LaFever, 5th Grade

Isabella Beagle, 5th Grade - February Student of the Month

State Street Elementary Student of the Month

Zavier Brown, 5th Grade

March Employees of the Month

High School Employee of the Month

Don Sineway, Paraprofessional

Middle School Employee of the Month

Don Ayers, Science Teacher and Soccer Coach

Economy Elementary

Lindsey Benkovich, Paraprofessional

State Street Elementary

Ronald Kennedy, Custodian

Highland Elementary

Jamie Wellman, Special Education Teacher

School Board Candidate Presentations / Question and Answer

Kathleen Curtis
Adina Ferragonio
Joshua Gill
Mark Reichard
Thomas Short

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.

Mr. Carpenter will open the floor for nominations of appointees.

Kitty Curtis was nominated by Mrs. Kehoe, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. Miss Fitsko, Mr. Kovacevic, Mrs. Romasco, Mrs. Scott, Mr. Zatchey and Mr. Carpenter voted against the nomination.

Josh Gill was nominated by Mrs. Fitsko, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Kehoe, Mrs. Scott and Mr. Carpenter voted against this nomination.

Adina Ferragonio was nominated by Mrs. Scott, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. Miss Fitsko voted against this nomination.

1. School Board Director

It is recommended to appoint Adina Ferragonio, a qualified elector of the District, to fill the present School Board Director vacancy.

XI. Committee Reports**Education and Technology**

Mrs. Kelly Romasco

1. Summer Credit Recovery Program

It is recommended to approve a Summer Credit Recovery Program to provide high school students with the opportunity to recover course credits. The program is tentatively scheduled based on adequate enrollment for Monday, June 16, 2025 through Friday, June 27, 2025 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Ambridge Area High School. This is at no cost to the district.

2. AOT Service Agreement Renewal

It is recommended to renew the service agreement with Associated Occupational Therapy for the 2025-2026 school year, at a minimal increase.

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 \$2,531,300.14 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,307,484.34 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$125,298.81 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$57,246.58 be paid.

3. 2025-2026 Beaver County Career & Technology Center Operating Budget

It is recommended to approve the 2025-2026 Beaver County Career & Technology Center Operating Budget for \$8,114,319.00. It is further recommended that the Board President and Board Secretary be authorized to execute the BCCTC Resolution Form.

4. Precision HR Solutions

It is recommended to approve a one (1) year extension agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Precision HR Solutions, Inc. The term of this agreement shall end on June 30, 2026, **subject to solicitor review**. This is at no increase in cost.

Mr. Zatchey moved to approve items 1-4, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Building and Grounds

1. Equipment Disposal

It is recommended that permission be granted to dispose of an unusable Cub Cadet Tractor at the middle school.

2. High School Gymnasium Floor

It is recommended to approve an estimate from Sofikos Properties LLC to refinish the high school gymnasium floor at a total cost of \$7,800.00.

3. Field House Gymnasium Floor

It is recommended to approve an estimate from Sofikos Properties LLC to refinish the field house gymnasium floor at a total cost of \$8,900.00.

4. State Street Elementary Heaters

It is recommended to approve a quote from Huckestein Mechanical to purchase and install two (2) new Tusco Duct Heaters in the nurse's office at State Street Elementary at a total cost of \$6,675.00, through the state bidding process (Co-Stars).

5. State Street Elementary Cafeteria Painting

It is recommended to approve a proposal from JEMCO Remodeling and Painting to paint State Street Elementary Cafeteria at a total cost of \$5,000.00.

6. Economy Elementary Brick and Ceiling

It is recommended to approve an estimate from AAA Stone Age to repair the brick and ceiling surface outside of Economy Elementary at a total cost of \$6,750.00.

7. Head Start of Beaver County Lease Agreement

It is recommended to approve a lease agreement for the Head Start of Beaver County Program with the effective date of June 1, 2025, and end on August 31, 2026, **pending solicitor review**.

8. Economy Elementary HVAC Controls (Completion of the project)

It is recommended to approve a proposal from Building Control Systems, Inc. to complete the Economy Elementary HVAC Controls Project at a total cost of \$182,700.00, through the state bidding process (Co-Stars).

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

Athletics

Mrs. Cathleen Fischer

Public Relations

Miss Amy Fitsko

Steering and Rules

Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe

1. Policy 103.1 – Nondiscrimination – Qualified Students with Disabilities – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to revise Policy 103.1 – *Nondiscrimination – Qualified Students with Disabilities* to align with the terminology and provisions of the revised 103 policy on handling reports of discrimination/harassment, as well as to update the language related to school safety and security reporting.

2. Policy 227 – Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to revise Policy 227 - *Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia* to update language and legal citations that address incident reporting and school entity responsibilities under the school safety and security section of the School Code.

3. Policy 351- Controlled Substance Abuse – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to revise Policy 351 *Controlled Substance Abuse* to change the title from “Drug and Substance Abuse” to “Controlled Substance Abuse” to mirror the policy for students and reflect the language used throughout the policy and in Pennsylvania’s Controlled Substance, Drug, Devise and Cosmetic Act.

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

Legislative

Miss Amy Fitsko

Nothing to report.

Salary Schedule and Labor Relations

Mr. Garrett Kovacevic

Nothing to report.

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. 2024-2025 Spring Coaches

It is recommended that 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) Track

a) Raymond Fabin, Volunteer Coach

Stipend

No Remuneration

2. 2025-2026 Fall Coaches

It is recommended that the following individual be approved to fill the designated coaching position 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) Boys' Soccer

a) Nathan Hokenbrough, Volunteer Coach

Stipend

No Remuneration

Mrs. Scott moved to approve items 1-2, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XII. President's Report

Mr. Carpenter stated he is looking forward to working with Mrs. Ferragonio and congratulated all students and staff recognized at this evening's meeting.

XIII. Superintendent's Report

Congratulated NHS and all students and staff recognized today. Wishing all a nice break, enjoying family and friends.

XIV. Solicitor's Report

Reminded the Board of the due date to turn in their Statement of Financial Interests forms to the Board Secretary.

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.

Mr. Zatchey stated that he has been receiving a common complaint from volunteers and coaches regarding the mandatory completion of TB Testing. He mentioned that this process is very time-consuming and asked if the district previously covered the cost for individuals to take this test.

➤ Ms. Turnbull stated that this does follow the amended School Code of 1949.

Ms. Turnbull will investigate further and look at other peer districts' regulations regarding the TB testing.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 8:25 p.m. Mrs. Fischer moved to adjourn, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

**Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary**