

Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Voting and Non-Voting Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Cafeteria on Wednesday, April 9, 2025.

I. Mr. Carpenter called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 Call to Order

The Meet and Discuss Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, April 16, 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. 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(s) on Wednesday, April 9th to discuss:

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

VI. Correspondence

VII. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda

Amended Item 6 under Personnel

VIII. Recognition/Presentation**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 Comments

X. LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THIS MEETING**Education and Technology****Mrs. Romasco****1. Baden Academy Charter Renewal Agreement**

It is recommended to approve a Charter Renewal Agreement for Baden Academy Charter School for a five-year period, from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030.

Mrs. Romasco moved to approve item 1, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous, with Mrs. Fischer absent from roll call.

- Dr. Pasquerilla stated his recommendation remains consistent with his statement and Charger Review Presentation given April 17, 2024. Dr. Pasquerilla is not recommending that the Board approve the Baden Academy Charter Renewal.

Finance and Budget**Mr. Zatchey****1. 2025-2026 Proposed Final Budget**

It is recommended that the Proposed Final General Operating Fund Budget for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year, with Expenditures of \$64,736,738.00, be approved. The Proposed Final Budget is on display for public inspection at the Administration Office and on our district website.

Mr. Zatchey moved to approve item 1, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous, with Mrs. Fischer absent from roll call.

Building and Grounds**1. Access Control System**

It is recommended to retroactively approve a proposal from Communications Consulting Inc. (CCI) to replace an access controller for an exterior door at the middle school at a total cost of \$5,375.00 through the state bidding process (Co-Stars).

Mr. Kovacevic moved to approve item 1, seconded by Mrs. Scott. 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. Rescind

It is recommended that the approval of Megan Fitzgerald as the Softball Assistant Coach, approved at the Board Meeting on March 9, 2025, be rescinded.

2. 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) Reg Humbert, Assistant Coach | \$2,400.00 |
| b) Megan Fitzgerald, Volunteer Coach | No Remuneration |
| c) Ryan Hare, Volunteer Coach | No Remuneration |
| 2) <u>Baseball</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Rich Iorofido, Volunteer Coach | No Remuneration |

3. 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.

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| 1) <u>Girls' Volleyball</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Stephanie Benkowski, Volunteer Coach | No Remuneration |

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.

Thomas Lunde, Van Driver
 Lisa Sittig, Van Driver
 Tega Swann, Van Driver

5. Guaranty Agreement

It is recommended to authorize an agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and J.L.

6. Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach

It is recommended to hire Daryn Freedman as the Varsity Boys Basketball Head Coach at a salary of \$10,500.00, as per the terms of the employee contract. This recommendation is 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 and coaches are able to hold winter sports as normal. **Pending solicitor review.**

7. Early Intervention Speech Evaluations

It is recommended that Maria Buck be approved as the speech teacher for Early Intervention Evaluations at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement.

8. Extended School Year Services

- a. It is recommended the following teachers be approved to provide Extended School Year services to students from Monday, July 14, 2025, through Thursday, July 17, 2025, and Monday, July 21, 2025, through Thursday, July 24, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Highland Elementary and the High School at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement (with an additional hour of planning time per day for teachers):

Jamie Wellman (K-5)
Hannah Jozwiak (K-5)
Madison Hiltz (K-5)
Patty Weale (6-12)
Jennifer Shannon (6-12)

- b. It is recommended the following speech teacher be approved to provide Extended School Year services to students from Monday, July 14, 2025, through Thursday, July 17, 2025, and Monday, July 21, 2025, through Thursday, July 24, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Highland Elementary and the High School at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement (with an additional hour for planning time per day for teachers):

Mara Bartholomew

- c. It is recommended the following paraprofessionals be approved to provide Extended School Year services to students from Monday, July 14, 2025, through Thursday, July 17, 2025, and Monday, July 21, 2025, through Thursday, July 24, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Highland Elementary and the High School at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement:

Lorraine Mrkonja (K-5)
Lacey Sweitzer (K-5)
Melissa Holcomb (K-5)
Kamala Shadd (K-5)

Lisa Patton (K-5)
Bernadette Aquino (6-12)
Stormi Yemm (K-5)
Anton DeLuca (6-12)

9. Extended School Year Services

It is recommended the following nurses be approved to provide Extended School Year services to students from Monday, July 14, 2025 through Thursday, July 17, 2025 and Monday July 21, 2025 through Thursday, July 24, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Highland Elementary and the High School at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement.

Kristine McCloskey (Elementary)
Stuart Rusnak (Secondary)

10. Professional Employee

It is recommended to hire Trevor Piccone as School Psychologist for grades K-12 at a salary of \$57,223.48 (Step 1, Master +30), effective June 6, 2025, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEA/PSEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

11. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #1604 be approved for a leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave, beginning April 11, 2025, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

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

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)

Education and Technology

Mrs. 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.

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 \$2,531,300.14 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.

Building and Grounds1. 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. Highland Elementary Bleachers

It is recommended to approve a bid from C.M. Eichenlaub Co. to replace 12 (twelve) plastic seat modules on the Highland Elementary bleachers at a total cost of \$3,973.00, through the state bidding process (Co-Stars).

7. 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.

8. 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.**

9. 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).

Athletics

Mrs. Fischer

Public Relations

Miss Fitsko

Steering and Rules

Mrs. Kehoe

Legislative

Miss Fitsko

XII. President's Address

Mr. Carpenter congratulated students, administration and staff on a great 3rd quarter.

XIII. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated the Band/Chorus students on an excellent performance. Congratulations to Mr. Becker and staff, wonderful job and great student participation.

Dr. Pasquerilla recognized all spring sports athletes.

XIV. Solicitor's Report

Ms. Turnbull stated she is following the continuing PDE changes. PDE issued guidance down to LEAs regarding a Title IX certification. PDE is taking the lead for ELAs. We will continue to work with the Administration in the changing landscape.

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.

No comments.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 7:45 p.m. Mrs. Scott moved to adjourn, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.