

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Cafeteria on Wednesday, May 21, 2025.

I. Mr. Carpenter called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m.

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District Board of Directors on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, is now called to order.

II. Mr. Carpenter asked all present to rise as the students led us in the Flag salute.

State Street 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. Adina Ferragonio
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, May 21st to discuss:

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

VI. Correspondence

No correspondence

VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, April 9th Meet and Discuss Meeting and Wednesday, April 16th Board Meeting

Mr. Zatchey moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in Favor.

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

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

IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda

Amended item 2 under Education and Technology

Item 9 under Finance and Budget – Motion Failed

Amended item 2 under Personnel

Added Item 7 under Personnel during the Public Meeting as a legal exception to Act 65 – time sensitive.

Mr. Zatchey moved to accept the Amendments/Addendums to the agenda, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous.

X. Recognition/Presentation

3rd Grade Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Wesley Priore for winning the 3rd Grade Spelling Bee!

MAC Senior Spotlight

The following student-athletes are proudly recognized and congratulated. They have been nominated for the MAC Senior Spotlight for their outstanding achievements in both athletics and academics.

Julien Hubbard

Kaia Fubio

WPIAL James Collins Scholar Athlete Program

Congratulations to the following seniors who are recognized for their outstanding achievements in academics, athletics, and school/community service throughout their high school careers.

Carter Catalano

Kaia Fubio

PA State Classic Championship Gymnastics Meet

Congratulations to Marena Baker for placing 6th overall out of 73 girls on the bars in the Silver Division at the PA Gymnastics Championship. Marena represents Ambridge as our only gymnast.

CCBC High School Academy Media Day

Marena Baker was the face of the CCBC High School Academy social media campaign, representing the Health Academy.

A message from CCBC: “Marena’s professionalism, enthusiasm, and thoughtful participation have made a meaningful impact and will help to make this media campaign a success!”

Congratulations.

Coraopolis NAACP Poetry Performance Awards!

Congratulations to Nyahnna Collins and Ariana Avolio-Mason for their outstanding achievements at the Coraopolis NAACP event.

Nyahnna Collins was honored for her excellence in the Poetry category and also received a **Bronze Medal** in the Short Story category. Ariana Avolio-Mason earned a **Silver Medal** in the Short Story category for her exceptional work.

KD Quiz

Congratulations to seniors Anthony Speicher, Carter Catalano, and Cody Roper for securing 1st place in the KD Quiz.

The Ambridge KD Quiz team has won twice this season and are heading to the Semifinals. The team will tape their competition on Monday, May 19th, with an air date of June 7th. The Semifinal round is against Winchester Thurston and Montour.

Best of luck to these students in the next rounds!

TSA State 2025 Results

The Technology Education Department is pleased to announce the results from the 47th Annual Technology Student Association (TSA) States Leadership Conference. Students from Ambridge Middle School joined the High School Chapter, traveling to Seven Springs Resort to compete against over two thousand students from schools across the state. Twenty-five members of the local Ambridge Area High School Chapter of the Technology Student Association (TSA) competed, with fifteen different students capturing twenty-three awards in nine individual and team events. Three members of the Ambridge Area Middle School Chapter of the Technology Student Association (TSA) competed. The High School also had seven other semifinalists in events.

Please congratulate the following High School members on their accomplishments:

Board Game Design

9th Place – Lily Carpenter, Isaiah Kovach,
Kendall Romo, Bella Spencer

Dragster Design

7th Place – Janna Rusnak
10th Place – Mason Herbuth

On-Demand Video

10th Place – Mara Ilko, Isaiah Kovach,
Janna Rusnak, Logan Szymoniak, Hannah
Larimore

Structural Design

7th Place – Isaiah Kovach, Oliver Ozenich

Fashion Design

7th Place – Charlotte Hill, Hannah
Larimore, Logan Szymoniak, Janna
Rusnak

Systems Control

9th Place – Kaitlyn Desrochers, Oliver
Ozenich, Abby Smith

Music Production

3rd Place – Anthony Speicher

Transportation Modeling

4th Place – Isaiah Kovach

PA Logo Design

3rd Place - Norah Marchionda

Honorable Mention to the following students for reaching the semi-finals:

Forensic Science: Isla Ozenich and Elliot Marcum

Structural Design: Tyler Rambo and Conner Brenner

PA Logo Design: Janna Rusnak

Beaver County Career and Technology Center National Honor Society

Congratulations to the following students who were inducted into the 2024-2025 National Honor Society at a ceremony at the BCCTC.

National Technical Honor Society Inductees

Naomi Burton – Commercial Arts and Design
Jayda Lorenc – Carpentry
Taryn Mahmoud – Business Information Systems

National Technical Honor Society Inductee – 2 Year Member

Kailyn Turko

National Business Honor Society Inductees

Taryn Mahmoud

Beaver County Career and Technical Center Future Farmers of America (FFA)

Friday, April 11th FFA (Future Farmers of America) members participated in and placed at the Western Regional FFA Competition out of 32 competitors.

Nursery/Landscaping

1st Place: Danniell Runner

Congratulations.

April Students of the Month**High School Students of the Month**

Sheridan Olenic, 12th Grade
Kiley Ross, 11th Grade
Idalia Grande Reyes, 10th Grade
Morgan Hartman, 9th Grade

High School Effort Awards

Kaia Fubio, 12th Grade
Lana Holcomb, 11th Grade
Aaron Scheib, 10th Grade
River McGovern, 9th Grade

Middle School Students of the Month

Ashley Grande-Reyes, 8th Grade
Brianna Ricci, 7th Grade
McKenzie Curry, 6th Grade

Economy Elementary Student of the Month

Adrianna Seltz, 5th Grade

Highland Elementary Student of the Month

Aaron Freeman, 5th Grade

State Street Elementary Student of the Month

Avery Nunnally, 5th Grade

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

Shane Newhouse, Social Studies Teacher and Football Coach

Middle School Employee of the Month

Brad Olenic, Science Teacher

Economy Elementary

Marsha Geweth, PreK Paraprofessional

State Street Elementary

Elizabeth Vincent, Food Service Assistant

Highland Elementary

Lisa Fox, Kindergarten Teacher

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

XI. Committee Reports**Education and Technology****Mrs. Kelly Romasco****1. Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)**

It is recommended to approve a Partnership Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and PHEAA to serve as a placement site for college student learning experiences.

2. Technology Purchase

It is recommended to purchase student devices for the 2025-2026 school year from Communications Consulting, Inc. at a cost of \$390,505.50 through the state contracted pricing (PEPPM), utilizing the 2025-2026 budget.

3. Technology Purchase

It is recommended to purchase secondary staff devices for the 2025-2026 school year from Communications Consulting, Inc. at a cost of \$157,775.00 through the state contracted pricing (PEPPM), utilizing the 2024-2025 budget.

Mrs. Romasco moved to approve items 1 and 3 seconded by Mr. Zatchey. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mrs. Romasco moved to apporove item 2, as amended, 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 \$1,483,718.72 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,309,669.85 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$97,481.40 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$61,714.08 be paid.

3. Final Budget for the 2025-2026 School Year

It is recommended to approve Resolution 2025-2026-01, a resolution adopting the Final General Operating Fund Budget for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year in the amount of \$64,736,738.00. The final budget includes no tax increase and the millage rate complies with the reassessment anti-windfall provisions of Act 1 of 2006, as amended.

4. Ambulance Service

It is recommended to approve an agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Non-Profit Emergency Services of Beaver County, Medic Rescue, for a period of one year commencing on July 1, 2025, at an annual fee of \$3,600.00. This is at no increase in cost.

5. Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA)

It is recommended to approve the renewal dues for the 2025-2026 Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA) membership for a total cost of \$15,611.60, at a minimal increase.

6. The PIMS People, LLC

It is recommended to approve a renewal agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and The PIMS People, LLC, to provide PIMS Administrators to the district, ensuring accurate data collection and reporting within the PIMS system for a total cost of \$2,187.50 per month, beginning July 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2026.

7. Student/Athletic Insurance

- a) It is recommended that the United States Fire Insurance Company (PSBA endorsed) be approved for **voluntary** student insurance coverage for the 2025-2026 school year beginning August 1, 2025. Goodwin & Gruber Agency will act as the insurance broker. The medical limits are \$250,000.00 for a one-year period. The rate for school-time coverage is \$22.50 and \$90.00 for 24-hour coverage.
- b) It is recommended that United States Fire Insurance Company be approved for student **athletic and field trip** coverage at a cost of \$12,507.00 to insure interscholastic athletes, band, cheerleaders and field trips. The medical limit for sports and field trips is \$1,000,000.00 with a two-year benefit period. Plan 1, which pays all medical expenses "Usual & Customary," will be used.

8. Repository Settlement

It is recommended to approve the Sale of Property from the Beaver County Repository of Unsold Property for the following property to be purchased by Donte Bryant:

- a) Tax Parcel 51.001.0809.000.01.1, located at 2009 S. Economy Street, South Heights, PA, to be purchased by Donte Bryant for the bid amount of \$1,991.00.

9. Tax Exoneration – **MOTION FAILED**

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

- a) Tax Parcel 51.001.0809.000.01.1, 2009 S. Economy Street, South Heights, PA, for the real estate taxes from 2015 to present.

10. Disposal of Equipment at Ambridge Area Middle School

It is recommended to dispose of unusable/obsolete wood shop equipment (see Appendix A), which is no longer used at the Middle School, as per Board Policy 706.1 - *Disposal of Surplus Property and Obsolete Equipment*.

11. Primero Edge Express Point System

It is recommended to approve Primero Edge Express Point to provide a school nutrition software solution that manages various aspects of school meal programs and streamlines meal transactions. The total cost for a one-year implementation and training is \$5,790.00, with an annual cost of \$3,975.00 for each year after.

12. The Wilson Group

It is recommended to approve a proposal from The Wilson Group, LLC for a five (5) year Equipment Lease contract at a monthly cost of \$10,487.68, representing a savings of \$548.62 per month.

13. Pennsylvania School-Based ACCESS Program (SBAP)

It is recommended to approve the Pennsylvania School-Based ACCESS Program (SBAP) Local Education Agency Agreement for the 2025-2026 school year.

Mr. Zatchey moved to approve items 1-13, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. Mr. Fischer, Miss Fitsko, Mr. Kovacevic, Mrs. Romasco, Mrs. Scott, Mr. Zatchey and Mr. Carpenter voted against item 9. Mr. Zatchey voted against items 3 and 12.

Building and Grounds

Adina Ferragonio

1. Middle School Cafeteria Convection Steamer

It is recommended to approve a quote from TriMark to purchase and install a convection steamer at the middle school cafeteria for a total cost of \$40,645.06 through the state bidding process (Co-Stars).

2. Quarterback Club Concession Stand

It is recommended to approve a quote from F. Bevilacqua Remodeling to replace the roof of the Quarterback Club Concession Stand and replace shingles on the attached building for a total estimated cost of approximately \$10,900.00.

3. Middle School Generator Project Bid Award

It is recommended to award the Middle School Generator Project to Yates Electric LLC in the amount of \$114,696.00 to be paid out of the PCCD grant, as awarded.

4. Districtwide Security Cameras

It is recommended to accept an estimate from Communications Consulting, Inc. to purchase, install, and configure security cameras throughout the district at a total cost of \$33,515.04 through competitively procured pricing from Omnia. This is to be paid out of the PCCD grant, as awarded.

5. High School HVAC Controller

It is recommended to approve a proposal from CMS Controls to replace an AHU-2C System Controller at the high school for a total cost of \$12,450.00.

Mrs. Ferragonio moved to approve items 1-5, seconded by Mrs. Romasco. Mrs. Romasco and Mr. Zatchey voted against item 2.

Athletics

Mrs. Cathleen Fischer

Congratulations to all the MVP players selected this season.

Public Relations

Miss Amy Fitsko

Point of Information

The School Safety Report was provided to the Board of School Directors.

Steering and Rules

Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe

1. Policy 103.1 – Nondiscrimination – Qualified Students with Disabilities – Third and Final Reading

It is recommended, as a third and final reading, to revise Policy 103.1 – *Nondiscrimination – Qualified Students with Disabilities* to align with the terminology and provisions of the revised Policy 103 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 – Third and Final Reading

It is recommended, as a third and final 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 – Third and Final Reading

It is recommended, as a third and final 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, Device and Cosmetic Act.

4. Policy 103- *Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Students* – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to revise Policy 103 – *Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Students* to make updates to address amendments to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act (PHRA) regarding religious creed as a protected classification and specific definitions for pregnancy, race and religious creed. The changes address recent actions at the federal level involving case law, regulation and executive orders related to Title IX.

5. Policy 104 – *Nondiscrimination – Qualified Students with Disabilities* – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to revise Policy 104 - *Nondiscrimination – Qualified Students with Disabilities* to align with the terminology and provisions of the revised Policy 103. Minor revisions were made to the section on retaliation and the complaint procedure in order to align the steps taken by school employees in responding to complaints of discrimination and harassment.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to approve items 1-5, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Legislative

Miss Amy Fitsko

1. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the local Law Enforcement Authorities for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years.

2. Ambridge Area Education Association (AAEA) Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between The Ambridge Area School District and Ambridge Area Education Association to establish a resolution for AAEA Grievances 2024-2025-4 and 2024-2025-5.

Miss Fitsko moved to approve items 1-2, seconded by Mrs. Romasco. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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 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>Girls' Basketball</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Lethera Harrison, Head Coach	\$6,000.00
2) <u>Boys' Basketball</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Alonzo Labrie, Assistant Coach	\$2,410.00
b) Eric Astorino, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
3) <u>Girls' Golf</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Noah Rinker, Assistant Coach	\$1,050.00
4) <u>Cheer</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Jennifer Phillips, Head Coach	\$4,300.00
b) Amanda Palshaw, JV Cheer Coach	\$1,950.00
c) Monica Showrank, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
d) Nicole Kelly, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
e) Hallee Jones, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
5) <u>Football</u>	
a) Shane Newhouse, Assistant Coach	\$5,000.00
b) Neil Tkatch, Assistant Coach	\$4,200.00
c) Marlon Kitrell, Assistant Coach	\$4,200.00
d) Greg Kimbrough, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
e) Zack Miller, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
f) Tom Barynk, Weightlifting Coach	\$3,500.00
g) Austin Ludovici, Middle School Coach	\$3,350.00

2. Employee Agreement

It is recommended that Michelle Amadio be renewed as the Business Manager and Director of Operations for the Ambridge Area School District for a two (2) year term beginning on July 1, 2025, per the terms of the agreement at a starting salary of \$92,925.00.

3. Licensed Maintenance Worker

It is recommended to approve the promotion of Steven Lavery to a Licensed Maintenance Worker, effective May 22, 2025, according to the terms of the Local 248 Ambridge Area School Employees, AFSCME – AFL–CIO negotiated agreement.

4. 2025 – 2026 Band Camp Positions

It is recommended to approve the following band camp positions for the 2025-2026 summer band camp at the designated stipends, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening, provided band camp can be held as normal:

Joe Bellinger, Percussion Tech - \$250.00

Kara Russo, Auxiliary - \$2,000.00

5. Rescind

It is recommended to rescind the approval of Teri Moon as a Summer Credit Recovery Science Teacher.

6. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Jamie Seifert from her position as an Ambridge Area High School, Ambridge Area Middle School All Grade Levels, and All Elementary Schools Art Teacher, effective June 6, 2025, with regret. The district reserves the right to retain the employee for the sixty (60) day statutory period or until they are relieved of duties, whichever occurs first.

7. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Marian Puet from her position as an Ambridge Area High School Learning Support/Emotional Support/Autistic Support/Life Skills/Transition/Special Education Teacher, effective June 6, 2025, with regret. The district reserves the right to retain the employee for the sixty (60) day statutory period or until they are relieved of duties, whichever occurs first.

Mrs. Scott moved to approve items 1-7, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XII. President's Report

Mr. Carpenter stated that it was awesome to recognize the students and staff this evening. Wishing all a strong close to the school year.

XIII. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla is incredibly proud of the students' accomplishments, along with the athletics and music departments. He hopes you all have had the chance to enjoy the spring concerts. Wishing everyone a great end to what's been a truly wonderful school year, and a big congratulations to our upcoming graduates!

XIV. Solicitor's Report

Ms. Turnbull commended the administration, Board, staff for their joint effort on a successful school year.

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.

Josh Gill, Economy Boro

- Is there a response to hiring an additional ESL Teacher for the upcoming 5th grade class at Economy Elementary?
- Consider adding a 5th grade teacher.
- Numerous safety issues – Evolv for Elementary Schools
- Suggested building a relationship with the community – the community lost trust in the communication.
- Hold Town Hall meetings quarterly.
 - Over the last year, there was an additional ESL teacher and an Intervention Specialist hired to help with the enrollment of ESL students.

The Board and administration discussed class sizes and holding Town Hall meetings in the future.

Steph Huff, Economy Boro

- Concerns with the 4th grade class size
- Requested adding a teacher for next year's 5th-grade class to support the staff and students.
 - Dr. Pasquerilla stated that parents can request their child to attend one of the other district elementary schools.

Lisa Fox, AASD Teacher

- Stated that she has seen as a teacher at Highland Elementary varies fluctuation in the number of students per year in her classroom, ranging from 20 – 29.
 - Dr. Filipowski added that ESL students are pulled out of core classes an hour a day and there is a Special Education Teacher in the classroom. Typically, the class is not at its full capacity during the school day.
 - Mr. Zatchey stated that he and some of the current Board members have suggested combining all of the elementary schools to avoid some of the problems at hand and even out the classroom sizes.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 8:45 p.m. Mrs. Fischer moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Romasco. All in favor.