

Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Cafeteria on Wednesday, May 14, 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, May 14, 2025. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Media Center.

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. Adina Ferragonio
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. Michelle Gannon, 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, May 14th 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**Tabled item 1 under Finance and Budget**

Mr. Kovacevic moved to table item 1 under Finance and Budget, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Tabled item 2. (A.2.) under Personnel

Mrs. Romasco moved to table item 2. (A.2) under Personnel, seconded by Mrs. Scott. The vote in favor was unanimous.

VIII. Recognition/Presentation**Chromebook Presentation – Kristen Ferguson****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.

Christina Briola, Teacher, Harmony Twp

- Spoke in favor of the technology purchase since the high-stakes testing is now online.
- Requested the upgrade to Chromebooks on a larger scale for high school students.
- Chromebooks make access to online testing easier and are more accessible.

Discussions occurred between the Board and the Technology Director regarding the addition of Chromebook carts for high school students' online testing needs. The Board requested more options for technology purchases.

Kent Withrow, Teacher Union President

- Opposed item 2. (A.2.) under Personnel, suggesting an additional Business or English Teacher would better serve the students' needs.

Discussion on the needs and statistics of the classes currently being offered.

Thomas Short, Ambridge, PA

- As a former JROTC Instructor, stated around 80-85 students per year in the JROTC program, which fluctuated.
- 10 of those received scholarships
- There were a full 6 to 7 periods per day.

Radny Dawson, Ambridge, PA

- Suggested adding a Driver's Education Class
- Stated that the driver's ed course is always a conflict with band students' schedules; therefore, these students cannot take advantage of the course and discounted insurance rates.

The Board and administrators discussed course selections and requested additional information on conflicts students may have when requesting courses.

X. LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THIS MEETING

Education and Technology

Mrs. Romasco

1. Beaver County Children and Youth Services Transportation

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Beaver County Children and Youth Services to establish transportation procedures to ensure the educational stability of Foster Care Youth for the 2025-2026 school year.

2. Keystone Wellness Programs Field Trip

It is recommended to ratify James Litzinger and Amy Braund, teachers at the middle school, taking twelve (12) middle school students, selected from their physical education and health classes, as ambassadors to the Keystone Wellness Program, which is part of the Tobacco Resistance Union (TRU) in Harrisburg, PA, from May 5th to May 6th, 2025. The students also met with State Legislators Robert Matzie and Roman Kozak. This was paid for through the Keystone Wellness Programs grant funding. There was no cost to the district.

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

Finance and Budget

Mr. Zatchey

TABLED 1. 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. 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.

2. Resolution – Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion

It is recommended that Resolution 2025-2026-02 implementing the Act 1 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion be adopted.

3. Resolution Providing for Real Estate Installment Payment

It is recommended that Resolution 2025-2026-03, a resolution authorizing the collection of real estate taxes during the 2025-2026 fiscal year in installments, be adopted.

Mr. Kovacevic moved to approve items 2-3, 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. Summer Credit Recovery

It is recommended to approve the following teachers as instructors for the Summer Credit Recovery Program to tentatively be held on Monday, June 16, 2025 through Friday, June 27, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Teachers will be paid at the contracted rate.

Shane Newhouse, Social Studies
Teri Kutzavich-Moon, Science
Christina Briola, English
Ty Baker, Math

2. 2025-2026 District Course and Section Adjustments

A. It is recommended to approve the alterations of the following positions for the 2025-2026 school year:

1. Ambridge Area High School Special Education Job Coach, Learning Support, Emotional Support, Autistic Support, and Life Skills, All Grade Levels.
- TABLED 2. Ambridge High School Young Marines (which requires a teacher certificate that allows you to teach students in grades 7-12 and some military experience is preferred.)

2. 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.

Lynne Green, Van Driver
Linda Archila-Sturm, Aide
Harry Wert, Aide

3. Food Service Utility Worker

It is recommended to ratify Patrick Yetsick as a Food Service Utility Worker, effective April 22, 2025, 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.

4. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify Employee #109 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave, beginning April 21, 2025, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

5. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify Employee #2541 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave, beginning May 6, 2025, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

6. FMLA

It is recommended to ratify Employee #1843 taking a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave, beginning May 13, 2025, not to exceed forty-nine (49) days.

7. Retirement

It is recommended to accept the resignation of Sandee Mutschler, due to her retirement from the position of Food Service Assistant at State Street Elementary, effective June 5, 2025, with regret.

8. Retirement

It is recommended to accept the resignation of Jeanette McFarland, due to her retirement from the position of Food Service Assistant at the high school, effective June 5, 2025, with regret.

9. Retirement

It is recommended to accept the resignation of Florence Ilko, due to her retirement from the position of Food Service Assistant at the high school, effective June 5, 2025, with regret.

10. Retirement

It is recommended to accept the resignation of Donald Sineway, due to his retirement from the position of Paraprofessional at the high school, effective June 6, 2025, with regret.

11. Retirement

It is recommended to accept the resignation of Bernadette Aquino, due to her retirement from the position of Paraprofessional at Highland Elementary, effective August 1, 2025, with regret.

Mrs. Scott moved to approve items 1-11, as amended, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)**Education and Technology****Mrs. 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 \$326,040.00 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.

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 \$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. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. Tax Exoneration

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.

9. 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*.

10. 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.

11. 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.

Building and Grounds

Mrs. 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.

Athletics

Mrs. Fischer

Congratulations to the Baseball team for making it to the playoffs. The Ambridge Baseball Team has not accomplished this since 2015.

Public Relations

Miss Fitsko

Steering and Rules

Mrs. Kehoe

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

It is recommended, as a second 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 – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second 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 – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second 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.

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

It is recommended, as a first 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 – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first 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.

Legislative**Miss 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.

XII. President's Address

Mr. Carpenter wished the staff and students a strong close to the school year.

XIII. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated the senior class and recognized the spring sports, musicians and Chorus.

XIV. Solicitor's Report

Ms. Gannon had 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.

Fabriola Gergerich, Ambridge, PA

- Has the budget been uploaded
 - Mrs. Amadio confirmed that the budget has been uploaded to the district website
- Page 4, Technology Purchase – how many are being purchased
- How much does technology affect the students' English?
- Student Athletic Insurance – Does the district pay a portion?
 - The district pays a portion, and the parents pay a portion.
- What happens to the material being disposed of?
- Does Primero Edge Express POS exist already, or is this new?
 - This is replacing Revtrack Nurtkids and is more aligned with the State.
- What is the measurement of the area of the QB Club Concession stand roof?
 - Do not have the measurements on hand.

Josh Gill, Economy Boro

- What is the plan for busing so that the district does not run into the same problems?
- Parents are not getting notified of a bus not showing up.
- Are there plans to hire a 5th-grade teacher at Economy Elementary to support the staff with the ESL numbers?
 - Mrs. Fischer stated she is also unhappy with the busing situation, as well, and she has received a number of complaints from the parents.

- Mr. Gill suggested penalizing ABC, looking for other bus companies, getting out of the contract, and paying parents compensation for taking their kids to school.
- Ms. Gannon stated that we are working with ABC for compensation and adjustments of payment.
- Dr. Pasquerilla agrees that this is not acceptable and is primarily concerned with ensuring they complete the runs and successfully transport all the students to and from school. Regarding the long term, he will see if they uphold their end.

Randy Dawson, Ambridge, PA

- An expert in local mapping and routing, as he works at Beaver County Emergency. Mr. Dawson met with Kristen at ABC to evaluate their current routes and maps. He found them to be inaccurate and offered his help, but has not heard from ABC.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At 9:25 p.m., Miss Fitsko moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Scott. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary

APPENDIX A

Three (3) large wood lathes and a jointer.

Asset Tags on the lathes: 000113, 000110, and 000112