

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Cafeteria on Wednesday, June 18, 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, June 18, 2025, is now called to order.

II. Mr. Carpenter asked all 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
Mr. Valerie Scott, Vice President
Mr. Garrett Kovacevic, Treasurer
Mrs. Adina Ferragonio
Mrs. Cathy Fischer
Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe

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 on Wednesday, June 18th to discuss:

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

VI. Correspondence

No Correspondence

VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, May 14th Meet and Discuss Meeting and Wednesday, May 21st Board Meeting

Mrs. Romasco moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Scott. All in favor.

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

Mrs. Romasco 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****2024-2025 Retirees**

Bernadette Aquino, Paraprofessional, 15 Years

Diane Carpenter, Building Secretary, 9 Years

Cynthia Hooks, Food Service Assistant, 29 Years

Linda Hunt, Custodian, 4 Years

Florence Ilko, Food Service Assistant, 34 Years

Jeanette McFarland, Food Service Assistant, 21 Years

Dave Murphy, Maintenance, 27 Years

Sandra Mutschler, Food Service Assistant, 36 Years

Donald Sineway, Paraprofessional, 20 Years

Tammy Zalewsky, Cafeteria Cook, 27 Years

2025 Scholarship Awards**1950's Alumni Scholarship**

Allison Baker

Owen Buchanan

Carter Catalano

Kaitlyn Desrochers

Kaia Fubio

Carmen Georgakis

Julien Hubbard

Mara Ilko

Savanna Jones

Mackenzie Keber

Sheridan Olenic

Hayden Oslick

Madelyn Palmer

Margo Petalino

Reanna Ramirez

Cody Roper

Scarlett Truskowski

Ambridge Area Education Association (AAEA) Scholarship

Julien Hubbard
Sheridan Olenic
Madelyn Palmer
Cody Roper
James Wetzel
Mackenzie Keber
Owen Buchanan
Kaia Fubio
Madison Kozak
Allison Baker

AAEA Support Staff Scholarship

Carmen Georgakis
Mara Ilko
Sheridan Olenic
Macy Smith

AAEA Support Staff Scholarship, Chris Peters Memorial

Kaia Fubio

Alyssa McKee Scholarship

Reanna Ramirez

Ambridge Area Guidance Fund

Aleah Thomas
Amiracle Emerson - Harmon

Ambridge Area Football Scholarship

Blaize Kolar

Ambridge Italian Women's Club

Mackenzie Keber

Ambridge Rotary Club

Kaitlyn Desrochers
Madison Kozak
Carter Catalano
Summer Hartman
Madelyn Palmer
Hannah Larimore

Baden Lions Club

Kaia Fubio

Challenge Program Awards

Aidyn Iorfido, Academic Achievement
Javon Hunt-Humphries, Academic Improvement
Benjamin Francis, Attendance

Savanna Jones, Community Service
Kaitlyn Desrochers, STEM

Coach JP Legacy Scholarship

Anthony Gerace
Aidyn Iorfido
Mackenzie Keber
Macy Smith

David Bupp Memorial Scholarship

Thayne Barton
Anthony Gerace
Aidyn Iorfido
Mackenzie Keber
Macy Smith
James Wetzel

Economy Women's Club Scholarship

Macy Smith

George and Alma Wargetz

Julien Hubbard

Helen Ringel Scholarship (Ambridge Lions Club)

Margo Petalino

IOOF Scholarship

Owen Buchanan
Macy Smith

Joe Zerilla Scholarship

Kaia Fubio
Julien Hubbard
Mackenzie Keber
Reanna Ramirez

Kyle B Wilson Legacy Scholarship

Carter Catalano

Kyle Hochevar

Allison Baker
Anthony Gerace

Maggie Tkatch Memorial Scholarship

Mara Ilko

Mark Romutis Scholarship (Ambridge Lions Club)

Anthony Gerace

Masonic Grant

Niahja Collins, Female

Liam Baker, Male

Moe Ruebenstein Scholarship

Nyahnna Collins

Stanley G Polikowski Scholarship

Carter Catalano

Summer Hartman

Sheridan Olenic

Madelyn Palmer

Reanna Ramirez

Tenaris Merit Award

Summer Hartman

Hannah Larimore

Reanna Ramirez

Cody Roper

Anthony Speicher

Tony Rich Scholarship

Macy Smith

The Sue Hal Galupi Scholarship

Dante Prentice

The Virginia Griffith Scholarship

Allison Baker

Zaire Ellis Memorial Grant

Thomas Scott

Jumet Charitable Foundation Scholarship

Mara Ilko

2025 Outside Scholarships**High School Guidance Beaver County Counselors Association**

Aleah Thomas

Amiracle Emerson-Harmon

The Robert Morris University Merit Scholarship

Gabe Davis

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation

Carter Catalano

The Hagan Scholarship Nationwide Merit Scholarship

Reanna Ramirez

The Swanson School of Engineering Excellence Scholarship

Madelyn Palmer

Agricultural Organization through FFA Award

Daniel Runner

The Richard D. Zana Memorial Scholarship

Mara Ilko

May Students of the Month**High School Students of the Month**Benjamin Francis, 12th GradeAriana Avolio, 11th GradeKendall Harper, 10th GradeEmily Pruszenski, 9th Grade**High School Extra Effort Awards**Dante Prentice, 12th GradeNorah Marchionda, 11th GradeJoseph LeSeiko, 10th GradeNavaeh Thomas, 9th Grade**Middle School Students of the Month**Kylie O'Lare, 8th GradeGuerin Antolic, 7th GradeCollin Waters, 6th Grade**Economy Elementary Student of the Month**Nolan Tierney, 4th Grade**Highland Elementary Student of the Month**Trinity Smith, 5th Grade**State Street Elementary Student of the Month**Gemma Boyt, 5th Grade**May Employees of the Month****High School Employee of the Month**

Lori Chickos, Attendance Secretary

Middle School Employee of the Month

Anna Robinson, Food Service Worker

Economy Elementary

Justine Bagaley, Social Studies and Science Teacher

State Street Elementary

Kristyn Hernandez, Paraprofessional

Highland Elementary

Shannon Tatman, STEAM 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. Special Education Out-of-District Placements**

It is recommended to approve the following agreements with the Special Education out-of-district placements for the 2025-2026 school year, pending review by the Administrators and the Solicitor:

1) Outside Special Education Placement

- a) Adelphoi School
- b) Bradley Center
- c) BCRC, Inc.
- d) CLASS Academy (Private)
- e) DePaul Institute
- f) Easter Seals
- g) Holy Family Institute
- h) MHY Longmore Academy
- i) McGuire Memorial
- j) New Horizon School
- k) Pressley Ridge Day School
- l) St. Stephen's Academy/Glade Run
- m) Watson Education Center
- n) Watson Institute (WISCA)
- o) Western PA School for the Blind
- p) Western PA School for the Deaf

q) Wesley Spectrum Academy

2) Mental Health Facilities

- a) Clarion Psychiatric Services
- b) Abraxas
- c) Pathways Adolescent Center
- d) Persius
- e) Sharon Regional Health System
- f) Southwood
- g) Taylor Diversion Program
- h) Western Psychiatric
- i) MHY Family Services

3) Detention Center

- a) Keystone Adolescent Center/Charter School
- b) Adelphoi Village

2. On-Site Dental Care

It is recommended to approve the Miracle Dental Association On-Site Team to provide dental care to all students in the district for the 2025-2026 school year. The district does not incur any expense or liability.

3. Vision to Learn

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and Vision to Learn for the 2025-2026 school year. The program provides free vision screenings and glasses to students who need them but cannot afford them. The district does not incur any expense or liability.

4. Allegheny Intermediate Unit Comprehensive Service Agreement

It is recommended to approve a one (1) year Comprehensive Service Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to provide specialized student services.

5. Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit (BVIU) Title I Agreement

It is recommended to approve a one (1) year Service Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit. The BVIU will provide Title I services.

6. Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) Title I Agreement

It is recommended to approve a one (1) year Service Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. The AIU will provide Title I services.

7. Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV (MIU IV) Title I Agreement

It is recommended to approve a one (1) year Service Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV. The MIU IV will provide Title I services.

8. Infinite Campus

It is recommended to approve the renewal of the Infinite Campus annual licensing subscription for the 2025-2026 school year at a cost of \$26,219.55, at a minimal increase in cost.

9. Finalsite Website

It is recommended to approve a one (1) year agreement with Finalsite to provide website services to the district at a one-time implementation cost of \$6,500.00 and an annual cost of \$6,200.00.

10. Alternative Education/Private Academic Services Agreement

It is recommended to approve the purchase of eight (8) Alternative Education seats through the CLASS Academy Program for the 2025-2026 school year at a cost of \$18,500.00 per seat and it is furthermore recommended to approve the purchase of four (4) Private Academic seats for the 2025-2026 school year at a cost of \$23,500.00 per seat. This is at a slight increase in cost.

11. Field Trip

It is recommended that Brittany Graft, a social studies teacher at the Middle School, be authorized to take 8th grade students to Washington, DC on May 15, 2026. Parents or guardians will be required to sign permission and release forms. Chaperones will be required to have current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening. The district would cover the cost of the three (3) buses at approximately \$1,000.00 per bus.

12. McGraw Hill Inspire Chemistry

It is recommended to approve the adoption of a six (6) year McGraw Hill *Inspire Chemistry* series. The total cost of the series is \$24,716.60.

13. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Into Literature

It is recommended to approve the adoption of a five (5) year HMH *Into Literature* series, grades 7-12. The total cost of the series is \$212,731.47.

14. Sophos Software

It is recommended to approve an Estimate from Communication Consulting, Inc. to purchase a three-year renewal of Sophos cybersecurity software and protection services beginning the 2025-2026 school year at a total cost of \$119,988.32 through the state contracted pricing (PEPPM).

15. Master Schedules

It is recommended to approve the tentative master schedules for the 2025-2026 school year.

Mrs. Romasco moved to approve items 1-15. 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 \$2,835,586.70 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,697,962.07 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$71,701.25 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$58,661.01 be paid.

3. Post Audit Budget Transfers

It is recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the Administration's recommendation to ratify the list of budget transfers for the 2024-2025 fiscal year due to audit reclassifications. A list of transfers will be provided to the Board after the completion of the 2024-2025 audit.

4. Gifts in Kind

It is recommended to accept the donation from Dr. Brittany Kinol, the district dentist, for her services rendered at no charge to the district. The donor has received no goods or services in return for this gift.

5. Gifts in Kind

It is recommended to accept the donation of \$500.00 from ThinkSync, to be used at the discretion of the middle school staff to benefit students. The donor has received no goods or services in return for this gift.

6. Insurance Coverage

It is recommended the Board approve the following insurance premiums obtained through the district broker, Arthur J. Gallagher, for the 2025-2026 school year at a total cost of \$358,649.00.

7. Services Agreement Reinstatement

It is recommended to approve the Third-Party Administrative Services Agreement Reinstatement for the continuation of 403(b)/457(b) administration services by the Omni Group for the 2025-2026 school term as per the Fee Schedule for 2025-2026.

8. PA-Educator

It is recommended to approve the contract of service between the Ambridge Area School District and Pennsylvania Educators' Clearinghouse (PA-Educator.net) for the 2025-2026 school year at a cost of \$2,175.00. This is at no increase in cost.

Mr. Carpenter moved to approve items 1-8, seconded by Mrs. Scott. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Building and Grounds**Adina Ferragonio****Point of Information**

The Ambridge Area High School Band Department is excited to announce that Drum Corps International has once again selected them to host a Drum & Bugle Corps. The group will be Genesis from Austin, Texas. They will arrive on Sunday, August 3rd, and depart on Monday, August 4th.

Building and Grounds**Adina Ferragonio**1. Track Equipment

It is recommended to approve a quote from MFAC, LLC to purchase 100 Track Hurdles in the total amount of \$12,900.00 through the state contracted pricing (Co-Stars).

Mrs. Ferragonio moved to approve item 1, seconded by Mrs. Scott. 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- Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Students – Third and Final Reading

It is recommended, as a third and final 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.

2. Policy 104 – Nondiscrimination – Qualified Students with Disabilities – Third and Final Reading

It is recommended, as a third and final 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.

3. Mandatory Review of Policies

As a first and final reading, it is advised to conduct a mandatory review of the following current policies as required by Title I to ensure compliance with federal regulations, make informed data-driven decisions, and promote transparency and accountability in education.

- a) Policy 827 – *Conflict of Interest*
- b) Policy 626 – *Federal Fiscal Compliance*
- c) Policy 626.1 – *Travel reimbursement – Federal Programs*
- d) Policy 308 – *Employment Contract*
- e) Policy 408 – *Employment Contract*
- f) Policy 707 – *Use of School Facilities*
- g) Policy 708 – *Lending of Equipment and Books*

Mrs. Kehoe moved to approve item 3, seconded by Mr. Kovacevic. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Legislative

Miss Amy Fitsko

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. Homeless Liaison Coordinator

It is recommended to approve Jo Ann Hoover as a Homeless Liaison Coordinator to be paid a stipend of \$2,833.00 for the 2025-2026 school year.

2. Paraprofessional

It is recommended to retroactively hire Cami Miller as a Paraprofessional at the middle school, effective May 28, 2025, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association (ESPA/PSEA/NEA), pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

3. Mentor Teacher

It is recommended to approve the following teacher assignment for the 2025-2026 school year, as per the collective bargaining agreement:

Mentor Teacher
Miranda Swartz

New Teacher
Trevor Piccone

4. Practicum

It is recommended to approve Jillian Strecansky, a Duquesne University student, to complete practicum hours at the Ambridge Area School District, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening. Jillian will be placed with Miranda Swartz.

5. Cafeteria Food Service Union Worker

It is recommended that Crystal Cain be hired as a Four-Hour Cook at the middle school as per the terms of the collective bargaining unit, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

6. Retirement

It is recommended to accept the resignation of Cynthia Hooks due to her retirement from the position of Head Cook at the middle school, effective June 6, 2025, with regret.

7. Retirement

It is recommended to accept the resignation of Diane Carpenter due to her retirement from the position of Highland Elementary School Building Secretary, effective August 12, 2025, with regret.

8. Resignation

It is recommended to accept the resignation of Jeanette Kostelich from her position as a Cafeteria Monitor/Cashier at Highland Elementary, effective June 5, 2025, with regret.

9. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Erica Warix from her position as a Paraprofessional at Economy Elementary School, effective June 6, 2025, with regret.

10. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Phillip Goerig from his position as an Ambridge Area High School Guidance Counselor, effective June 12, 2025. 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.

11. 2025-2026 Summer Band Camp

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:

Jessica Patterson, Music Tech - \$1,300.00

Zoe Elias, Percussion Tech - \$250.00

12. Rescind 2025-2026 Girls' Volleyball Coach

It is recommended to rescind the approval of Stephanie Benkowski as a Girls' Volleyball Volunteer Coach.

13. Rescind 2025-2026 Football Coaches

It is recommended to rescind the approval of the following individuals previously approved to fill the designated coaching positions:

Marlon Kittrell, Assistant Coach

Shane Dablock, Middle School Coach

Austin Ludovici, Middle School Coach

Tom Baranyk, Weightlifting Coach

Greg Kimbrough, Volunteer Coach

14. 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' Volleyball</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Stephanie Benkowski, Assistant Coach | \$2,400.00 |
| 2) <u>Football</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Greg Kimbrough, Weightlifting Coach | \$3,500.00 |
| b) Tom Baranyk, Assistant Coach | \$4,200.00 |
| c) Marlon Kittrell, Middle School Coach | \$3,350.00 |
| 3) <u>Cheer</u> | |
| a) Adrienne Bucko, 9 th Grade | \$1,350.00 |

15. Employee Agreement

It is recommended to approve the employment agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and June Mueller. The agreement will commence on July 1, 2025 and expire on June 30, 2028.

16. School Year Credit Recovery Program

It is recommended to retroactively approve Deborah Stieving as the Science Instructor for the 2024-2025 Credit Recovery Program at the high school. Mrs. Stieving will be paid as per the collective bargaining agreement.

17. Consideration for Salary Increase

It is recommended that Administrators receive consideration for a tentative salary increase for the 2025-2026 school year based upon their initial evaluation for the 2024-2025 school year, per Act 93 Agreement. This serves as an initial adjustment. The final salary adjustment will be recommended once the final evaluations have been completed.

18. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #2993 be approved for an intermittent leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave, beginning May 23, 2025, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

19. Summer Credit Recovery Program

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

Megan Racioppo, Health and Physical Education
Teri Moon, Science
Pam Green, Science

Mrs. Scott moved to approve items 1-19, seconded by Mrs. Romasco. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XII. President's Report

Mr. Carpenter congratulated all of the retirees, students, and staff who were recognized this evening. He also extended his congratulations to the graduates, expressing confidence in the bright futures ahead of them. He concluded by wishing everyone a safe and happy summer."

XIII. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated all those who were recognized this evening. He also expressed his gratitude to the maintenance, custodial, administrative, and support staff for their hard work in preparing for the upcoming school year. Additionally, he acknowledged the ESY staff. Special congratulations were extended to the retirees, along with heartfelt thanks for the many years they have positively impacted students' lives

XIV. Solicitor's Report

Ms. Turnbull wished everyone a happy summer. She also shared that she is continuing to monitor state funding developments and encouraged all to contact their state legislators to advocate for education.

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.

No Comments

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary