

**Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Cafeteria on Wednesday, July 9, 2025.**

**I. Mrs. Scott 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, July 9, 2025, is now called to order.

**II. Mrs. Scott asked all present to rise for the Flag salute**

**III. Mrs. Scott 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. Mrs. Mueller called Roll Call**

Mr. 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. Matt 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, July 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss:

- Personnel matter(s)
- Information, strategy, and/or negotiation session relating to the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement
- Matters subject to attorney-client privilege and other confidentiality laws
- Litigation or threatened litigation matters
- Sensitive public safety issues
- Salary schedule and labor relations

**VI. Correspondence**

No Correspondence

**VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> Meet and Discuss Meeting and Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting**

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

**VIII. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda**

Item 4. a)-d) under Education and Technology was Tabled.

**IX. Recognition/Presentation****Ambridge Area High School Boys' Volleyball Team**

- Section Champions
- WPIAL Silver Medal 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
- PIAA 5<sup>th</sup> Place
- Overall record 16-3
- The team has qualified for the WPIAL playoffs for the last 24 years with coach Glenn Freed, including being in the WPIAL Finals 15 times (winning 10) and Consolations 6 times.

**Student-Athlete Honors:****All-Section Teams**

First Team: Karson Merlina, Anthony Seymour, Nathan Sheffield

Second Team: Owen Buchanan, Nickolas Henry

**All-WPIAL Teams**

First Team: Karson Merlina

Second Team: Anthony Seymour, Nathan Sheffield

Third Team: Nickolas Henry

**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.

Josh Gill, Economy Borough

- Concern with Economy Elementary being placed on a TSI Plan as it was voted a Blue Ribbon School
- Would like all elementary schools to be evaluated equally based upon the challenges each school faces and students' need for support.

- Provide necessary resources to all elementary schools.
- How are Club/Activities Sponsor Stipends calculated, split, and approved?
- Dr. Pasquerilla
  - Each school is held to the state's thresholds and must meet the statewide assessment. The state utilizes a tiered system of oversight and monitoring to address percent threshold compliance requirements. And below a percentage, the school must submit an action plan that needs to be formally approved.
  - All elementary schools received the same Title I level plans, including intervention at all buildings.
- Mrs. Romasco
  - Enquired about the Guidance Counselors' return date and in-person scheduling.
  - Were there courses added at the high school?
- Dr. Pasquerilla
  - Not aware of courses being added; however, we do have dual enrollment agreements with various colleges and universities.
  - There will be a blast sent out for in-person scheduling with the guidance counselors.
- Mr. Zatchey
  - Would like the clear backpack language to be removed from the student handbooks, due to concerns about the durability of the clear backpacks and the financial burden it puts on some families.
  - We cannot rely on community donations each year for clear backpacks.
  - Suggests the handbooks be tabled until further discussion on clear backpacks.
- Dr. Pasquerilla
  - The clear backs were a recommendation from the Chief of Police.
- Miss Fitsko
  - Clear backpacks were done out of an abundance of caution in an emergency, and since then, we have security protocols in place. Is there a need for clear backpacks?
- Mrs. Fischer
  - Would like to have feedback from the principals and the morning bag check staff.

**X. Committee Reports****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 \$3,088,002.19 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,449,582.05 be paid.

**2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries**

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$10,166.97 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$45,507.15 be paid.

**3. 403(b) Plan Restatement**

It is recommended to adopt the 403(b) Plan restatement and approve proposed changes for legal compliance, effective July 1, 2025, as recommended by 403(b) Third Party Administrator, Omni Group.

Mr. Zatchey made a motion to approve items 1-3, seconded by Mrs. Romasco. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Education and Technology****Mrs. Kelly Romasco**

Mrs. Romasco made a motion to table items 1-4, seconded by Miss Fitsko. Mrs. Fisher abstained; Mrs. Kehoe, Mr. Kovacevic, and Mrs. Scott voted against the motion.

**1. Ambridge Area High School Comprehensive Support & Improvement (CSI)**

It is recommended to approve the final Ambridge Area High School CSI Plan for the 2025-2026 school year. This report acknowledges our student groups that face both academic and student success challenges. Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) interventions will assist the high school in supporting students during the 2025-2026 school year to meet the thresholds for academic proficiency and academic growth.

**2. Ambridge Area Middle School Targeted Support & Improvement (TSI)**

It is recommended to approve the final Ambridge Area Middle School TSI Plan for the 2025-2026 school year. This report acknowledges our student groups that face both academic and student success challenges. Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) interventions will assist the middle school in supporting students during the 2025-2026 school year to meet the thresholds for academic proficiency and academic growth.

3. Economy Elementary School Targeted Support & Improvement (TSI)

It is recommended to approve the final Economy Elementary School TSI Plan for the 2025-2026 school year. This report acknowledges our student groups that face both academic and student success challenges. Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) interventions will assist the Economy Elementary School in supporting students during the 2025-2026 school year to meet the thresholds for academic proficiency and academic growth.

4. Student Handbooks - **ITEM TABLED**

- a) It is recommended to adopt the High School Student Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year.
- b) It is recommended to adopt the Middle School Student Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year.
- c) It is recommended to adopt the Elementary Student Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year.
- d) It is recommended to adopt the PreK Counts Student Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year.

5. Back to School

The first day of the 2025-2026 school year for students is Thursday, August 21, 2025. The instructional day start and end times are:

Elementary	8:25 a.m. – 3:05 p.m.
Middle School	7:25 a.m. – 2:20 p.m.
High School	7:30 a.m. – 2:26 p.m.

Teachers return on Tuesday, August 19, 2025.

**Point of Information**

Teacher Start and End Times:

Elementary:	7:50 a.m. – 3:25 p.m.
Middle School:	7:20 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.
High School:	7:25 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

6. Dual Enrollment/High School Academic Agreement

It is recommended to renew Dual Enrollment/High School Academic Agreements between the Ambridge Area School District and the following Colleges and Universities. This program will allow students to concurrently enroll in an associate degree, certificate or diploma program while completing their high school requirements.

Robert Morris University  
Carlow University  
Community College of Beaver County (CCBC)

7. Itopia CloudApps

It is recommended to approve a quote from CDW-G to purchase Itopia CloudApps at a total cost of \$12,880.00 through the state contracted pricing (PEPPM).

8. Jamf School

It is recommended to approve a one (1) year renewal of EDU - Jamf School iOS AM product for maintenance and support of the district iPads at a total cost of \$7,150.00. This is a decrease in cost.

9. Seesaw LMS

It is recommended to approve a one (1) year renewal of the Seesaw LMS subscription at a cost of \$7,678.60. This is at a slight increase in cost.

Mrs. Scott made a motion to table item 4 and approve items 1-3. Mrs. Kehoe voted against tabling Item 4. Mr. Kovacevic and Mrs. Romasco voted against the motion.

**Building and Grounds****Mrs. Adina Ferragonio****Athletics****Mrs. Cathleen Fischer**1. Athletic Handbook

It is recommended to adopt the Athletic Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year.

2. Hudl Agreement

It is recommended to renew a three (3) year agreement with Agile Sports Technologies, Inc. dba Hudl at a cost of \$14,500.00 per year for the purpose of Athletic Live Streaming. This is a \$3,500.00 increase per year, which includes all previous cameras and additional cameras for baseball and softball.

3. Fieldhouse Scoreboards

It is recommended to approve a quote from Institutional Specialties, Inc. to purchase and install two (2) multi-Sport Scoreboards at a total cost of \$15,500.00 through the state bidding process (Co-Stars).

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

**Public Relations****Miss Amy Fitsko**1. Library Contribution

It is recommended to approve the distribution of budgeted allotment for the 2025-2026 school year to the Laughlin Memorial Library in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Miss Fitsko moved to approve item 1, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Steering and Rules****Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe**1. Policy 610 - Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation – First and Final Reading

As a first and final reading, it is advised to retroactively revise Policy 610 *Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation* to reflect the updates effective January 1, 2025, by adjusting the purchasing limits to comply with current law.

2. Policy 622 - GASB Statement 34 – First Reading

It is recommended as a first reading to revise Policy 622 – *GASB Statement 34* to update the required accounting and financial reporting standards stipulated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Mrs. Kehoe voted to approve items 1-2, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. 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. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Olivia Pietropola from her position as a State Street Elementary Fourth Grade Teacher, effective July 1, 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.

2. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Shannon Tatman from her position as an Elementary STEAM Teacher All Grades, effective June 25, 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.

3. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Jason Ash from his position as an Ambridge Area Middle School Learning and Emotional Support Teacher All Grades, effective August 18, 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.

4. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Jasmine Marchesin from her position as a Kitchen Worker at Economy Elementary, effective July 2, 2025, with regret.

5. Club Sponsor Ratification

It is recommended to ratify the approval of Ashley Schmidt and Anna Rubaker as co-sponsors of the high school's Unified Club for the 2024-2025 school year, with each receiving a stipend of \$235.00.

6. Club Sponsor Rescinded

It is recommended to rescind the approval of Kim Racioppo as the 2024-2025 Co-Sponsor for the following High School Clubs:

Interact Club  
Mock Trial

7. 2024-2025 Spring Coach Rescind and Ratify

It is recommended to rescind the approval of Denise Duncan as the Middle School Assistant Coach, who is paid a stipend of \$1,550.00, and to ratify Denise Duncan as the Middle School Assistant Coach, who is paid a stipend of \$1,850.00.

8. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

It is recommended that the following individuals who have applied for the specified posted positions for the 2025-2026 school year be approved at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement, provided the school year allows and sponsors are able to hold activities as normal.

<u>ACTIVITY/CLUB (High School)</u>		<u>SALARY</u>
Band Director	Stephen Rodgers	\$8,000.00
Band 1 <sup>st</sup> Assistant	Todd Hartman	\$4,200.00
Majorette/Drill Team	Rachel Crust	\$3,200.00
Steel Drum	Todd Hartman	\$3,000.00
Finance Director	Kelly Gregory	\$3,100.00
Yearbook	Christina Briola	\$2,490.00
Silhouette	Erin Williams	\$2,100.00
Junior Class	Nicole Connolly	\$2,150.00
Senior High Play Director	Andrea Cary	\$2,050.00
Senior Class	Nicole Connolly	\$1,550.00



Sophomore Class	Nicole Connolly	\$1,150.00
SH Pep Band	Stephen Rodgers	\$1,200.00
Mock Trial Team	Christina Briola (Co-Sponsor)	\$ 675.00
	Kim Racioppo (Co-Sponsor)	\$ 675.00
Interact Club	Christina Briola (Co-Sponsor)	\$ 575.00
	Kim Racioppo (Co-Sponsor)	\$ 575.00
National Honor Society	Sarah Burns	\$ 950.00
PA Math League	Sarah Burns	\$ 470.00
Book Club	Christina Briola	\$ 470.00
Stage Crew	Todd Hartman	\$ 470.00
TRI-M Music Honor Society	Stephen Rodgers	\$ 470.00
AATV AM Announcements	Stephen Rodgers	\$ 470.00
Student Council	Joie Dusold	\$ 470.00
Bible Club	Jamie Orth	\$ 470.00
Art Club	Jamie Orth	\$ 470.00
Black Student Union	Carlyn Humphries (Co-Sponsor)	\$ 235.00
	Joie Dusold (Co-Sponsor)	\$ 235.00
Italian Club	Davide Sciulli	\$ 470.00
Thespian Club	Jessica Patterson	\$ 470.00
Adventures in Education	Larry Knopsnyder	\$ 470.00
Mary Makers	Shana Dowlin	\$ 470.00

<u><b>ACTIVITY/CLUB (Middle School)</b></u>		<u><b>SALARY</b></u>
MathCounts	Noah Rinker (Co-Sponsor)	\$ 550.00
	Ty Baker (Co-Sponsor)	\$ 550.00
National Junior Honor Society	Amy Braund	\$ 650.00
Art Club	Jennifer Ax	\$ 470.00
Drama Club	Amy Fedorek	\$ 470.00
Newspaper	Amy Braund	\$ 470.00
Yearbook	Jordan Simpson	\$ 470.00
Club Hope	Chris Ceratti (Co-Sponsor)	\$ 235.00
Technology Student Association	Scott Setzenfand (Co-Sponsor)	\$ 235.00
	Shana Dowlin (Co-Sponsor)	\$ 235.00

#### 9. Posted Positions: Department Heads and Building Heads

It is recommended that the following individuals who have applied for the specified posted positions for the 2025-2026 school year be approved at the salary designated in the negotiated agreement, pending receipt of current clearances and drug screening:

<u><b>DEPARTMENT HEADS</b></u>		<u><b>SALARY</b></u>
<u><b>Elementary:</b></u>		
Kindergarten	Tammy Kennedy	\$1,365.00
First Grade	Lisa Kovach	\$1,365.00
Second Grade	Lauren Tierney	\$1,365.00
Third Grade	Brenda Antoline	\$1,365.00
Fourth Grade	Lauren Taormina	\$1,365.00
Fifth Grade	Michelle Wilson	\$1,365.00

Sixth Grade	Corinna Cooper	\$1,365.00
Special Education	Susan Manuppelli	\$1,365.00

**Secondary:**

English	Christina Briola	\$1,365.00
Social Studies	Chris Yannesss	\$1,365.00
Science	Teri Moon	\$1,365.00
Special Education	Bonnie DeAngelis	\$1,365.00

**K-12:**

Physical Education	Jeffrey Modrovich	\$1,365.00
Reading	Greta Bible	\$1,365.00
Business	Cory Cavanaugh	\$1,365.00
Fine Arts	Stephen Rodgers	\$1,365.00
Foreign Language	Davide Sciulli	\$1,365.00
Guidance	Chelsea Benedict	\$1,365.00

**BUILDING HEADS**

Middle School	Chris Ceratti	\$1,450.00
Middle School	Brad Olenic	\$1,450.00
Economy Elementary	Michelle Druga	\$1,450.00
Highland Elementary	Brandie Skonieczny	\$1,450.00
State Street Elementary	Kimberly Roppa	\$1,450.00

**10. Technology Integrators**

It is recommended to approve the following individuals to serve as the Technology Integrators in their assigned buildings for the 2025-2026 school year, to be paid a stipend of \$1,200.00, as per the collective bargaining agreement:

<u>Economy Elementary</u>	<u>Highland Elementary</u>	<u>State Street Elementary</u>
Lynn Hartle	Kellee Jo Gnipp	Lauren Tierney
Carrie Malinich	Michelle Wilson	Tim Buresh

<u>Middle School</u>	<u>High School</u>
Lauren Mawhinney	Sarah Burns
Krista Novak	Sarah White
Amy Fedorek	Christina Briola

**11. District Physician**

It is recommended to approve a District Physician Professional Services Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Dr. Jeffrey Hein to provide services to the district for the 2025-2026 school year.

12. Professional Employee

It is recommended to approve Samantha Banks as an Ambridge Area High School Guidance Counselor at a salary of \$50,981.00 (Step 1, Master) effective with the first day of new teacher induction, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEA/PSEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, valid Pennsylvania Education Specialist Certification, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

13. Professional Employee

It is recommended to approve Justin Egizio as an Ambridge Area High School Art Teacher at a salary of \$50,071.00 (Step 1, Bachelor) effective with the first day of new teacher induction, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEA/PSEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, valid Pennsylvania Education Specialist Certification, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

14. Professional Employee

It is recommended to approve Mia Boccabella as an Economy Elementary First Grade Teacher at a salary of \$50,071.00 (Step 1, Bachelor) effective with the first day of new teacher induction, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEA/PSEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, valid Pennsylvania Education Specialist Certification, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

15. 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) Craig Wiltrek, Middle School Coach	\$1,750.00
b) Lethera Harrison, Middle School Coach	\$1,750.00
2) <u>Football</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Dan Hilton, Assistant Coach	\$4,200.00
b) Ron Wilson, Equipment Manager	\$3,500.00
c) Shawn West, Middle School Assistant	\$3,350.00

16. Amergis Healthcare Staffing, Inc.

It is recommended to approve an agreement between Amergis Healthcare Staffing, Inc., and the Ambridge Area School District to provide supplemental healthcare staffing services.

**17. Summer School Accelerated Math 7**

It is recommended to retroactively approve Lauren Metz as the middle school math teacher for the Summer School Accelerated Math 7 Class that will meet every Tuesday and Thursdays from Tuesday, July 8, 2025, through Thursday, August 14, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement.

**18. FMLA**

It is recommended that Employee #676 be approved for a leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave, beginning July 30, 2025, not to exceed 12 weeks.

Mrs. Fischer moved to approve items 1-18, seconded by Miss Fischer. Mrs. Romasco abstained from items 8 and 10.

**XI. President's Report****XII. Superintendent's Report**

Congratulated the Volleyball Team and Coach Glenn Freed.

Special thanks to the staff preparing for the upcoming school year.

Hope everyone is enjoying the summer break.

**XIII. Solicitor's Report**

The US Supreme Court ended its session on public schools, reaffirming parents' right to opt out of curriculum based on religious beliefs. The district always has and will continue to have an opt-out process, and will review that and communicate to families in advance of the school year and throughout the school year

Harrisburg is working on a budget to be passed, deadlocked right now, and one reason is cyber-chartered school funding and policy. If they are resolved, when it is resolved, it will be communicated.

**XIV. 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 Borough

- Concerns about student transportation for the upcoming school year, such as route times and overcrowding
- Will families get routes and schedules well in advance of the start of the school year?
- Will school reimburse families for transporting their children to and from school?

- Clear backpack policy – these backpacks are not sturdy, and young students cannot express themselves.
  - Consider other security procedures.
  - Vapes, cigarettes, and drugs are still coming into the schools with the use of clear backpacks.
- Dr. Pasquerilla
- The hope is that ABC provides the transportation as needed
  - There will be ABC representatives at the first August Board meeting with a report for the upcoming school year.

Fabriola Gergerich, Ambridge, PA

- Thanked Mr. Zatchey for his statements on the clear backpack
- Page 4, Item 9
- Hudl Agreement
- Page 5, Item 1 – Was the same contribution amount given last year?
- Page 6, Items 5 and 6 clarifications
- Page 6, Item 7, is it for 2024-2025
- Were the Chromebooks purchased?

- Dr. Pasquerilla
- Hudl - Students have had signing to play at colleges/universities, don't have the stats on this.
  - Library donation was the same amount as last year.
  - The Track Coach for 24-25 was given a slightly high stipend, being no one took the second coaching position
  - Chromebooks were purchased for three grade levels and additional carts for online testing purposes.

Joe Musser, Ambridge

- Thanked all for what they do.
- Has heard negative feedback on clear backpacks from the community for economic reasons, and we cannot rely on the community to donate to families.
- Why not treat one discipline case at a time?
- Against clear backpacks.
- Hope the incident that happened last year never happens again.
- It's time to go back to normalcy.
- We must have faith in the students and staff.
- Hopes that the Board will have further discussions on clear backpacks.

## **XVI. Motion to Adjourn**

At approximately 8:45 p.m. Mrs. Fischer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Scott. All in favor

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