

Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Cafeteria on Wednesday, June 11, 2025.

I. Mr. Kovacevic called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

The Meet and Discuss Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is held on Wednesday, June 11, 2025. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

II. Mr. Kovacevic asked all present to rise for the Flag-salute.

III. Mr. Kovacevic 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. Garrett Kovacevic, Treasurer

Mrs. Adina Ferragonio

Mrs. Cathy Fischer

Miss Amy Fitsko

Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe

Mr. Matthew Zatchey

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, June 11th to discuss:

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

VI. Correspondence

No Correspondence

VII. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda

Move all items under Legislative Action to Non-Voting items.

Mr. Zatchey made a motion to move all legislative items to non-voting items, seconded by Miss Fitsko. Mrs. Fischer and Mrs. Kehoe voted against this amendment.

VIII. Recognition/Presentation**IX. Public Comment (Regarding Agenda Items Only)**

At this time, DISTRICT RESIDENTS may come forward to comment on agenda items only. Each person must state their first and last name and address prior to speaking. Each resident will be allowed three minutes and can speak only once. This period for public comment prior to the standing committee reports will be limited to one-half hour. Although not required, board members desiring to address questions or concerns may do so after the residents' comments/questions or at the conclusion of the committee reports. There will still be an opportunity for residents to comment on any business relevant to the Ambridge Area School District under Old and New Business at the end of the meeting.

No Comment

X. LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THIS MEETING

***Amended – Items 1-15, under Personnel intended for voting purposes, were moved to non-voting status**

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. 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. 2025-2026 Summer Band Camp

It is recommended to approve the following band camp position 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:

Zoe Elias, Percussion Tech - \$250.00

11. Rescind 2025-2026 Girls Volleyball Coach

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

12. 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 Kitrell, Assistant Coach
Shane Doblach as the Middle School Coach
Austin Ludovici as the Middle School Coach
Tom Baranyk as the Weightlifting Coach
Greg Kimbrough as the Volunteer Coach

13. 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 Kitrell, Middle School Coach	\$3,350.00
3) <u>Cheer</u>	
a) Adrienne Bucko, 9 th Grade	\$1,350.00

14. 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.

15. Credit Recovery

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.

***Amended – Items 1-3, under Steering and Rules, originally for voting purposes, were moved to non-voting status**

Steering and Rules

Mrs. 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*

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)**Education and Technology****Mrs. 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 ____ () Alternative Education seats through the CLASS Academy Program for the 2025-2026 school year at a cost of \$_____ per seat and it is furthermore recommended to approve the purchase of ____ () Private Academic seats for the 2025-2026 school year at a cost of \$____ per seat.

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.

Finance and Budget

Mr. Zatchey

1. School District Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly school district bills in the amount of \$2,835,586.70 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.

Package	CM Regent	\$227,387.00
(Property/Casualty, General Liability, Auto, Legal Liability, and all Commercial Coverages)		
Cyber Coverage	Travelers	\$17,744.00
Workers Compensation	UPMC	\$103,244.00

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.

Building and Grounds

Mrs. Ferragonio

Point of Information

Beaver County Symphonic Wind Ensemble

Ambridge Area High School will be hosting the Beaver County Wind Symphonic Wind Ensemble's Fall and Holiday Concerts and associated rehearsals through 2030. The concerts and rehearsals will take place in the high school auditorium and music suite. BCSWE offers a musical outlet to 90 musicians of all ages and abilities to express their love for musical performance. This includes students from various high schools across the county (including Ambridge) and community members.

BCSWE has provided a schedule that will not conflict with district functions. Additionally, BCSWE will be responsible for custodial costs. The Board will waive the facility fee in exchange for free enrichment for students in the Ambridge Area School District.

Athletics

Mrs. Fischer

Public Relations

Miss Fitsko

Steering and Rules**Mrs. Kehoe****Legislative****Miss Fitsko****XII. President's Address**

Mr. Kovacevic said that the 2025 Graduation Ceremony was a wonderful day, and he was thankful for the backup plan to move the event inside due to the weather. Mr. Kovacevic also highlighted the great achievements in the school community and the athletic department, such as the volleyball and baseball team successes this season.

XIII. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla thanked all who helped with the Graduation Ceremony and congratulated all the graduates. Wishing all a safe and enjoyable summer.

XIV. Solicitor's Report

Ms. Turnbull updated all on the recent Supreme Court case Mahmoud v. Taylor, parents parental right to opt their children out of public-school instruction that conflicts with religious beliefs. Ms. Turnbull will keep us updated on the ruling.

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.

Miss Fitsko inquired about the possibility of setting a rain date for the graduation ceremony. The Admin and the Board had discussions on this. Miss Fitsko requested additional information.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary