

AMBRIDGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
AGENDA

November 19, 2025

7:00 P.M.

High School Auditorium

I. Call to Order

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District Board of Directors on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 called to order.

II. Flag salute-please rise

Highland Elementary Student Council

III. 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

V. Sunshine Law

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, November 19th to discuss:

- Personnel matter(s)
- Information, strategy, and/or negotiation session relating to the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement
- Considering the purchase or lease of real estate
- 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

VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, October 8, 2025, Meet and Discuss Meeting, and Wednesday, October 15th Board Meeting

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

IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda

X. Recognition/Presentation

September Middle School Student of the Month

Ava Grace Akella, 7th Grade

October Students of the Month

High School Student of the Month

Jazlyn Martinez, 12th Grade

Eden DeMuth, 11th Grade

Madison Curry, 10th Grade

Rosella DeMuth, 9th Grade

High School Extra Effort Award

Abby Smith, 12th Grade

Faith Aguirre, 11th Grade

Peyton Freehling, 10th Grade

Sondous Al Ali, 9th Grade

Middle School Student of the Month

Kiley Schell, 8th Grade

Jovan Lopez, 7th Grade

Jude El Hayel 6th Grade

Economy Elementary Student of the Month

Elizabeth Springer, 5th Grade

Highland Elementary Student of the Month

Dutchess Coleman, 5th Grade

State Street Elementary Student of the Month

Bryden Bishop, 5th Grade

Employees of the Month

High School Employee of the Month

Davide Sciulli, Italian Teacher

Middle School Employee of the Month

Jamie Scafuri, Reading Teacher

Economy Elementary Employee of the Month

Karen Argueta, Paraprofessional

Highland Elementary Employee of the Month

Celeste Schaltenbrand, Elementary Music Teacher

State Street Elementary Employee of the Month

Mara Vitovsky, Speech Teacher

Football All-Conference

Congratulations to our athletes who earned **All-Conference** honors this season!

1st Team All-Conference – Offense – **Quinn Tkatch**, Guard

2nd Team All-Conference – Defense – **Martese Priest**, Defensive Back

Honorable Mention Offense – **Darold Cain** - Quarterback

Honorable Mention Defense – **Quinn Tkatch**, Defensive Line

Honorable Mention Defense – **Daron Cox**, Inside Linebacker

Silver Level of the Child Hunger Hero Award

We would like to recognize the High School Food Service Team for receiving the **Silver Level** of the **Child Hunger Hero Award**, awarded by the **Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank**. This significant achievement highlights their consistent and effective commitment to improving food security and supporting crucial programs that address child hunger across our region. We appreciate their dedication and celebrate this well-deserved recognition tonight.

Leigh Anne Holman, Food Service Director

Kelly Gregory

Anna Robinson

Leah Hartman

Akiko Sachs

Vickie Pinkerton

Barb McGeorge

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.

XI. Committee Reports

Education and Technology

Mrs. Kelly Romasco

1. Ambridge Area High School Course Selection

It is recommended that the 2026-2027 Ambridge Area High School Course Selection Book be approved.

2. Ambridge Area Middle School Course Selection

It is recommended that the 2026-2027 Ambridge Area Middle School Course Selection Book be approved.

3. Seton Hill University College in High School Dual Credit Agreement

It is recommended to approve a three (3) year College in High School Dual Credit Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Seton Hill University. The term of this agreement shall be July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029.

4. Global Wordsmith Language

It is recommended to approve a two (2) year agreement between Ambridge Area School District and Global Wordsmith Language Services to provide Interpretation Services. This is at no increase in cost.

5. Pennsylvania Association of Federal Program Coordinators (PAFPC) Conference

It is recommended that Meghan Watelet, the Coordinator of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, be approved to attend the 2026 Improving School Performance Conference to be held at the Pittsburgh Sheraton Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA, on January 25-28, 2026. The conference is designed for school leaders to learn evidence-based strategies, network with peers, and discuss how to enhance student achievement and meet the targets of the PA Accountability System. All expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, meals) will be paid in accordance with Board Policy 331, Job-Related Expenses. The approximate cost will be \$525.00.

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 \$2,997,031.14 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,368,458.63 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$116,866.22 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$62,357.72 be paid.

3. Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) Joint Purchasing Fuel Consortium Resolution 2026-2027-06

It is recommended to adopt Resolution 2026-2027-06, which authorizes the district to participate in the AIU Joint Purchasing Fuel Consortium Program for the 2026-2027 school year at no cost to the district. It is further recommended that the President and Board Secretary be authorized to sign the related Joint Purchasing Board Resolution.

4. Berkheimer

It is recommended to authorize the Per Capita Tax Collection Agreement with Berkheimer as the current Collector, Delinquent Collector, and Tax Hearing Officer pursuant to the Local Taxpayers Bill of Rights and adopt an Act 20 Schedule of Fees.

Building and Grounds

Mrs. Adina Ferragonio

1. Highland Elementary Concrete Repair Project

It is recommended to approve a proposal from Fryer Excavating, LLC in the amount of \$163,027.40 for the Highland Elementary Concrete Repair Project through the state competitive sealed bid process.

2. NRG/Direct Energy

It is recommended to approve a 13-month contract extension between the Ambridge Area School District and NRG/Direct Energy for Electricity with Duquesne Light to commence on December 1, 2025. The cost is based on the current market.

Athletics

Mrs. Cathleen Fischer

1. W.P.I.A.L

It is recommended to approve Marena Baker to represent the Ambridge Area School District as an independent/individual W.P.I.A.L gymnast. The Board further authorized Terri Gazda to serve as her sponsor/coach at all practices and meets. The district will pay for

2. Wrestling Overnight Tournament

It is recommended to approve the student attendance and application of the student discipline code for the Varsity Wrestling Team to travel to Barnesville, OH, on December 19-20, 2025, to participate in the 56th Annual Doan Ford-Barnesville Wrestling Invitational. The district will pay for dues, fees, and transportation.

Public Relations

Miss Amy Fitsko

Point of Information:

In-Person Kindergarten and Pre-K Registration Dates, 2026-2027 School Year

Children who turn five by September 1st are eligible to register for kindergarten. For the Pre-K Counts Program, we accept three and four-year-olds whose birthday is on or before the first day of school. Online registration is available on our District's website at www.ambridge.k12.pa.us.

In-Person Registration Dates

- Wednesday, December 3rd, from 3:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. at Highland Elementary School, 1101 Highland Avenue, Ambridge, PA 15003.
***Join us for a Gingerbread Themed Family Photo opportunity and a warm welcome for our young scholars with treats and gingerbread-themed activities.**
- Tuesday, January 13th, 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at Economy Elementary
- Wednesday, January 14th, 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at Highland Elementary
- Thursday, January 15th, 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at State Street Elementary

1. Reorganization Meeting

It is recommended that the Reorganization Meeting be scheduled for Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

2. December Board Meeting

It is recommended that the monthly Meet and Discuss Meeting and Board Meeting be scheduled for Wednesday, December 3, 2025, immediately following the Reorganization meeting.

3. Policy 113.1 – *Discipline of Students with Disabilities* – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to update Policy 113.1 - *Discipline of Students with Disabilities* -This policy was reviewed with current state and federal legal provisions. The language on reporting of school safety and security incidents was updated based on the terminology changes from the School Code. The provisions addressing coordination with law enforcement agencies and submitting the annual report to the PA Department of Education were also revised, and the legal citation references were updated to align with the current School Code.

4. Policy 113.2 – *Behavior Support* – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to update Policy 113.2 *Behavior Support*- This policy was reviewed with current state and federal legal provisions. The language on reporting of school safety and security incidents was updated based on the terminology changes from the School Code. The provisions addressing coordination with law enforcement agencies and submitting the annual report to the PA Department of Education were also revised, and the legal citation references were updated to align with the current School Code.

5. Policy 320 – *Freedom of Speech by Employees* – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to revise Policy 320 - *Freedom of Speech by Employees* - Detail has been added to this policy to facilitate acknowledgement of the freedom of rights of school employees and the indications as to when such speech may impact efficiency or constitute a reasonable likelihood of disruption. Any decision in this regard must include consultation with the school solicitor.

6. Policy 718 – *Service Animals in Schools* – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to update Policy 718 - *Service Animals in Schools* to specifically include the only permissible questions a school entity may ask regarding an individual requesting the use of a service animal, as well as those inquiries and requests that a district may NOT ask.

7. Policy 102 – *Academic Standards* – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to update Policy 102 - *Academic Standards* to adopt the new 2025-2026 state standards for Science, Environment, Ecology, Technology, and Engineering across all grade levels, with a planned update next year to include the Personal Finance and Financial Literacy requirements for the 2026-2027 school year.

8. Policy 105 – Curriculum – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to update Policy 105 – *Curriculum* to include a new section addressing Special Instruction and Observances to ensure compliance with state and federal laws—such as those mandating Constitution Day, Bill of Rights Week, and various PA historical and environmental observances—that promote civic, historical, and cultural awareness.

9. Policy 122 – Extracurricular Activities – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to revise Policy 122 - *Extracurricular Activities* - Authority section states that the Board shall make school facilities, supplies, and equipment available and shall assign staff members for the support of extracurricular activities for students. Such availability and assignment shall be in accordance with the Equal Access Act and other applicable laws, regulations, and Board policies.

10. Policy 122.1 – Non-School-Sponsored Student Groups – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to adopt Policy 122.1 - *Non-School-Sponsored Student Groups*. This policy addresses the requirements regarding the provision of Equal Access to non-school-sponsored student groups.

It is important to note that this policy is separate and distinct from the subjects below:

- Extracurricular activities that are sponsored or approved by the Board are governed by Policy 122. Extracurricular Activities.
- Non-school organizations, groups and individuals initiating a request for use of school facilities or dissemination of materials are governed by policies 707. Use of School Facilities and 913. Non-school Organizations/Groups/Individuals.

11. Policy 918 – Title I Parent and Family Engagement – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to revise Policy 918 - *Title I Parent and Family Engagement* to ensure compliance and accountability for federal Title I funds by requiring dated agendas and sign-in sheets for meetings and adding mandated District-Level and School-Level attachments to formalize specific actions taken to engage parents and families.

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. Posted Positions: Clubs/Activities

It is recommended that the following individual who have applied for the specified posted position 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.

ACTIVITY/CLUB (High School)**SALARY**

Bowling George Bellinger, Co-Sponsor

\$375.00

2. 2025-2026 Musical Staffing

It is recommended to approve the following musical staffing positions for the 2025-2026 musical at the designated stipend, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening:

Play Director	Jessica Patterson	\$3,000.00
Music Director	Kevin Newton	\$1,800.00
Assistant Director	Andrea Cary	\$1,200.00
Producer	Todd Hartman	\$1,500.00
Technical Director	Jacob Craig	\$1,200.00

3. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #1841 be approved for a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave, beginning December 5, 2025, not to exceed twelve (12) weeks.

4. Consideration for Salary Increase

It is recommended to approve the final salary adjustment for Administrators for the 2025-2026 school year based on their final evaluation for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the Act 93 Agreement.

5. Mentor Teacher

It is recommended to approve the following mentor teacher assignment for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years, as per the negotiated agreement:

<u>New Teacher</u>	<u>Mentor Teacher</u>
Kylee Ryan	Stephanie Haase

XII. President's Report**XIII. Superintendent's Report****XIV. Solicitor's 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.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn