

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Media Center on Wednesday, May 15, 2024.

I. Mr. Carpenter called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m.

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District Board of Directors on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 is now called to order.

II. Mr. Carpenter asked all present to rise for the flag salute.

III. Student Council Report

Middle School Student Council Report

IV. 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.

V. Roll Call

- Mr. John Carpenter, President
- Mr. William Metz, Vice President
- Mr. Matthew Zatchey, Treasurer
- Mrs. Cathy Fischer
- Miss Amy Fitsko
- Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe
- Mr. Garrett Kovacevic
- Mrs. Kelly Romasco
- Ms. Valerie Young

Others Present:

- Dr. Joseph W. Pasquerilla, Superintendent
- Mr. Barry J. King, Assistant to the Superintendent
- Ms. Megan Turnbull, Solicitor
- Mrs. Michelle Amadio, Business Manager / Director of Operations
- Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary

VI. Mrs. Mueller read the Sunshine Law

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, May 15th to discuss:

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

VII. Correspondence

Mrs. Mueller stated that she received a letter from Laughlin Memorial thanking the Board for their continued support and to also ask for continued monetary support.

VIII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, April 10th Meet and Discuss Meeting Voting and Non-Voting and Wednesday, April 17th Board Meeting.

Miss Fitsko moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Metz. All in favor.

IX. Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report dated: April 2024

Miss Fitsko moved to accept the treasurer’s report, seconded by Mr. Metz. All in favor.

X. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda

XI. Recognition/Presentation

Students of the Month

High School April Students of the Month

- Briela Lagleva, 12th Grade
- Veida Miller, 11th Grade
- Tyler Rambo, 11th Grade
- Charlie Stefanik, 9th Grade

High School April Effort Awards

- Lily Geweth, 12th Grade
- Benjamin Francis, 11th Grade
- Maliya Strong, 10th Grade
- Taryn Wise, 9th Grade

Middle School April Students of the Month

- Oliver Ozenich, 8th Grade
- Lila Catalano, 7th Grade
- Addison Musi, 6th Grade

Economy Elementary April Student of the Month

- Emma Fedash, 5th Grade

Highland Elementary April Student of the Month

- Ian Fusco, 5th Grade

State Street Elementary April Student of the Month

- Victoria Dean, 5th Grade

April Employees of the Month

High School Employee of the Month

Rob Jamery, Custodian

Middle School Employee of the Month

Ed Noorlag, Maintenance

Economy Elementary Employee of the Month

Michael Thear, Paraprofessional

State Street Elementary Employee of the Month

Lori Musser, Paraprofessional

Highland Elementary Employee of the Month

Greta Bible, Intervention Teacher

Beaver County Career and Technology Center National Technical Honor Society

The following Ambridge students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) at a ceremony at the BCCTC. Induction into NTHS is one of the highest accomplishments that can be bestowed upon a Career and Technical education student.

The 2024 inductees are:

Jason DeSantis - Business Information Systems

Kailyn Turko - Business Information Systems

They join current Ambridge NTHS students:

Sydney Ford - Health Occupations

Mason Lewis - Graphic Arts

Mr. Beaver County

Congratulations to our students who were winners in Mr. Beaver County.

Pietro Pucci was the grand prize winner of \$1,000.00 and earned the title of “*Mr. Beaver County*”! Congratulations!

Chase Fetterman was the first runner-up and the winner of the second prize of \$500.00. Congratulations!

Boys' Volleyball

Boys' Volleyball All-Section Teams are chosen (voted on) by the coaches of the 7 teams in the section for the top 20 players. There were 4 student-athletes from Ambridge given this honor.

Karson Merlina, 10th Grade – First Team
Donovan Bober, 12th Grade – First Team
Sam Miller, 12th Grade – First Team
Nathan Sheffield, 10th Grade – Second Team

Boys' Volleyball Team is section co-champions with 11-1 record.

This is the 24th consecutive season that the Boys' Volleyball Team has earned a WPIAL playoff berth. In the first-round playoff match, Ambridge (#4 seed) defeated Trinity (#13 seed) by the score of 3-0. Our team will play South Fayette (#5 seed) in the quarterfinals at home on Thursday at 7:00pm. Go Bridgers!

Track

The following students placed multiple times at large invitationals representing Ambridge including the Beaver County Championship

Jaelynn Anderson
Darrol Cain
Axton Denny
Lily Denny
Jordan Garrison
Jaheem Harmon
Harrison Hill
Stacey Jones
Norah Marchionda
Adonis Mycyk
Jaden Price
Jordin Pritchard
Brayden Reeves
Mackenzie Reeves
Carla Sanchez
Kevonte Saunders
Aaron Scheib
Hannah Thear
Taylor Thompson
Sierra Tyson
Tavin Wise
Maria Ziemkiewicz

BIG 33

Congratulations to Carla Sanchez, a player on the Girls' Flag Football Team nominated by Coach Felicia Mycyk for the BIG 33 and won!

Carla will represent Ambridge/ Pittsburgh in the Pennsylvania Scholastic Football Coaches Association (PSFCA) in the first Girls' Flag Football tournaments as part of the 67th Big 33 Football Classic.

Carla was selected out of the seniors across the league because of her athletic ability, as well as strong academic standing and possessing the qualities of a well-rounded leader with exceptional character.

High school-age girls Flag teams representing the Baltimore Ravens, Philadelphia Eagles, Pittsburgh Steelers and Washington Commanders will compete in the first-ever girls Flag Football Big 33 Championship.

In a press release, The PSFCA Big 33 Memorial Day Weekend events are slated to start on Wednesday, May 22, and conclude on Sunday, May 26, with the 67th Big 33 Football Classic presented by Renewal by Andersen of Central PA. The Big 33 Football Classic is known as one of "the best All-Star games in the country." Pennsylvania and Maryland players and cheerleaders will practice in Cumberland County at Cumberland Valley High School's Chapman Field. These games will feature seniors from Pennsylvania and Maryland, as well as all-star cheerleaders.

Some well-known Big 33 alumni and NFL Legends include Pro Football Hall of Famers Tony Dorsett, Jim Kelly, Dan Marino, Joe Montana and Joe Namath, as well as Kyle Brady, Damar Hamlin, Jordan Hill, Ben Roethlisberger and Ricky Watters.

Girls' Flag Football

Congratulations to the following student-athletes who have received Players of The Week.

Abby Reeves
Nari Morris
Mackenzie Reeves
Holly Budzak
Idalia Reyers
Natalia Monitiez
Emily Wissner
Nevaeh Cox

Girls' Lacrosse

Congratulations to our Girls' Lacrosse Team and their impressive stats.

#9 Kaetlin Caylao (Junior) - Goalie
3rd in the Division for Save Percentage
5th in the WPIAL for Save Percentage
7th in PA for Save Percentage
Ranked in the Top 2% Nationally for Goal Keeping
Broke 3 school records: Most Goalie Saves in a Game (24), Highest Goalie Save Percentage (.685%), and Most Saves in a Season (156)

#25 Mara Ilko (Junior) - Midfielder

4th in the Division for Ground Balls

7th in the Division for Goals Scored

8th in the Division for Total Points

Ranked in the Top 50 in PA for Goals Scored

Broke 2 school records: Most Goals scored in a season: Most Points in a Season (19), Most Goals scored in a season (16)

#1 Savanna Jones (Junior) - Defender

1st in the Division for Ground Balls

27th in the PIAA for Ground Balls

31st in PA for Defense

Broke one school record: Most Caused Turnovers in a season (39)

#3 Heidi Setzenfand (Senior-Rookie) - Attack Player

6th in the Division for Ground Balls

#16 Hannah Larimore (Junior) - Midfielder

3rd in Division for Ground Balls

#11 Emily Smith (Senior) - Goalie

1st in the Division for Save Percentage

MAC Senior Spotlight

Congratulations to the following student-athletes nominated for MAC Senior Spotlight

Heidi Setzenfand

Trevor Grabski

Louis Armstrong Award for Jazz

Congratulations to the following student for receiving the Louis Armstrong Award for Jazz.

Jamison Frantz

Mancini Award Nominations

The Henry Mancini Awards are a celebration of outstanding student achievement in high school musical theatre in Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, and Mercer counties. These awards recognize individual artistry and honor the dedication and professionalism of students, educators, and their schools' commitment to performing arts education.

Participating school musicals are adjudicated by a panel of industry professionals from across the region and students participate in a culminating awards ceremony featuring a variety of student performances as well as individual and group awards.

Congratulations to the students who have been selected as semi-finalists for the "Henry Mancini Musical Theatre Awards" for their roles in this year's production of "The Drowsy Chaperone!"

Best Leading Actress

Mara Ilko (woman in chair)

Elaine Summers (Janet)

Best Leading Actor

Anthony Speicher (Robert)

Best Supporting Actress

Heidi Setzenfand (Kitty)

Faith Aguirre (Trix)

Best Supporting Actor

Pietro Pucci (Aldolpho)

Joey Bellinger (Underling)

The students listed above moved to the second round on Monday, April 29th at Lincoln Park!

In addition, Ambridge Musical's Production of "The Drowsy Chaperone" received 11 nominations! Our musical was able to be nominated in every single category they qualified for! Of these nominations, three students will be moving on to the final round of the awards. Lainee Summers, Pietro Pucci, and Faith Aguirre!

We are so proud of our students, staff and parent volunteers who have worked countless hours to make this possible for our district!

Our students will now get the opportunity to perform a number from our show at the awards on May 19th at Lincoln Park!

Mancini Nominations

Best Actress- Lainee Summers

Best Supporting Actor- Pietro Pucci

Best Supporting Actress- Faith Aguirre

Best Choreography Execution Budget 2

Best Costume Design Budget 2

Best Crew/Technical Execution Budget 2

Best Ensemble Budget 2

Best Execution of Direction Budget 2

Best Lighting Design Budget 2

Best Scenic Design Budget 2

Best Musical Budget 2

Steel Drum Band

Still thriving after 35 years, our steel drum band remains to be one of the premier, and busiest, high school performing ensembles in the Tri-State area. So far this school year, the band has performed at 19 events, including appearances at 4 different school districts and 2 universities. As of today, they have an additional 16 performances scheduled that will keep them drumming throughout the summer.

Tonight, we would like to recognize the steel band students who represented Ambridge Area High School at the state level. They were honored to be 1 of only 17 high school ensembles to be selected, by audition, to perform at the 2024 Pennsylvania Music Education Association's State In-Service Conference on April 18th in Erie, PA. This was the steelband's 2nd appearance in five years that they performed at the PMEA State Conference.

Joseph Bellinger
 Angelina Betters
 Alizabeth Bohrer
 Athena Bruno
 Jaylynn Campbell
 Jonathan Cermak
 Zoe Elias
 Jamison Frantz
 Mara Ilko
 Brody Kanai
 Avery Kelly
 Jonathan Kwolek
 Hayden Oslick
 Madelyn Palmer
 Samantha Patton
 Margo Petalino
 Pietro Pucci
 Roarke Richard
 Anthony Scott
 Heidi Setzenfand
 Anthony Speicher
 Kailyn Turko
 Emma Wenum

AGLOA Nationals

Congratulations to the following students who qualified to compete in the AGLOA National Tournament:

The Bolded names followed by an Asterisk * indicate the students who made the trip and competed in the games in Atlanta, Georgia.

Students who qualified for nationals had to qualify in at least two games at the county-level games

Elementary (5th and 6th Grade)

Briella Loftus (SS)*
Britney Fodor (SS)*

Miliana Tekula (EE)

Joco Zaraspe (HL)*

Simon Singh (6MS)

Adam Dunn (6MS)

Natalie Dunn (6MS)

Jayda Palmer (6MS)*

Landon Musser (6MS)*

Stone Parker (6MS)

Middle School

Madison Kelleher (8MS)*

Economy Elementary Honorable Mention

Jack D'Emilio

Jace Singh

Kylee Wolf

Mia Paganie

Avery Brodmerkel

Nathan Racioppo

Nijahaya Collins

State Street Elementary Honorable Mention

Emma Ersher

Tyler Cook

Highland Elementary Honorable Mention

Dreyschaun Campbell-Alsont

Haylen Hughes

Olivia McGarvey

Middle School 6th Grade Honorable Mention

Felix Bruner

Bret Hinds

Marissa Kinter

Middle School 8th Grade Honorable Mention

Christian Roberts

Morgan Hartman

Peyton Lytle

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

XII. Committee Reports**Education and Technology****Mrs. Romasco**1. Allegheny Intermediate Unit

It is recommended to approve the Comprehensive Service Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to provide specialized student services.

2. AOT Service Agreement Renewal

It is recommended to renew the service agreement with Associated Occupational Therapy for the 2024-2025 school year, at a minimal increase.

Mrs. Romasco moved to accept items 1-2, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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 \$2,255,550.64 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,237,437.93 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$92,702.40 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$50,088.19 be paid.

3. Final Budget for the 2024-2025 School Year

It is recommended to approve Resolution 2024-2025-01 adopting the Final General Operating Fund Budget for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year in the amount of \$59,485,338.00. 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.

4. Resolution – Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion

It is recommended to approve Resolution 2024-2025-02 implementing the Act 1 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion be adopted.

5. Resolution Providing for Real Estate Installment Payment

It is recommended to approve Resolution 2024-2025-03, a resolution authorizing the collection of real estate taxes during the 2024-2025 fiscal year in installments.

6. Audit Engagement

It is recommended to approve an agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Hosack, Specht, Muetzel and Wood LLP for School District Financial and Real Estate Tax Collector Audits, at a cost of \$21,500.00 for the Year Ended June 30, 2024; \$22,350.00 for the Year Ended June 30, 2025; \$23,500.00 for the Year Ended June 30, 2026.

7. 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.

8. 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 2024-2025 school year beginning August 1, 2024. 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.

9. 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, 2024, at an annual fee of \$3,600.00. (Increased by \$100.00 from last year)

10. Public School Facility Improvement Grant Resolution 2023-2024-12

It is recommended to adopt Resolution 2023-2024-12 authorizing the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant. The funding will be used for the Middle School and Economy Elementary Roof Project.

11. Energy Savings

It is recommended to approve an agreement with NRG to analyze and guarantee energy savings in each of the district buildings. This is at no cost to the district. **Subject to solicitor's review.**

Mr. Zatchey moved to accept items 1-11, seconded by Mrs. Romasco. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Building and Grounds

Mr. Metz

1. Economy Elementary Outdoor Classroom

It is recommended to approve Economy Elementary PTA to donate the building and installation of an outdoor classroom/Gaga Ball Pit to be used for outdoor teaching, recess and school events. The donor has received no goods or services in return for this gift.

2. Head Start of Beaver County Lease Agreement

It is recommended to approve a lease agreement for the Head Start of Beaver County Program with the effective date of June 1, 2024, and end on May 31, 2025, **pending solicitor review.**

Mr. Metz moved to accept items 1-2, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Athletics

Mrs. Fischer

1. Wrestling Mats

It is recommended to purchase wrestling mats from Resilite The Mat Company at a total cost of \$21,688.60 through the State bidding process (Co-Stars).

Mrs. Fischer moved to accept item 1, seconded by Ms. Young. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Public Relations

Miss Fitsko

Point of Information

The School Safety Report was provided to the Board of School Directors in Executive Session.

Steering and Rules

Mrs. Kehoe

1. Policy 249 – Anti-Bullying/Cyberbullying – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading of School Board Policy 249 – *Anti-Bullying/Cyberbullying*, and update on the first reading. Policy 249 is to provide all students and employees with the right to a safe and civil educational environment, free from harassment or bullying.

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

Legislation

Miss Fitsko

1. Board of School Directors of the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit (BVIU) Mail Ballot

It is recommended the 2024 mail ballot be cast for the 2024-2025 Board of School Directors of the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit. The term of the Board of School Directors of the BVIU elected by this ballot shall be for three (3) years beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2027 as provided in the School Code.

2. Appointment

It is recommended to appoint Hearing Officer Paul Lalley, for the Charter School Renewal Hearing, **pending solicitor review of final agreement.**

Miss Fitsko moved to accept items 1-2, seconded by Mr. Metz. Mr. Zatchey voted against item 2.

Salary Schedule and Labor Relations

Mr. Kovacevic

Personnel

Ms. Young

***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. Professional Employee

It is recommended to approve Brianna Hunt, as an Ambridge Area High School Mathematics Teacher at a salary of \$47,871.00 (Step 1, Bachelor), as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEE/PSEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening, and PDE certifications if applicable.

2. Professional Employee

It is recommended to approve Jordan Simpson as an Ambridge Area Middle School English Teacher at a salary of \$47,871.00 (Step 1, Bachelor), effective May 20, 2024, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEE/PSEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening, and PDE certifications if applicable.

3. Summer Credit Recovery

It is recommended to approve the following teachers as instructors for the Summer Credit Recovery Program to tentatively be held on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 through Tuesday, June 25, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Teachers will be paid at the contracted rate.

Christina Briola
Shane Newhouse

4. District Title I Event

It is recommended to approve the following teachers as workers for the Title I Event to be held on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Additional hours may be required for planning the event. Teachers will be paid at the contracted rate. Secretaries and para-professionals will be paid per their negotiated agreement.

Sarah White
Phillip Goerig
Chelsea Benedict
Christina Briola
Sarah Shaffer
Sara Burns

5. Extended School Year Services

It is recommended the following nurse be approved to provide Extended School Year services to students from Monday, July 15, 2024 through Thursday, July 18, 2024 and Monday July 22, 2024 through Thursday, July 25, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Highland Elementary and the High School at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement.

Stuart Rusnak, Nurse

6. ABC Transit Bus Driver/Aide

It is recommended to approve the individuals listed as operators, attendants, and maintenance for ABC Transit, Inc. for the 2023-2024 school year, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Edward Johnson, Van Driver
Shiron McGinnis, Aide

7. Retirement

It is recommended to accept the resignation due to the retirement of Thomas Pastrokos from his position as a custodian at the middle school, effective June 1, 2024, with regret.

8. Employee Agreement

It is recommended to approve the agreement relating to Employee #1276 as presented, subject to party execution.

9. Resignation

It is recommended to accept the resignation of Employee #335 and approve the related terms, as present.

Ms. Young moved to accept items 1-9, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous with Mr. Metz abstaining from item 4 and Mrs. Romasco abstaining from item 4.

XIII. President's Report

Mr. Carpenter thanked all who were recognized.

XIV. Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report.

XV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla said it was a Proud Day to be a Bridger. Thanked all recognized for their effort, pride and time put in. Very proud of our students and the enjoyment we got from watching them grow not only in the classroom.

XVI. 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.

Caitlin Davidson, Harmony Twp., PA

- Encouraged the Board to make the best financial decision for both parties.
- BAC will appeal if the charter is denied and it will become costly and time consuming.
- You have two options, either to negotiate or pay thousands in legal fees.
- To the board members – you are elected to serve all of the students in the district.
- Prioritize the use of public funds.

XVII. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 8:10 p.m., Ms. Young moved to adjourn, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary

