

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, October 16, 2024.

I. Mr. Carpenter called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m.

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District Board of Directors on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, is now called to order.

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

Economy Elementary Student Council

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. William Metz, Vice President
 Ms. Valerie Young, Treasurer
 Mrs. Cathy Fischer
 Miss Amy Fitsko
 Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe
 Mr. Garrett Kovacevic
 Mrs. Kelly Romasco
 Mr. Mathew 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 Sunshine Law

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, October 16th to discuss:

- Personnel matter(s)
- 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, September 11th Meet and Discuss Voting and Non-Voting Meeting and Wednesday, September 18th Board Meeting

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

VIII. Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report dated: September 2024

Mr. Carpenter moved to accept the treasurer’s report, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. All in favor.

IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda

Separated voting items 3 a) and b) under Finance and Budget.

X. Recognition/Presentation

Economy Elementary – Blue Ribbon School

U.S. Department of Education Announces 2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools

ECONOMY ELEMENTARY IS A 2024 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARDEE

Congratulations to the Principal, Teachers, Staff, Students, and Parents!

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona today recognized 356 schools as the 2024 cohort of National Blue Ribbon Schools. This prestigious recognition highlights schools that excel in academic performance or make significant strides in closing achievement gaps among different student groups.

“The National Blue Ribbon Schools Award is a testament to the exceptional achievements of students and educators at each of these schools,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. “The 2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools are raising the bar for our nation’s students, serving as models for effective teaching and intentional collaboration in their schools and communities. As we celebrate their achievements, let us look to these schools for inspiration as we champion education as the foundation of a brighter future for every child.”

The 2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools reflect the full diversity of American education and serve students from all backgrounds. While awardees represent a wide array of schools, they share common traits. National Blue Ribbon Schools are led by leaders who articulate a clear vision of instructional excellence and uphold high standards. They showcase effective teaching methods and offer robust professional development for their staff. Data-driven instruction is a hallmark, and there is a concerted effort to ensure every student succeeds. Collaboration among families, communities, and educators is a key component of their success.

Outstanding Latino High School Girls Flag Football Player

Natalia Moitinho Pereira, 12th Grade

Beaver County Times Boys’ Golf Athlete of the Week

Liam Baker, 12th Grade

Beaver County Times Girls’ Soccer Athlete of the Week

Megan Conover, 12th Grade

Girls' Soccer WPIAL All-Section Athlete

Megan Conover, 12th Grade

Students of the Month

High School September Student of the Month

Maegan Fitzgibbons, 9th Grade
Matheus Cardosa Goncalves, 10th Grade
Hannah Thear, 11th Grade
Reanna Ramirez, 12th Grade

High School September Extra Effort Award

Ada Stojan, 9th Grade
Bailey Protulipac, 10th Grade
Cooper Scheidemantle, 11th Grade
Anthony Speicher, 12th Grade

Middle School September Student of the Month

Nathan Mihelich, 6th Grade
Lily Salopek, 7th Grade
Caden Ilnicki, 8th Grade

Economy Elementary September Student of the Month

Lamees Alhamdan, 5th Grade

Highland Elementary September Student of the Month

Ziyah Frazier, 5th Grade

State Street Elementary September Student of the Month

Dahniica Quib, 5th Grade

Employees of the Month

High School Employee of the Month

Officer Anthony Phan, SRO

Middle School Employee of the Month

Brandie Johnson, 6th Grade Teacher

Economy Elementary Employee of the Month

Michelle Druga, ESL Teacher

Highland Elementary Employee of the Month

Hannah Jozwiak, Autistic Support Teacher

State Street Elementary Employee of the Month

Timothy Buresh, 5th Grade 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 Public Comment

XI. Committee Reports**Education and Technology****Mrs. Romasco**1. Cheer Team Field Trip

It is recommended to approve the student attendance, coaches' registration fee of \$1,497.00, and application of the student discipline code for the high school varsity cheerleaders to travel to Walt Disney World to participate in the Universal Cheerleaders Association National High School Cheerleading Championship from February 6, 2025, through February 11, 2025. Reimbursement for expenses shall be governed by Board Policy 240 - Student Contests/Competitions and conditioned on attendance and event participation. Parents and/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.

2. Adventures in Education Club Field Trip Sponsor

It is recommended that Sarah White, a high school teacher be authorized to sponsor the Adventures in Education Club field trip to Charleston South Carolina from November 4, 2024 through November 8, 2024 along with Larry Knopsnyder, a high school teacher, who was previously approved at the March 20, 2024 Board meeting.

3. Club Formation

It is recommended to approve the formation of a middle school club, Hope for Ambridge Club with the sponsor to be paid a stipend of \$470.00 as per the contracted rate.

Mr. Carpenter made a motion to approve items 1-3, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. 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 \$1,801,228.11 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,287,031.84 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$111,409.00 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$ 52,416.85 be paid.

3. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve the Borough of Ambridge's request dated August 6, 2024, to exonerate delinquent 2024 school taxes pursuant to the Pennsylvania Property Donation Statute for the following tax parcels, with the condition that should either property sell in the future to a non-tax exempt entity, a pro-rata share of the proceeds will be remitted to the District, less the Borough's direct costs of acquisition.

- a) Tax Parcel 12-006-0101-010, 0 Merchant Street, Ambridge, PA

Mr. Zatchey made a motion to approve item 3a), seconded by Miss Fitsko. Miss Fitsko voted against item 3a)

- b) Tax Parcel 12-006-0101-002, 1401 New Economy Drive, Ambridge, PA

Mr. Zatchey made a motion to approve item 3b), seconded by Mr. Carpenter, Miss Fitsko, Mr. Kovacevic and Ms. Young voted against item 3b).

4. Repository Settlement

It is recommended the Board approve the Sale of Property from the Beaver County Repository of Unsold Property for the following properties:

- a) Tax Parcel 09.002.0211.000, 308 Park Road, Ambridge, PA for the bid amount of \$212.00 to be purchased by Ambridge Borough.
- b) Tax Parcel 09.002.0718.000, 407 Melrose Avenue, Ambridge, PA for the bid amount of \$158.80 to be purchased by Ambridge Borough.
- c) Tax Parcel 10.003.0321.000, 511 Glenwood Avenue, Ambridge, PA for the bid amount of \$153.60 to be purchased by Ambridge Borough.
- d) Tax Parcel 10.003.0318.000, 505 Glenwood Avenue, Ambridge, PA for the bid amount of \$387.05 to be purchased by Ambridge Borough.
- e) Tax Parcel 09.005.0706.000, 4 Glenwood Drive Rear, Ambridge, PA for the bid amount of \$186.00 to be purchased by Ambridge Borough.

Mr. Zatchey moved to approve items 1, 2 and 4, as amended, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. Miss Fitsko voted against item 4.

Building and Grounds

Mr. Metz

1. Snowplow

It is recommended to accept the proposal from Meiters LLC, to purchase and install a snowplow on a district truck. This is at a total cost of \$9,760.00. The district obtained two quotes and this was the lowest bidder.

2. NRG/Direct Energy for Natural Gas

It is recommended to approve a three-year contract extension between the Ambridge Area School District and NRG/Direct Energy for Natural Gas on the Columbia Gas System to commence on September 1, 2025. The Western Pennsylvania Natural Gas Consortium Committee recommended the contract extension. This is a no increase in cost.

Mrs. Fischer moved to approve items 1-2, seconded by Mrs. Kehoe. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Athletics

Mrs. Fischer

Public Relations

Miss Fitsko

Steering and Rules

Mrs. Kehoe

Legislation

Miss Fitsko

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. Mentor Teacher

It is recommended to approve the following teacher assignments for the 2024-2025 school year, as per the collective bargaining agreement:

Mentor Teacher

Teri Moon
Bonnie D'Angelis
Jeff Modrovich

New Teacher

Michael Falgione
Joie Dusold
Nicole Feeley

2. Cheerleading Chaperones

It is recommended to approve the chaperones for the high school varsity cheerleaders' trip to Walt Disney World to participate in the Universal Cheerleaders Association National High School Cheerleading Championship from February 6, 2025 through February 11, 2025. This is at no cost to the district. Chaperones will be required to have current clearances and TB testing.

- a) Kelly Smith
- b) Caron Baker
- c) Patty Dobich

3. Cafeteria Food Service Worker

It is recommended to approve the following individuals, as four (4) hour union kitchen workers at their perspective building, effective October 17, 2024, 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.

- a) Robert Barr, State Street Elementary
- b) Yolanda Lawson, Highland Elementary

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

XII. President's Report

Mr. Carpenter congratulated all who were recognized on their achievements.

Congratulations Economy Elementary on an exemplary achievement on a national level.

XIII. Solicitor's Report

Ms. Turnbull congratulated everyone on their achievements.

XIV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla thanked Economy Elementary student and staff and a special thank you to Mrs. Galitsis and Mrs. Ramer and the entire team.

Congratulated all of the students and staff who were recognized, happy to see a lot of good happening within the district. Go Bridgers!

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.

Kim Roppa, AASD Teacher

- Applauded Economy Elementary and Mrs. Galitsis as well as eh staff. Mrs. Galitsis sets her standards high and preservers. She sets goals and achieves them.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 7:55 p.m., Mrs. Fischer moved to adjourn, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary