

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, January 15, 2025.

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, January 15, 2025, is now called to order.

II. Mr. Carpenter asked all present to rise for the Flag Salute led by the State Street Student Council

State Street Elementary Student Council

Luca Fabanich, 5th Grade

Chase Szuchy, 5th Grade

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

Mrs. Valerie Scott, Vice President

Mr. Garrett Kovacevic, Treasurer

Mrs. Cathy Fischer

Miss Amy Fitsko

Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe

Mr. William Metz

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 following Sunshine Law:

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

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

VI. Correspondence

No Correspondence.

VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, December 4th Reorganization Meeting/Board Meeting.

Miss Fitsko moved to accept Minutes, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. All in favor.

VIII. Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report dated: November and December 2024

Miss Fitsko moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Mr. Metz. All in favor.

IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda

X. Recognition/Presentation

Dr. Pasquerilla – Board of Education Appreciation Month

On behalf of the Administration, staff, students and the entire Ambridge Area School District School Community, we want to take the time to express our gratitude for our Board of Education, one of the hardest working groups of volunteers in the community. Your direction, leadership, and service to our community are essential to the continued success of this District. You are appreciated every day and tonight we honor you.

2024 Holiday Greeting Card Contest Winners

Corinna Paganie, 3rd Grade, Economy Elementary
Roscia Quib-Chub, 4th Grade, State Street Elementary
Trinity Smith, 5th Grade, Highland Elementary

Congratulations!

Kona Ice, Accomplished and Celebrated Educator (ACE) Award

Congratulations to Stacey Brock, a State Street Elementary Grade 5 Teacher, for being awarded a Kona Ice, ACE Award.

November Students of the Month

High School November Students of the Month

Mara Ilko, 12th Grade
Janna Rusnak, 11th Grade
Charles Stefanik, 10th Grade
Sana Haidasse, 9th Grade

High School November Effort Awards

Alizabeth Bohrer, 12th Grade
Logan Szymoniak, 11th Grade
Isabella Rivera, 10th Grade
Evan Antolic, 9th Grade

Middle School November Students of the Month

Emma Pinchot, 8th Grade
Isabella Dellach, 7th Grade
Elise Young, 6th Grade

Economy Elementary November Student of the Month

Josh Maddox, 5th Grade

Highland Elementary November Student of the Month

Xander Turner, 5th Grade

State Street Elementary November Student of the Month

Martin Kirsch, 5th Grade

November Employees of the Month

High School Employee of the Month

Nicole Connolly, Social Studies Teacher

Middle School Employee of the Month

Heidi Bober, Special Education Teacher

Economy Elementary

Carrie Malinich, Intervention Teacher

State Street Elementary

Suzanne McKenzie, 4th Grade and Science Teacher

Highland Elementary

Katherine Kuczma, Building Secretary

December Students of the Month

High School December Students of the Month

Cody Roper, 12th Grade
Gianna Georgakis, 11th Grade
Holly Budzak, 10th Grade
Rosetta Lodovico, 9th Grade

High School December Effort Awards

Aashna Sinha Roy, 12th Grade
Brody Kanai, 11th Grade
Ava Daniels, 10th Grade
Brayden Couch, 9th Grade

Middle School December Students of the Month

Rosella DeMuth, 8th Grade
Adam Dunn, 7th Grade
Nijhaya Collins, 6th Grade

Economy Elementary December Student of the Month

Sydney Felder, 5th Grade

Highland Elementary December Student of the Month

Gladys Adamson, 5th Grade

State Street Elementary December Student of the Month

Zoey McMahan, 5th Grade

December Employees of the Month

High School Employee of the Month

Renee Guerrieri, Building Secretary

Middle School Employee of the Month

Krista Novak, Computer Science Teacher

Economy Elementary

Stella Condit, Building Secretary

State Street Elementary

Jessica Saxon, Special Education Teacher

Highland Elementary

Miranda Swartz, School Psychologist (Districtwide)

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. Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association (PSADA) Annual Conference

It is recommended Anthony Amadio be approved to attend the PSADA Annual Conference being held in Hershey, PA from March 18 – 21, 2025. This conference hosts over 125 exhibitors representing all facets of the athletic and sporting goods business and industry. All expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, meals) will be paid as per Board Policy 331 – Job Related Expenses. The approximate cost will be \$2,000.00.

2. Drug & Alcohol Services of Beaver Valley, Inc.

It is recommended to approve Drug and Alcohol Services of Beaver Valley, Inc. to provide services on-site for students of the Ambridge Area School District. This is at no cost to the district.

3. 2024-2025 Course Description Adjustment

It is recommended to approve the adjustment to the 2024-2025 school year Course Selection Book, for the SAT Preparation Course (offered second semester). The adjustment will be to move to general test preparation.

4. Beaver County Thrive Grant

It is recommended the Beaver County Thrive Grant be approved to provide mental health support services to the students at Highland Elementary. This is at no cost to the district.

Mrs. Romasco moved to approve items 1-4, seconded by Mr. Metz. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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 \$995,788.68 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,292,468.91 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$75,296.65 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$ 50,802.56 be paid.

3. Preliminary Budget Resolution 2024-2025-06

It is recommended to adopt Resolution No. 2024-2025-06 in accordance with preliminary budget requirements as set forth in Section 311 of Act 1 regarding the district's election not to increase any tax for the support of the Ambridge Area School District for the 2025-2026 school year at a rate that exceeds the index of 7.2% as calculated by the PA Department of Education.

4. Interim Delinquent Tax Collectors Resolution 2024-2025-07

It is recommended to adopt Resolution No. 2024-2025-07, which appoints all Tax Collectors as interim delinquent tax collectors and extends the deadline to file 2024-2025 returns with the Beaver County Tax Claim Bureau until April 15, 2025.

5. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve the tax exonerations regarding the collection of Real Estate Tax, conditioned upon mutual municipal and county reciprocal exonerations for the same years, relevant to the following properties:

- a) Tax Parcel 09.002.0211.000, 308 Park Road, Ambridge, PA.
- b) Tax Parcel 09.002.0718.000, 407 Melrose Avenue, Ambridge, PA.
- c) Tax Parcel 10.003.0321.000, 511 Glenwood Avenue, Ambridge, PA.
- d) Tax Parcel 10.003.0318.000, 505 Glenwood Avenue, Ambridge, PA.
- e) Tax Parcel 09.005.0706.000, 4 Glenwood Drive Rear, Ambridge, PA.

6. Berkone Act 80 Proposal

It is recommended that the proposal from Berkone be accepted to review the Act 80 tax jurisdiction by the school district to determine if there are taxpayers who reported an incorrect school code on their tax returns for a total cost of \$860.00. This is at no increase in cost.

7. Grant Acceptance

It is recommended to accept a grant from the COVID-19 ARPA Pandemic Recovery Program in the amount of \$18,000.00. This funding represents an exciting opportunity to enhance the high school baseball field and to provide a safe and functional environment for our student athletes. Thank you to the Ambridge Bridger Baseball Boosters for securing this grant.

Mr. Zatchey moved to approve items 1-7, seconded by Miss Fitsko. Miss Fitsko and Mr. Kovacevic voted against item 5.

Building and Grounds**Mr. William Metz**1. **Highland Elementary Hot Water Tank**

It is recommended to approve a quote from Huckestein Mechanical to replace the hot water tank at Highland Elementary for a total cost of \$12,894.75 through the state bidding process (Co-Stars).

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

Athletics**Mrs. Cathleen Fischer**1. **Overnight Tournament Participation Request**

It is recommended that the high school Boys' Varsity Volleyball Team attend the following overnight tournament:

Northeastern High School, Manchester, PA – March 29, 2025

The district will pay for dues, fees, and transportation. The Boosters will pay for lodging.

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

Public Relations**Miss Amy Fitsko****Point of Information****Hall of Honor**

Annually, Ambridge Area School District proudly recognizes graduates to be inducted into the Bridger Hall of Honor. The Bridger Hall of Honor was established to commend those outstanding graduates for their accomplishments, successes, service to others, and/or state and national awards. Applications to complete the 2025 nominations are available on the district website.

Steering and Rules**Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe**1. **Policy 222 – Tobacco and Vaping Products – Second Reading**

It is recommended, as a second reading to update Policy 222– *Tobacco and Vaping Products*, a policy prohibiting student possession, use, purchase, and sale of tobacco and vaping products be updated to remove language that specifically lists “JUUL” products by the legal settlement with individual school districts, as well as the PA Attorney General’s Office.

2. **Policy 323 – Tobacco and Vaping Products – Second Reading**

It is recommended, as a second reading to update Policy 323 – *Tobacco and Vaping Products*, a policy prohibiting employee possession, use, purchase, and sale of tobacco and vaping products be updated to remove language that specifically lists “JUUL” products by the legal settlement with individual school districts, as well as the PA Attorney General’s Office.

3. Policy 801– Public Records – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading to update Policy 801 – *Public Records* to clarify the district’s responsibilities regarding responding to requests for records under the Right-to-Know Law (RTKL).

4. Handbook – Expulsion Policy Update

It is recommended to adopt the recommended amendment to the student handbooks for the 2024-2025 school year to align with the Pennsylvania School Code, Section 1318.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to approve items 1-4, seconded by Mr. Metz. 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. 2024-2025 Winter Coaches

It is recommended the following individual be retroactively approved to fill the designated coaching position for the 2024-2025 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.

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|--|----------------|
| 1. <u>Girls’ Volleyball</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Carlyn Humphries, Middle School Coach | \$2,050.00 |

2. 2024-2025 Spring Coaches

It is recommended the following individuals be approved to fill the designated coaching positions for the 2024-2025 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.

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|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. <u>Boys’ Volleyball</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Glenn Freed, Head Coach | \$4,300.00 |
| b) Glenn Freed, Middle School Coach | \$2,050.00 |
| c) Jenn Ax, Middle School Coach | \$1,350.00 |
| 2. <u>Baseball</u> | |
| a) Zack Dugan, Head Coach | \$4,300.00 |

- 3. Softball
 - a) Amanda Mitchell, Head Coach \$4,300.00
- 4. Track
 - a) Felicia Mycyk, Head Coach \$4,300.00
- 5. Boys' Tennis
 - a) Megan Racioppo, Head Coach \$4,300.00
- 6. Lacrosse
 - a) Dave Ilko, Head Coach No Remuneration
 - b) Paige Scherer-O'Shea, Assistant Coach No Remuneration

3. ABC Transit Bus Driver/Aide

It is recommended to approve the individuals listed as operators, attendants, and maintenance for ABC Transit, Inc. for the 2024-2025 school year, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

James Burton, Van Driver
 Adeva Shank, Van Driver
 Nakeisha Gilliam, Bus Driver
 Rebecca Nunemaker, Aide

4. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #2641 be approved for a leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave, beginning December 17, 2024, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

5. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #1843 be approved for a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave, beginning January 7, 2025, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

6. Geneva College Student Teacher

It is recommended that Abby Kehs, a Geneva College Student, be ratified for student teaching at the high school for the spring semester pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening and TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening. Abby will be placed with Jodi Musser.

7. Cafeteria Food Service Union Worker

It is recommended that Kristi Allen be hired as a Five-Hour Cook at the high 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.

Mrs. Romasco moved to approve items 1-7, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. Mr. Metz abstained from items 3 and 5; Mrs. Romasco and Mr. Metz voted against item 1.

XII. President's Report

Mr. Carpenter stated great things are happening in the district. Good to see students and staff being recognized at tonight's meeting.

XIII. Solicitor's Report

Ms. Turnbull reported that Title IV is currently under litigation and there will be some recommendations in the coming months.

XIV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated all the students and staff who were recognized at tonight's meeting.

Dr. Pasquerilla pointed out that the Drug and Alcohol Services through the BC Thrive Grant will offer additional support to help our students.

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.

No Comments

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 8:15 p.m. Mrs. Fischer made a motion to adjourn, seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted.

Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary