

Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

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

The Meet and Discuss Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is held on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Media Center.

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

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

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(s) on Wednesday, January 8th to discuss:

- Personnel matter(s)
- Matters subject to attorney-client privilege and other confidentiality laws
- Salary schedule and labor relations

VI. Correspondence

VII. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda

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 Comments

X. LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THIS MEETING

Labor Relations

Mr. Kovacevic

1. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended that a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association ESPA/PSEA-NEA be approved to amicably resolve wage overpayment.

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

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. Maintenance Worker Promotion

It is recommended to retroactively approve the promotion of Edward Noorlag to a Licensed Maintenance Worker, effective November 18, 2024, as per the terms of the Local 248 Ambridge Area School Employees, AFSCME – AFL – CIO negotiated agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

2. Licensed Maintenance Worker

It is recommended to retroactively hire Andrew Gulish, as a full-time Licensed Maintenance Worker at Highland Elementary, effective December 9, 2024, as per the terms of the Local 248 Ambridge Area School Employees, AFSCME – AFL – CIO negotiated agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

3. Slippery Rock University Student Teachers

It is recommended that the following Slippery Rock University students be approved for student teaching 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.

- Colin Kozlowski, to be placed with Jenn Shannon
- Damon Slencak, to be placed with Chris Yannessa and Nicole Connolly
- Logan Park, to be placed with Carrie Keber
- Kayla Martz, to be placed with Shelly Traupman
- Meadow Conley, to be placed with Susan Parisi

4. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #3053 be approved for a leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave, beginning December 16, 2024, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

5. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #3101 be approved for a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave, beginning February 17, 2025, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

6. 2024-2025 Winter Coaches

It is recommended the following individuals be ratified 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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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Girls Basketball</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) David Zeranick, Volunteer Coach 2. <u>Track</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Jennica Anderson, Volunteer Coach | <p><u>Stipend</u>
No Remuneration</p> <p>No Remuneration</p> |
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7. School Safety and Security Coordinator

It is recommended that Dr. Meghan Watelet be appointed as the School Safety and Security Coordinator for the Ambridge Area School District. This complies with PDE guidelines and requirements.

8. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Brandie Johnson, from her position as an Ambridge Area Middle School 6th Grade Teacher All Subjects effective December 6, 2024, with regret. The District reserves the right to retain the employee for the sixty (60) days statutory period or until relieved of duties, whichever occurs first.

9. Department Head/Activities and Clubs Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Brandie Johnson from the following positions:

Sixth Grade Department Head
Middle School Interact Club Sponsor

10. Posted Positions: Department Heads and Building Heads

It is recommended the following individual who has applied for the specified posted position for the 2024-2025 school year be approved at the salary designated in the negotiated agreement, pending receipt of current clearances and drug screening:

<u>DEPARTMENT HEADS</u>		<u>SALARY</u>
Sixth Grade	Corinna Cooper	\$910.00 (pro-rated)

11. 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.

Patricia Murtaugh, Aide
Calvin Jones, Charter Driver

Mrs. Scott moved to approve items 1-11, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. The vote was unanimous with Mr. Metz abstaining from item 11.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)

Education and Technology

Mrs. 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.

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 \$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 exoneration regarding the collection of Real Estate Tax, conditioned upon mutual municipal and county reciprocal exoneration 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.

Building and Grounds

Mr. 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).

Athletics

Mrs. 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.

Athletics

Mrs. Fischer

Point of Information

The High School Varsity Competitive Cheerleading Team will participate in the PIAA State Championship in Reading, PA, from January 29 through January 31, 2025. The application of the student discipline code will be followed. 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.

Public Relations

Miss Fitsko

Steering and Rules

Mrs. Kehoe

1. Policy 222 – Tobacco and Vaping Products – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first 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 – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first 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 – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first 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.

Legislative

Miss Fitsko

XII. President’s Address

Mr. Carpenter welcomed all back for the winter break. Wished the staff a strong close to the second quarter and continue to look for all the great things happening in the district.

XIII. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Pasquerilla wished all a Happy New Year!

XIV. Solicitor’s Report

Ms. Turnbull had nothing to 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. This period for public comment prior to the standing committee reports will be limited to one-half hour.

Mrs. Fischer requested that the Athletic State Championship Banners be updated.

Mr. Metz thanked all involved with the planning of the Shop with A Cop. It was a great success and well appreciated.

Mrs. Fischer thanked Dr. Pasquerilla, Dr. Filipowski, Mrs. Briola and the Interact Club, the Harmony Township Community, the Ladies Auxiliary, and the Shop ’n Save Safran family for all of their help in making the Shop with A Cop a success.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 7:45 p.m. Mr. Carpenter moved to adjourn the meeting. All in favor

Respectfully Submitted,

June Mueller, Board Secretary