

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Cafeteria on Wednesday, February 19, 2025.

I. Mr. Carpenter called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

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

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

High School Interact Club

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
Mrs. Kelly Romasco
Mr. Matthew 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

V. Dr. Pasquerilla read the following Sunshine Law:

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on Wednesday, February 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

No Correspondence

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

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

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

Mrs. Scott moved to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. All in favor.

IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda**X. Recognition/Presentation****Musical Performance**

The High School Theater Department, under the direction of Mrs. Jessica Patterson, will proudly present the musical *Footloose!* The explosive movie musical bursts onto the live Bridger stage! With dynamic new songs augmenting the powerhouse hits from its bestselling Oscar-nominated score, *Footloose* celebrates the exhilaration of youth, the wisdom of listening to one another, and the power of forgiveness. There will be two evening shows on February 28th and March 1st at 7:00 P.M. The final show will be a Sunday Matinee on March 2nd at 2:00 P.M.

This year's musical will feature the following students:

REN MCCORMACK - Cody Roper
 REV. SHAW MOORE - Anthony Speicher
 ARIEL MOORE - Lainee Summers
 WENDY JO - Ariana Avolio-Mason
 WILLARD HEWITT – Jr. Koster
 LULU WARNICKER - Jazlyn Martinez*
 COACH DUNBAR – Nyahnna Collins
 LYLE - Brooklynn Parrish*
 COP - Isabella Cannon*
 PRINCIPAL CLARK - Madelyn Palmer
 BICKLE - Thomas Scott
 COWBOY BOB - Vincent Riegner

ETHEL MCCORMACK - Mara Iiko
 VI MOORE - Kailyn Turko
 RUSTY - Faith Aguirre
 URLENE - Cosette Rotondo
 CHUCK CRANSTON – Vincent Riegner
 WES WARNICKER - Sheridan Olenic*
 ELEANOR DUNBAR - Anna Kwolek
 TRAVIS - Lana Holcomb
 BETTY BLAST - Madelyn Palmer
 JETER - Charlotte Hill*
 GARVIN — Nyahnna Collins*
 COWGIRL BARB - Natalee Sweeney

ENSEMBLE:

Alexander Fay, Alexis Tenney, Alyssa Smith, Elizabeth Speicher, Emily Vignere, Jasmyn Mahmoud, Milo Elias, Claire Elias, Stone Parker, Taylor Bentz

*Featured Dancer

PBS show *Lyla in the Loop*

We are thrilled to announce that the following students' artworks have been selected for use in these *Lyla in the Loop* upcoming episodes:

Aria Baltimore, 2nd Grade, Highland – EP 31 "*Lyla the Lefty*"

Sarah Barfield, 2nd Grade, Highland – EP 39 "*Treasure Hunters*"

Congratulations!

2024 Songbird Essay

Congratulations to 6th grader, Elise Young, on winning the 2024 Songbird Essay (Art of Conservation) contest for 4th-6th graders in Pennsylvania! Your hard work, creativity, and dedication to conservation truly shine through in your essay. This is an incredible achievement, and we're all so proud of you! Keep up the amazing work and continue to inspire others with your passion for the environment and wildlife.

Ambridge Area High School Basketball

Congratulations to Ambridge Area High School Basketball Player Jared Astorino, 11th grader, for achieving the 1000-point milestone on Friday, February 7, 2025, basketball game against Hopewell School District.

KD Quiz Kids Contest – CBS Pittsburgh

The following 12th-grade students participated in the KD Quiz Kids contest, they were successful and will move on to round 2.

Anthony Speicher

Carter Catalano

Cody Roper

The air dates are February 22nd at 11:00 A.M. and March 1st at 11:30 A.M. This is subject to change based on station programming.

Congratulations and Good Luck!

Ambridge Area High School Chapter of the Technology Student Association (TSA)

The Technology Education department is pleased to announce the results from the 2025 PA TSA Region 1 Conference, held on January 25, 2025, at Blackhawk High School, Beaver Falls, PA.

High School TSA Region 1 2025 Results

Twenty-seven members of the local *Ambridge Area High School Chapter of the Technology Student Association (TSA)*, competing against over 200 students from eight local schools, captured Fifty individual and team awards. They are now eligible to compete against hundreds of students at our State Conference that will be held at Seven Springs Resort on April 23-26, 2025.

Please congratulate the following members for their accomplishments:

Board Game Design

2nd Isaiah Kovach, Lily Carpenter, Bella Spencer

Children's Stories

3rd Janna Rusnak, Hannah Larimore, Charlotte Hill, Logan Szymoniak, Mason Herbuth

CAD Engineering

8th Cody Roper

Dragster Design

7th Mason Herbuth

8th Janna Rusnak

Drone Challenge (UAV)

1st Kade McGovern, Elliott Marcum, Jane Fusco, Thomas Short

Extemporaneous Presentation

6th Nyahna Collins

8th Conner Brenner

Geospatial Technology

1st Chase Powers-Brown, Gabe Bader, Drayden Hertneky

Music Production

1st Anthony Speicher

Photographic Technology

3rd Hannah Larimore

4th Isla Ozenich

Prepared Presentation

8th Conner Brenner

Promotion Design

2nd Jane Fusco

Structural Design

3rd Charlotte Hill, Mason Herbuth

5th Tyler Rambo, Conner Brenner

5th Jayda Lorenc, Kade McGovern

8th Lily Carpenter, Bella Spencer

10th Isaiah Kovach, Cole Lovette

Technology Problem Solving

10th Anthony Speicher, Kaitlyn Desrochers

Transportation Modeling1st Isaiah Kovach**PA Logo Design**1st Norah Marchionda2nd Janna Rusnak**PA Safety Illustration**3rd Isla Ozenich**Chapter Team – Written**4th Abby Smith6th Hannah Larimore7th Logan Szymoniak8th Kaitlyn Desrochers**Technology Bowl – Written**2nd Anthony Speicher7th Elliott Marcum8th Kade McGovern10th Gabe Bader**Forensic Science – Written**7th Elliott Marcum

Mr. Benjamin Holmes, Mrs. Pamela Green, Mr. Zachary Dugan and Mrs. Kristin Holmes served as **Co-advisors** for the Ambridge Area High School Chapter of TSA at the conference.

Ambridge Area Middle School TSA!

TSA Motto *“Learning to Lead in a Technical World.”*

On Saturday, January 25, 2025, seven students from the Ambridge Area Middle School joined the High School team to attend the Technology Student Association’s Region 1 Conference and Competition. These students went up against over 100 of their peers from other districts in the area, such as North Allegheny, Fox Chapel, Pine-Richland, and Blackhawk.

Electrical Applications1st Jaycenn Davis**Tech Bowl**3rd Jayceen Davis**Systems Control Technology**1st Collin Waters, Tyler Pinchot, Ian Fusco

Challenging Technological Issues

- 2nd Jayda Palmer, Evie Bogati
3rd Joselyn Desrochers, Collin Waters

Digital Photography

- 3rd Evie Bogati

Children's Stories

- 3rd Joselyn Desrochers

These wins qualify all of our participants to attend the TSA State Conference and Competition this April at Seven Springs Resort, where they could potentially qualify for the National Competition in Nashville this summer. Congratulations to these competitors! Great job! You should be proud!

January Students of the Month**High School Students of the Month**

- Savanna Jones, 12th Grade
Wilson Palma Hernandez, 11th Grade
Edita Ilagan, 10th Grade
Jaqueline Almeida Machado, 12th Grade

High School Effort Awards

- Owen Buchanan, 12th Grade
Pablo Malla, 11th Grade
Daron Cox, 10th Grade
Eugene Rice, 9th Grade

Middle School Students of the Month

- Sidney Kratochvil 8th Grade
Gunner Matos, 7th Grade
Avery Brodmerkel, 6th Grade

Economy Elementary Student of the Month

- Peyton Geyer, 5th Grade

Highland Elementary Student of the Month

- Na'tiya Smith, 5th Grade

State Street Elementary Student of the Month

- Alice Barrett, 5th Grade

January Employees of the Month**High School Employee of the Month**

Maria Kotula, Athletic and Transportation Secretary

Middle School Employee of the Month

Amy Fedorek, English and Theater Arts Teacher

Economy Elementary

Travis Sloan, Custodian

State Street Elementary

Gretchen Clinger, First Grade Teacher

Highland Elementary

Amy Frost, Third 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.

XI. Committee Reports**Education and Technology**

Mrs. Kelly Romasco

1. 2025-2026 School Calendar

It is recommended that the proposed 2025-2026 School Calendar be approved.

2. K-12 Guidance Plan (339)

It is recommended to approve the submission of the K-12 Guidance Plan (339) to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The Plan was vetted through the Act 339 Advisory Council, which included all stakeholders.

3. Psychology and Learning Center

It is recommended to ratify a Memorandum of Understanding between the Psychology and Learning Center and the Ambridge Area School District to provide neurological evaluations, outpatient therapy and medical management of district students at no cost to the district, **subject to final review of solicitor.**

4. The Meadows Psychiatric Center

It is recommended to approve a letter of agreement between The Meadows and the Ambridge Area School District, a mental health provider, for 2025-2026; 2026-2027; and 2027-2028, **subject to final review of solicitor.**

5. ThinkSync Agreement

It is recommended to approve an agreement between ThinkSync and the Ambridge Area School District. This will provide tools, resources, and insights that support the emotional and mental well-being of students in grades 6-12. This is at no cost to the district. **Subject to final review of solicitor.**

6. UniFirst Service Agreement

It is recommended to approve a service agreement between UniFirst and the Ambridge Area School District for the floor mats and mop services effective date of signature, at the rates per the attached schedule.

7. Educational Consortium for Telecommunications Savings

It is recommended to approve a contract between the Educational Consortium for Telecommunications Savings (ECTS) and Ambridge Area School District to include the application for discounts under the SREK Amendment to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, commonly called the E-Rate.

8. Pennsylvania School Safety Institute's (PennSSI) 3rd Safety Summit

It is recommended Meghan Watelet be approved to attend the PennSSI 3rd Safety Summit being held in Mechanicsburg, PA on March 27, 2025. This Safety Summit is a gathering of key stakeholders to discuss innovative strategies and solutions to improve school safety. All expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, meals) will be paid as per Board Policy 331 – Job-Related Expenses. The approximate cost will be \$600.00.

9. 2025 School Nutrition Association of Pennsylvania (SNAPA) Director Workshop

It is recommended Leigh Anne Holman be approved to attend the 2025 SNAPA Director Workshop being held in Seven Springs Mountain Resort on March 17 through March 18, 2025. The 2025 SNAPA Director Workshop is an exclusive, director-level event designed to inspire, educate and connect leaders in school nutrition. All expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, meals) will be paid as per Board Policy 331 – Job-Related Expenses. The approximate cost will be \$1,000.00.

10. PA TSA Leadership Conference

It is recommended that Ben Holmes, Pamela Green, Zach Dugan, Scott Setzenfand and Shana Dowlin be authorized to take students to the local chapter of the PA Technology Student Association Conference in which students will compete in a wide variety of technology and S.T.E.M. related areas at the Pennsylvania Technology Student Association State Leadership Conference. The event will be held April 23 through April 26, 2025, at Seven Springs Mountain Resort. Students who attend PA TSA States will be reimbursed as per Board Policy 240 (50% of travel cost or \$250.00 per student, whichever is less) for a maximum total of \$3,000.00. The teachers will be reimbursed at the contracted rate with an expense report attached, which covers registration, fees, travel, lodging, and meals.

11. 2025 Adventures in Education Club Field Trip

It is recommended that Larry Knopsnyder, an American Cultures Teacher at the High School, be authorized to take students in the Adventures in Education Club to St. Augustine, Florida from November 4th through November 7, 2025. There will be no cost to the district, with the exception of the cost for the substitute teacher. Parents or guardians will be required to sign permission and release forms. Chaperones will be required to have current clearances and TB testing.

12. Device Pilot

It is recommended to pilot 150 Chrome Books and accessories across the district at a total cost of \$63,772.50, through the state contracted pricing (PEPPM).

Miss Fitsko moved to approve items 1-12, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. Mr. Kovacevic voted against item 12. The vote in favor of items 1-11 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 \$2,990,214.11 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,266,984.55 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$139,406.17 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$44,638.02 be paid.

3. Budget Transfer

It is recommended to approve budget transfers for February 2025.

4. The PIMS People, LLC

It is recommended to approve a proposal from The PIMS People, LLC to provide PIMS Administrators to the district to ensure accurate data collection and reporting within the PIMS system for the total cost of \$2,083.33 per month for four months beginning March 1, 2025.

Mr. Zatchey moved to approve items 1-4, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Building and Grounds

Mr. William Metz

1. Economy Elementary Main Exterior Doors

It is recommended to retroactively approve a quote from Timchak Safe & Lock, LLC to install the new Electrified Exit Device and test for proper operations for the total cost of \$4,389.00, through the state bidding process (Co-Stars).

2. High School Boiler Controls

It is recommended to retroactively approve a proposal from CMS Controls to repair boiler controls at the high school for a total cost of \$5,250.00, through the state bidding process (Co-Stars). This is at the reduced amount of \$2,000.00.

3. Fuel Consortium

It is recommended that extended participation with the Western Pennsylvania Gasoline/Diesel Consortium through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit #3 (AIU3) for the purchase of fuel (gasoline, diesel, and heating oil) for the 2025-2026 school year be approved.

4. High School Ice Machine

It is recommended to approve a quote from Tri-State Equipment Company to purchase a new ice machine for the high school for the total cost of \$5,525.00

5. Temperature Sensors for all District Schools

It is recommended to approve a quote from M&P Security to purchase temperature sensors for all district schools for the total cost of \$6,613.98.

Mrs. Fischer moved to approve items 1-5, seconded by Mr. Kovacevic. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Athletics**Mrs. Cathleen Fischer**1. Athletic Training Services

It is recommended the Athletic Training Services Agreement between UPMC Health System Sports Medicine, and the Ambridge Area School District be approved. This is a three (3) year agreement for 2025-2026 at a total cost of \$58,000.00, 2026-2027 at a total cost of \$60,500.00, and 2027-2028 at a total cost of \$62,800.00. The agreement will commence on July 1, 2025, and end on June 30, 2028, **subject to final review of the solicitor.**

2. Middle School Volleyball Net System

It is recommended to approve a quote from Sports Imports to purchase a Carbon Fiber Net system at the middle school in the amount of \$8,033.50, through the state bidding process (Co-Stars).

3. Middle School Electric Track System

It is recommended to approve a quote from Lynx Systems to purchase a Fully Automatic Training (FAT) System in the amount of \$5,440.00. This system is required by WPIAL to score Track and Field events and to ensure our compliance at home meets.

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

Public Relations**Miss Amy Fitsko****Steering and Rules****Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe**1. Policy 222 – Tobacco and Vaping Products – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final 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 – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final 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 – Final Reading

It is recommended, as a final 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. Policy 246 – School Wellness – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to revise School Board Policy 246 – *School Wellness* to modify the number of times per year the Wellness Committee will meet. The committee will meet a minimum of (2) two times per year rather than (4) four times per year.

5. Policy 210 – Use of Medications – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to update School Board Policy 210 – *Use of Medications* for the administration of prescribed medication to a student during school hours in accordance with the directions of the parent/guardian or family physician will be permitted only when failure to take such medicine would jeopardize the health of the student or the student would not be able to attend school if the medication were not available during school hours.

6. Policy 210.1 – Possession/Use of Asthma Inhaler/Epinephrine Auto-Injectors – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to update School Board Policy 210.1 – *Possession/Use of Asthma Inhaler/Epinephrine Auto-Injectors* to permit students in the district schools to possess asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors and to self-administer the prescribed medication in compliance with state law and Board policy.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to approve items 1-6, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Legislative**Miss Amy Fitsko**1. Resolution 2025-2026-8

It is recommended to adopt Resolution No. 2025-2026-8 a resolution authorizing the district to retain litigation counsel; to participate in legal proceedings initiated against Eli Lilly and other identified parties for claims related to the overpricing of insulin purchased by the district in its health care plans; and to authorize the Administration and the Solicitor to execute associated agreements and pleadings.

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

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. Act 93 Position

A.) It is recommended to authorize the creation of the following position for the 2024-2025 school year:

- 1) Assistant Middle School Principal

2. Ambridge Area Middle School Assistant Principal

It is recommended to hire Mark Iwanejko as the Ambridge Area Middle School Assistant Principal at a salary of \$92,000.00, effective date to be determined, as per the terms of the Act 93 Administrative Agreement pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

3. BVIU – Board of Directors Election

It is recommended that the Ambridge Area School District Board of School Directors nominate Kelly Romasco as a representative to the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit Board of Directors for a three-year term of office commencing on July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028.

4. Paraprofessional

It is recommended to retroactively hire Omaree Robinson as a Paraprofessional at Highland Elementary, effective February 18, 2025, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association (ESPA/PSEA/NEA), pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

5. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Robert Gulish from his position as a Paraprofessional at the high school, effective April 3, 2025, with regret.

6. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Joy Villalta from her position as a Paraprofessional at the middle school, effective February 28, 2025, with regret.

7. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Breanna Kress from her position as a four (4) hour Kitchen Worker at the middle school, effective February 28, 2025, with regret.

8. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #1057 be approved for an intermittent leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave, beginning February 13, 2025, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

9. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #372 be approved for an intermittent leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave, beginning February 19, 2025, not to exceed sixty (6) days.

10. Slippery Rock University Student Field Observation

It is recommended to approve the following Slippery Rock University student, to complete observation hours within the Ambridge Area Middle School, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Madison Blazer, to be placed with Brittany Graft

11. 2024-2025 Spring Coaches

It is recommended the following individuals be 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.

1. <u>Boys' Baseball</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Brandon Gleason, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
2. <u>Girls' Volleyball</u>	
a) Lethera Harrison, Middle School Coach	\$1,350.00

Mrs. Scott moved to accept items 1-11, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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

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

Minutes submitted,

Dr. Joseph Pasquerilla