

Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Voting and Non-Voting Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Media Center on Wednesday, February 12, 2025.

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

The Meet and Discuss Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is being held on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 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. 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

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 Executive Session(s) on Wednesday, February 12th 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. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda

VIII. Recognition/Presentation

Device Pilot Presentation – Kristen Ferguson

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

Education and Technology

Mrs. Romasco

1. Resolution 2024-2025-7

It is recommended to approve Resolution No. 2024-2025-7, a resolution confirming the elected tax collectors’ compensation for School District taxes without substantive changes from current compensation.

Miss Fitsko moved to approve item 1, seconded by Mr. Kovacevic. 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. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Carlyn Humphries, from her position as a Middle School Girls’ Volleyball Coach, effective January 29, 2025, with regret.

2. Coach Amendment

It is recommended to amend the approval of David Zeranick, from a Girls’ Basketball Volunteer Coach, approved on January 8, 2025, to a Boys’ Basketball Volunteer Coach.

3. 2024-2025 Spring Coaches

It is recommended that 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.

1.) <u>Track</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Denise Duncan, Assistant Coach	\$2,400.00
b) Savannah Fischer, Assistant Coach	\$2,000.00
c) Raeffon Ruskin, Assistant Coach	\$1,900.00
d) Denise Duncan, Middle School Coach	\$1,550.00
e) Jessica Anderson, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
f) Joseph Patterson, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
2.) <u>Baseball</u>	
a) Shaun Dugan, Assistant Coach	\$2,400.00
b) Noah Rinker, Assistant Coach	\$2,200.00
c) Greg Vukovcan, Middle School Coach	\$2,050.00
d) Chris Parish, Middle School Coach	\$1,350.00
e) Nate Scott, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
f) Christopher Ricker, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
g) Caison Holland, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
3.) <u>Softball</u>	
a) Megan Fitzgerald, Assistant Coach	\$2,400.00
b) Jonathan Fisher, Assistant Coach	\$2,200.00
c) Casi Freed, Middle School Coach	\$2,050.00
d) Reg Humbert, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
e) Kalynn Wheeland, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
f) Kim Bogati, Middle School Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
4.) <u>Boys' Volleyball</u>	
a) Jason Benkowski, Assistant Coach	\$2,400.00
b) David Stuebgen, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
c) Brendan Jones, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
d) Derek Kuhn, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
e) Lee Smith, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
5.) <u>Girls' Volleyball</u>	
a) Jamison Frantz, Middle School Coach	\$2,050.00
b) Kim Bogati, Middle School Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
6.) <u>Boys' Tennis</u>	
a) Joseph Fortune, Assistant Coach	\$1,050.00

4. 2025-2026 Fall Coaches

It is recommended that the following individuals be approved to fill the designated coaching positions for the 2025-2026 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' Soccer</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) David Stuebgen, Head Coach	\$4,300.0
2.) <u>Girls' Soccer</u>	
a) James Ramer, Head Coach	\$4,300.00
3.) <u>Girls' Volleyball</u>	
a) Carlyn Humphries, Head Coach	\$4,300.00
4.) <u>Boys' Golf</u>	
a) Chris Yannessa, Head Coach	\$4,300.00
5.) <u>Girls' Golf</u>	
a) Larry Knopsnyder, Head Coach	\$4,300.00

5. Paraprofessional

It is recommended to retroactively hire Joseph Fortune as a Paraprofessional at the Ambridge Area High School, effective January 23, 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.

6. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

It is recommended that the following individual who has applied for the specified posted position for the 2024-2025 school year be ratified at the rate of pay, as per the collective bargaining agreement, provided the school year allows and sponsors can hold activities as normal.

<u>ACTIVITY/CLUB (Middle School)</u>		<u>SALARY</u>
Interact Club	Erin Wolf	\$313.33 (pro-rated)

7. School Resource Officer Agreement Addendum

It is recommended that an addendum to the agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Police Department be approved.

8. 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.

Danielle Gardner – Van Driver
 Javion Smith – Van Driver
 Timothy Armstead- Van Driver
 Daniel Boni- Van driver
 Lisa Bota- Van driver
 Joseph Cerniglia- Van Driver
 Jamie Deutsch- Van driver
 David Filipek- Sub bus driver
 Jennifer Filipek- Sub bus driver
 Donald Frynkewicz- Van driver
 Kenneth Shrum- Van driver
 Monty Celo- Van driver
 James Gardner- Van driver

9. Orton Gillingham Training

It is recommended that the following elementary teachers be compensated for 35 total hours to complete Orton Gillingham Training on their own time, upon completion of the Orton Gillingham Comprehensive OG+ Training and submission of the certificate, at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement. Salary and benefits are to be paid by grant funding. To be paid for through the Title II Grant monies.

Olivia Pietropola
 Susan Manuppelli
 Jessica Niemeier
 Alexis Cogis
 Kathleen Marvin
 Carrie Keber
 Chelsie Quinn
 Amy Wass
 Lee Levi

10. Permanent Contracts

It is recommended that the following professional employee, who has completed three years of satisfactory service in the Ambridge Area School District as of the effective date designated, be given permanent professional contracts:

Sarah Burns, Tenure Date: February 7, 2025

11. 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 School District, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Nicholas Cassol, to be placed with Kenneth Grafton

Mrs. Scott moved to approve items 1-11, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. Mrs. Fischer abstained from item 3. 1.), Mr. Metz abstained from item 8, and Mrs. Scott voted against item 7.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)

Education and Technology

Mrs. 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.

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 \$2,990,214.11 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.

Building and Grounds**Mr. 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 a 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.

Athletics**Mrs. 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 the 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.

Public Relations

Miss Fitsko

Steering and Rules

Mrs. Kehoe

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

It is recommended, as a third 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 – Third Reading

It is recommended, as a third 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 – Third Reading

It is recommended, as a third 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 – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first 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.

Legislative

Miss Fitsko

XII. President’s Address

Mr. Carpenter asked that parents look for spring sports recruitment.

XIII. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated all of the students in winter athletes and winter concerts.

XIV. Solicitor's Report

Ms. Turnbull stated that she is keeping on top of a variety of issues with the Education and Federal Government. Nothing is dramatically different.

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.

Fabriola Gergerich, Ambridge, PA

- Thank you all for Orton Gillingham Training
- Pg. 5 Items 3-5 are parents notified?
- Is online testing done at school?
- Not a fan of Google.
- Not a fan of K-5 technology.
- What is the benefit of iPads for K-3?
- Update on Baden Academy Charter?
- Transgender in sports.
- Weapons issue at Middle School – update on student?
- What is the end result of having clear backpacks?
- Who paid for the clear backpacks?
- Metal Detectors are an illusion of safety.

Dr. Pasquerilla

- If parents do not want their child to receive services, the parent is asked to sign off.
- Once there is an update on the Baden Academy Charter we will share.
- Standard testing is taken at school.

Mr. Carpenter offered to stay after the meeting and talk with Ms. Gergerich.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 8:25 p.m., Miss Fitsko made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Scott. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted.

Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary