

**Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, August 20, 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, August 20, 2025, is now called to order.

**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  
Mr. Garrett Kovacevic, Treasurer  
Mrs. Adina Ferragonio  
Mrs. Cathy Fischer  
Miss Amy Fitsko  
Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe  
Mrs. Kelly Romasco  
Mr. Matt 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, August 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss:

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

**VI. Correspondence**

**VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, Board Meeting**

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

Miss Fitsko moved to accept the minutes and treasurer's report, seconded by Mr. Zatchey. All in favor.

**IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda****X. Recognition/Presentation****Turnip the Beet SILVER Award**

Ambridge Area School District has been awarded the Turnip the Beet SILVER award! This recognition honors summer meal program sponsors nationwide who diligently provide children with high-quality, nutritious meals during the summer months.

This is an elite group of 199 sponsors across the country.

Congratulations to our Food Service Department!

Kelly Gregory  
Sue Palombo  
Anna Robinson  
Vickie Pinkerton  
Amanda Knox  
Barb McGeorge  
Leah Hartman  
Leigh Anne Holman, Director of Food Service

**All-State Volleyball**

Congratulations to 2025 senior Karson Merlina! He earned a spot on the All-State Team.

From across the state, 10 players were chosen to the First Team; 10 players on the Second Team; and 9 players on Honorable Mention. Karson earned FIRST TEAM honors. Very awesome.

What a great honor! Way to represent Ambridge Area High School and the team.

GO BRIDGERS.

**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.

The Board discussion focused on the **Quarterback Club concession stand building** and its connected bleachers. The main points of contention were whether to demolish the building or simply repair its roof.

A key concern raised was the financial implications of a partial repair. Board members questioned whether fixing just the roof would lead to more unforeseen issues and higher costs down the line.

Mr. Zatchey notably described this approach as "putting lipstick on a pig," suggesting a superficial fix wouldn't address the underlying problems.

Safety was also a significant topic, with board members inquiring about the presence of electricity and the overall stability of the building. Ultimately, the consensus was to move forward with the demolition of the Quarterback Club concession and bleachers. This decision was made with the intention of rebuilding a new Quarterback Club concession along with new bleachers, signaling a commitment to a full replacement rather than temporary repairs.

## **XI. Committee Reports**

### **Education and Technology**

**Mrs. Kelly Romasco**

#### **1. Foster Care Youth Transportation MOU**

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Beaver County Children and Youth Services to establish transportation procedures to ensure the educational stability of Foster Care Youth.

Mrs. Romasco moved to approve item 1, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. 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 \$3,172,927.29 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,126,964.59 be paid.

#### **2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries**

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$10,166.97 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$16,440.57 be paid.

#### **3. Tax Exemption**

It is recommended to approve the requested real property tax exemption for 412 River Glen Drive, Economy Borough (Parcel 60-044-0598-000) for 2024 school taxes, as certified by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs letter dated May 6, 2024.

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

**Building and Grounds****Mrs. Adina Ferragonio**1. Crossing Guards

It is recommended that crossing guards be placed at locations throughout the Ambridge Area School District for the 2025-2026 school year, as listed below:

10<sup>th</sup> Street and Duss Avenue  
 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Duss Avenue  
 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Duss Avenue  
 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Church Street  
 State Street and Harmony Road

2. State Street Elementary Fire Alarm Panel

It is recommended to approve a proposal from Johnson Controls to replace the Fire alarm control panel at State Street Elementary in the total amount of \$9,000.00 through the state bidding process (Co-Stars).

3. High School Football Field Quarterback Club

The Board authorizes the demolition of the high school football field quarterback club structure in connection with the visitor bleacher removal project. The demolition will cost \$0 to the district and be performed without further remuneration by Tom Sipes Demolition as a donation, subject to agreement finalization.

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

**Athletics****Mrs. Cathleen Fischer**1. Award of Bowling Facility

It is recommended to approve a bid proposal from Fair Oaks Bowling Lanes to provide a venue for the high school bowling team for a three-year term beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

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

**Public Relations****Miss Amy Fitsko****Steering and Rules****Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe**1. Policy 105.1- Curriculum Review by Parents/Guardians and Students – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to update Policy 105.1 – *Curriculum Review by Parents/Guardians and Students* to ensure that parents/guardians have an opportunity to review instructional material and curriculum.

2. Policy 105.2 – Exemption From Instruction – Second Reading

It is recommended, as a second reading, to update Policy 105.2 – *Exemption from Instruction* to update the policy to comply with the requirement of the state Board of Education to assure parents/guardians the right to have their children excused from specific instruction that conflicts with their religious beliefs.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to approve items 1-2, seconded by Mrs. Ferragonio. 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. Elementary School Resource Officer

It is recommended to approve a pilot partnership with the Ambridge Area Police Department to place a part-time School Resource Officer (SRO) at Economy Elementary School for the 2025-2026 school year, at a cost not to exceed \$35,000.00. **Pending solicitor review.**

2. Elementary School Resource Officer

It is recommended to approve a pilot partnership with the Harmony Township Police Department to place a part-time School Resource Officer (SRO) at Highland Elementary School for the 2025-2026 school year, at a cost not to exceed \$35,000.00, contingent on whether the police department is willing and able to perform the duties. **Pending solicitor review and municipal commitment.**

3. Elementary School Resource Officer

It is recommended to approve a pilot partnership with the Beaver Valley Regional Police Department to place a part-time School Resource Officer (SRO) at State Street Elementary School for the 2025-2026 school year, at a cost not to exceed \$35,000.00, contingent on whether the police department is willing and able to perform the duties. **Pending solicitor review and municipal commitment.**

4. 2025-2026 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) Boys' Soccer

Stipends

a) Jon Miller, Volunteer Coach

No Remuneration

- 2) Girls' Volleyball Stipend
  - a) Jaimeson Franz, Middle School Coach \$2,050.00
  - b) Lethera Harrison, Middle School Coach \$1,350.00
  
- 3) Wrestling Stipend
  - a) Ron Wilson, Assistant Coach \$2,400.00
  - b) Ron Wilson, Middle School Coach \$1,850.00
  - c) Larry Knopsnyder, Middle School Coach \$1,350.00
  
- 4) Boys' Basketball Stipend
  - a) Eric Astorino, Assistant Coach \$2,410.00
  
- 5) Cheer Stipend
  - a) Emily O'Malley, Middle School Coach \$1,350.00

5. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

It is recommended that the following individual who has applied for the specified posted position for the 2025-2026 school year be approved at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement, provided the school year allows and sponsors are able to hold activities as normal.

| <u>ACTIVITY/CLUB (Middle School)</u> |                          | <u>SALARY</u> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Club Hope                            | Brad Olenic (Co-Sponsor) | \$235.00      |

6. Paraprofessional

It is recommended to hire the following individual to fill the Paraprofessional position as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association (ESPA/PSEA-NEA) collective bargaining agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Lisa Loskoch, PreK Economy Elementary School

7. Professional Employee

It is recommended to retroactively hire Emily Lentz as an Highland Elementary School Learning Support, Emotional Support, Autistic Support, and Life Skills All Grade Levels at a salary of \$50,981.00 (Step 1, Master), effective with the first day of new teacher induction, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEA/PSEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening, and PDE certifications if applicable.

8. Mentor Teacher

It is recommended to ratify Susan Parisi as a mentor teacher to Shannon Tatman for the 2024-2025 school year, as per the negotiated agreement.

## 9. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Cathy Ray as the Ambridge Area Middle School Full-Time Secretary, effective August 11, 2025, with regret.

Mrs. Fischer moved to approve items 1-9, seconded by Mrs. Romasco. Mr. Zatchey voted against items #1, 2 and 3.

## XII. President's Report

Mr. Carpenter spoke on the Opening Ceremony, and how it was great to see the Cheerleaders and Band members. Smiles on all faces. Wishing students and staff a good start to the school year.

## XIII. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla gave a special thanks to Dr. Filipowski. It was awesome to have the kids a part of opening day. We had a great first day of school. Looking forward to a great school year.

## XIV. Solicitor's Report

Ms. Turnbull expressed her gratitude to everyone for their hard work and dedication to our schools. She was delighted to be a part of opening day and spoke about the importance of professional boundaries. She emphasized that as an institution, we all play a vital role in protecting our students. Encouraging open dialogue, even when you're unsure, is crucial for safety and support.

## 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.

Josh Gill, Economy Borough, PA

- State Street raised concerns about the alarm system not being fully functional.
- Policy 105.1 – appreciates the parents reviewing curriculum, would like clarity on the process of how they review and what support the teachers will have to provide the parents with the curriculum.
- Spoke on a job posting for an Ambridge Police Officer and the salary to be paid, also spoke on the cost the district pays to have an SRO at the middle and high school. Would it be beneficial for the district to have its own paid security officers?
- Concerns with accessibility to the baseball fields at the middle school and people getting hurt going down the hillside to the field.

Mrs. Amadio

- After being inspected by two separate vendors, the alarm system was found to be operational. It needs some minor repairs to be fully functional, and those repairs have been approved and will be completed.

Dr. Pasquerilla

- The school district is able to afford its School Resource Officers (SROs) because it receives grants to help cover the costs. These grants range from \$40,000 to \$660,000.

This grant money is crucial, as the district would find it difficult to pay the full salary and benefits of its own security personnel.

Additionally, the Chief of Police has a say in the district's security, which is a common arrangement when a district partners with local law enforcement for its SRO program.

- Agreed, the path in and around the baseball field is difficult. We will look at this.
- Curriculum Policy – The Solicitor explained that the updates are mandatory updates to the Board policy, ensuring it remains in compliance with the current law.
- Teachers can make curriculum available electronically to share with parents. Additionally, parents who wish to view the curriculum in person can schedule an appointment to do so.

#### **XVI. Motion to Adjourn**

At approximately 8:27 p.m. Miss Fitsko made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. All in favor.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary**