

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, September 10, 2025.

I. Mr. Carpenter called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m.

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District Board of Directors on Wednesday, September 17, 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

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, September 17th to discuss:

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

VI. Correspondence

A thank you note to the Board from Laughlin Memorial Library for the district donation.

VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, August 13th Meet and Discuss Meeting, and Wednesday, August 20th Board Meeting

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

VIII. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report dated: July – August 2025

Mrs. Romasco moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. All in favor.

IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda**X. Recognition/Presentation****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 held discussions on the necessary replacement of district bleachers, concluding with a strong push for immediate action.

Mr. Carpenter started the discussion by acknowledging the high cost of the project but urged the Board to move forward rather than delay. Based on a survey of other county schools, he recommended pursuing a project of comparable or slightly larger scale.

Mr. Kovacevic is requesting that the agenda for the next meeting include both the Field House and football field bleachers. Mrs. Romasco supported this, noting that the Field House bleachers could potentially generate a revenue stream and thanked Mrs. Amadio for compiling essential information, including county school surveys and quotes.

Mrs. Romasco and Miss Fitsko recommended combining both bleacher projects, following confirmation of the Field House's repair needs by Dr. Pasquerilla.

In terms of funding and procedure, Mrs. Kehoe raised the possibility of securing grant monies, while Mrs. Amadio clarified that exceeding the bidding threshold would require a cooperative bid and legal advertisement.

Dr. Pasquerilla strongly recommended moving forward with the rebuilding of the football field bleachers immediately, stressing the project's urgency and the significant delays that indecision would cause.

In conclusion, the board agreed to place the project, with options, back on next month's agenda.

XI. Committee Reports**Education and Technology****Mrs. Kelly Romasco**1. 2025 Annual Conference of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association (AOSA)

It is recommended to approve Celeste Schaltenbrand to attend the 2025 Annual Conference of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association (AOSA). The conference, titled "Connecting in Kentucky," will be held in Lexington, Kentucky, from November 19-22, 2025. This conference is a professional development opportunity for music educators. All expenses (travel, lodging, and meals) are paid per Board Policy 431, Job-Related Expenses. The estimated total cost for this attendance is \$555.00.

2. Technology Purchase

It is recommended to approve a quote from CDW-G to purchase fifty (50) Chromebooks for district employees who provide ACCESS services for the district at a cost of \$24,300.00 through Keystone Contract Pricing. This will be paid for out of ACCESS funds.

3. Caring Foundation Agreement

It is recommended to approve an agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Caring Foundation for School-Based Peer Support Groups for Grieving Children. This agreement will be at no cost to the district.

4. Conference

It is recommended to approve Kristin Holmes and Benjamin Holmes to attend the NSTA National Conference Shell Regional Lab Challenge to be held in Minneapolis, MN, from November 12-15, 2025. This is a competition for K-12 science teachers in select communities near Shell facilities, encouraging them to innovate in innovative ways to teach science using limited lab resources. All expenses (travel, lodging, and meals) are paid per Board Policy 431, Job-Related Expenses. The estimated total cost for this attendance is \$2,809.00. Shell to provide a portion of the expenses.

Mrs. Romasco moved to approve items 1-4, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. 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 \$2,547,127.47 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,032,505.38 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$109,258.85 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$14,793.34 be paid.

3. Jostens' Yearbook Agreement

It is recommended to approve a three (3) year agreement with Jostens' Yearbook to provide yearbook services for the Ambridge Area High School. **Pending Solicitor's review.**

4. Disabled Veterans Tax Exemption

It is recommended to approve the requested real property tax exemption for 403 Golden Grove Road, Economy Borough (Parcel 60-001-0512-000) for 2025 school taxes, as certified by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs letter dated May 16, 2025.

5. Repository Settlement

It is recommended to approve the Sale of Property from the Beaver County Repository of Unsold Property for the following property to be purchased by Ryan Oliver and Michael Pesce:

- a) Tax Parcel 13-003-0314.000, located at 882 Schiller Street, Baden, PA, for the bid amount of \$1,783.10.

6. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve 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 property to be purchased by Ryan Oliver and Michal Pesce:

- a) Tax Parcel 13-003-0314.000, 882 Schiller Street, Baden, PA, for the real estate taxes from 1982-2024.

7. Resolution 2025-2026-04

It is recommended to adopt Resolution No. 2025-2026-04, a Resolution authorizing the collection of interim real estate taxes in a manner consistent with Pennsylvania law.

8. Gifts in Kind

It is recommended to accept the donation of several filing and storage cabinets from Single Source to the district. The donor has received no goods or services in return for this gift.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to approved items 1-8, seconded by Mrs. Romasco. Mr. Kovacevic abstained from items 1-6.

Building and Grounds

Mrs. Adina Ferragonio

1. Rescind

It is recommended to rescind the approval of a quote from F. Bevilacqua Remodeling to replace the roof of the Quarterback Club Concession Stand, approved at the May 21, 2025, Board Meeting.

2. District Truck Repairs

It is recommended to approve an estimate from FASMO Automotive Service & Towing LLC for necessary repair work to be done on a district 2008 Ford F450 Super Duty Truck in the total amount of \$5,749.47.

Mrs. Ferragonio moved to approve items 1-2, seconded by Mrs. Romasco. Mr. Kovacevic abstained from items 1-2.

Athletics

Mrs. Cathleen Fischer

Public Relations

Miss Amy Fitsko

Steering and Rules

Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe

Legislative

Miss Amy Fitsko

1. PSBA Officer Elections

It is recommended the Board Secretary be directed to cast the vote of the Ambridge Area School Board for the election of the following PSBA Slate of Candidates for 2026:

President-elect: Holly Arnold, Tunkhannock Area School District

Vice President: Matt Vannoy, Sharon City School District

Insurance Trust: Kathy Swope
Roberta Marcus

Mrs. Romasco moved to approve item 1, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. 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. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #1753 be approved for a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave, beginning October 6, 2025, not to exceed 60 days.

2. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #2197 be approved for a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave, beginning October 21, 2025, not to exceed 12 weeks.

3. Economy Elementary Before and After School Childcare

It is recommended to approve the following individuals as caregivers at the Before and After School Child Care Program at Economy Elementary School at a rate of \$15.00 per hour, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and compliance with Act 168. The hours are 6:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. before school and 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. after school.

Carrie Malinich
 Christina Thomas
 Tammy Kennedy
 Linda Sparacino

4. Creation of a Position

It is recommended to authorize the Administration to develop and to post for the following administrative position: Part-Time Assistant Athletic Director.

5. Ambridge Area Middle School Secretary

It is recommended to retroactively hire Marlon Kittrell as the Ambridge Area Middle School Secretary at an annual salary of \$26,715.00, pro-rated, effective September 15, 2025, as per the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association – ESPA/PSEA- NEA Agreement.

6. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

It is recommended that the following individuals who have applied for the specified posted positions 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 can hold activities as normal.

<u>ACTIVITY/CLUB (High School)</u>		<u>Stipend</u>
Gay-Straight Alliance Club	Joie Dusold (Co-Sponsor)	\$235.00
	Abigail Sobel (Co-Sponsor)	\$235.00

7. ABC Transit Bus Driver/Aide

It is recommended to approve the individuals listed as operators, attendants, and maintenance for ABC Transit, Inc. for the 2025-2026 school year, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

<u>Bus Drivers</u>	<u>Van Drivers</u>	<u>Aide</u>
Daniel Taylor	Joseph Chiaravalloti	Lakeisha McQuene
	Dawn Olexa	

Mrs. Fischer moved to approve items 1-7, seconded by Mr. Kovacevic. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XII. President’s Report

XIII. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla thanked the teachers, staff, and students for getting the new school year off to a positive start.

XIV. Solicitor's Report

Ms. Turnbull extended well wishes for Happy Constitution Day, reminding everyone, "may we never take our rights for granted." She also thanked the board members for their important work in their roles and collaboration with the State.

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

- Discussed the importance of having workers at the door when there are board meetings and other school events in the buildings.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 8:00 p.m. Mrs. Fischer moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Romasco. All in favor.

**Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary**