

Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Media Center on Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

I. Mrs. Scott called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

The Meet and Discuss Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is held on Wednesday, January 14, 2026. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Media Center.

II. Mrs. Scott asked all present to rise for the Flag salute

III. Mrs. Scott 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. Valerie Scott, President
Mrs. Cathleen Fischer, Vice President
Mr. Garrett Kovacevic, Treasurer
Mr. Gregory Constantine
Mrs. Kathleen Curtis
Miss Amy Fitsko
Mr. Joshua Gill
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. Michelle Gannon, Solicitor

V. Dr. Pasquerilla read the following Sunshine Law

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session(s) on Wednesday, January 14th to discuss:

- Personnel matter(s)
- Information, strategy, and/or negotiation session relating to the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement
- 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

Amended item 1 under Legislative Committee to read '**pending solicitor review**'.

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.

Fabiola Gergerich, Ambridge, PA

- Questions on item 1 under the Legislative Committee
 - Questioned voting on 15 million to cover the cost of HVAC and if they get grants, will we get reimbursed? Would the district pay a 1.7 million lump sum?

X. LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THIS MEETING**Finance and Budget**

Mr. Kovacevic

1. Preliminary Budget Resolution 2025-2026-08

It is recommended to adopt Resolution No. 2025-2026-08 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 2026-2027 school year at a rate that exceeds the index of 4.7% as calculated by the PA Department of Education.

Mr. Gill made a motion to approve item 1, seconded by Miss Fitslo. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Steering and Rules

Mrs. Kehoe

1. Policy 610 - Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation – First and Final Reading

As a first and final reading, it is advised to retroactively revise Policy 610 *Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation* to reflect the updates effective January 1, 2026, and any future annual increases published by the Department of Labor and Industry.

2. Policy 246 – School Wellness - First and Final Reading

As a first and final reading, it is advised to update Policy 246 – *School Wellness* to adhere to federal requirements, to include standards established for non-sold foods and beverages available to students on the school campus during the school day, such as items at classroom parties, as shared classroom snacks, and as a reward or incentive.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to approve items 1-2, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Building and Grounds

Mr. Constantine

1. Electric Project

It is recommended to approve the proposal from Yates Electric LLC to install electrical services on the stadium's visitor side for a total cost of \$24,345.00. Yates Electric LLC was the lowest bidder.

2. Grading and Asphalt Straightening from Bleacher Removal

It is recommended to approve the proposal from Elements Landscape Management in the amount of \$9,123.00 for grading and asphalt straightening from the visitor side bleacher removal. Elements Landscape Management was the lowest bidder.

Mr. Gill moved to approve items 1-2, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Legislative

Miss Fitsko

1. New Horizon School Resolution 2025-2026-10

A Resolution is presented for adoption by the Ambridge Area School District which authorizes the Board of School Directors of the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit #27 as operating agent of the New Horizon School to incur debt in an amount not to exceed Fifteen Million and 00/100 (\$15,000,000.00) dollars for the remediation of the presence of mold and asbestos present in the New Horizon School building. The district will pay a one-time payment to avoid interest, **pending solicitor review.**

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

Personnel**Mr. Gill**

***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. Economy Elementary School Principal

It is recommended to hire Mark Iwanejko as the Principal at Economy Elementary School at a salary of \$95,000.00, as per the terms of the Act 93 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.

2. Slippery Rock University Student Teachers

It is recommended that the following Slippery Rock University students be approved for student teaching in the Ambridge Area School District for the spring semesters, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening and TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Gianna Reighard, Economy Elementary – to be placed with Jason Gerle and Tammy Kennedy
Madison Prentice, Highland Elementary – to be placed with Alexis Cogis.

3. Geneva College Student Teachers

It is recommended that the following Geneva College students be approved for student teaching in the Ambridge Area School District 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.

Ethan Hajec, High School – to be placed with Steven Rodgers
Jorja Kobert, Economy Elementary – to be placed with Courtney Parisi

4. Western Governors University Student Teacher

It is recommended that the following Western Governors University student be approved for student teaching in the Ambridge Area School District 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.

Hana Kesselring, High School – to be placed with Pam Green and Eric Harbison

5. Varsity Head Football Coach

It is recommended to hire Dan Bradley as the Varsity Football Head Coach at a starting salary of \$11,500.00, as per the terms of the employee contract. This recommendation is 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 and coaches can hold sports as normal. **Pending solicitor review.**

6. 2025-2026 Spring 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.

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|---|-----------------|
| 1) <u>Softball</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Amanda Mitchell, Head Coach | \$4,300.00 |
| b) Jonathan Fisher, Assistant Coach | \$2,400.00 |
| c) Reg Humbert, Assistant Coach | \$2,200.00 |
| d) Joe Georgakis, Volunteer | No Remuneration |
| 2) <u>Baseball</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Zach Dugan, Head Coach | \$4,300.00 |
| b) Shaun Dugan, Assistant Coach | \$2,400.00 |
| c) Noah Rinker, Volunteer | No Remuneration |
| 3) <u>Boys' Volleyball</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Glenn Freed, Head Coach | \$4,300.00 |
| b) Glenn Freed, Middle School Head Coach | \$2,050.00 |
| c) Jennifer Ax, Middle School Assistant Coach | \$1,350.00 |
| 4) <u>Boys' Basketball</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Helen Leseiko, Middle School Volunteer Coach | No Remuneration |

7. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #3058 be approved for an intermittent leave of absence under Board Policy 335, Family and Medical Leave, beginning December 1, 2025, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

8. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #1800 be approved for an intermittent leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave, beginning December 2, 2025, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

9. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #3182 be approved for an intermittent leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave, beginning December 3, 2025, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

10. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #38 be approved for a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave, beginning December 4, 2025, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

11. Uncompensated Leave

It is recommended to approve a one-time unpaid leave of absence for employee #2836 from February 1 through May 2026 to complete their student teaching requirements.

12. Cafeteria Food Service Union Worker

It is recommended to retroactively hire Katilee Parnell as a Four-Hour Cook at the middle school as per the terms of the collective bargaining unit, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

13. Cafeteria Worker

It is recommended to retroactively hire Karen Wolf as a Cafeteria Cashier/Monitor at State Street Elementary, effective January 5, 2026, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

14. 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.

Tiona Armour, Van Driver
Robin Jones, Van Driver and Aide

15. Paraprofessional

It is recommended to retroactively hire Chloe Fouse as a Paraprofessional at the high school, effective January 7, 2026, 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.

16. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Kimberly Racioppo due to retirement from her position as Paraprofessional at the high school, effective December 18, 2025, with regret.

17. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Kelly Hartley from her position as an Ambridge Area Middle School Learning and Emotional Support Teacher, effective December 10, 2025, with regret.

18. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Justin Egizio from his position as an Ambridge Area High School Art Teacher, effective January 16, 2025, with regret.

19. Resolution 2025-2026-09

It is recommended to approve Resolution 2025-2026-09, a Resolution terminating the Employee # 3221.

Mr. Kovacevic moved to approve items 1-19, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)

Education and Technology

Mrs. Romasco

Finance and Budget

Mr. Kovacevic

1. School District Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly school district bills in the amount of \$2,058,266.81 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,357,029.51 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$70,457.59 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$52,792.79 be paid.

3. 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 \$775.00. This is a decrease in cost from last year.

Building and Grounds

Mr. Constantine

1. High School and Field House Building Automation System

It is recommended to accept a proposal from Building Control Systems, Inc. to replace and program all HVAC Controls in the high school and field house. This is at a total cost of \$497,700.00 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 27-March 28, 2026

The district will pay dues, fees, and transportation. The Boosters will pay for lodging.

Public Relations

Miss Fitsko

Steering and Rules

Mrs. Kehoe

Legislative

Miss Fitsko

XII. President's Address

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. This period for public comment prior to the standing committee reports will be limited to one-half hour.

Allen Hazelwood, Baden, PA

- Baden Methodist Church – Release of 2024 taxes
- March 26, 2024 – Tax status changed
- Appeal twice
- Asking for tax release from the district
- The Board authorized our solicitor to discuss it further with Mr. Hazelwood

Rand Dawson, Ambridge, PA

- When will the district calendar be approved
- The band will need an approved calendar to organize band camp.

Fabiola Gergerich, Ambridge, PA

- 1.7 million all districts paying the same amount – item 1 under Litigation
- Are all district Co-Owners of New Horizon
- Congratulated the new middle school assistant and asked about plans for hiring a new Middle School Assistant Principal.
- Asked if the district conducts Exit interviews.

- Asked about item 7 under personal reading Policy 335 and item 8 reading policy 435. (This is correct, one identifies Professional Staff and the other identifies Administrative Staff)
- Questions on Berkone total cost.
- Questions on Building and Grounds item 1 0 is this for both the high school and the field house. (yes)

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

Minutes taken by Dr. Pasquerilla in Mrs. Mueller's absence.

**Mrs. June Mueller
Board Secretary.**