

**Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Media Center on Wednesday, January 21, 2026.**

**I. Mrs. Scott 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 is called to order on Wednesday, January 21, 2026.

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

**State Street Student Council Flag Salute and Presentation**

**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. Megan Turbull, Solicitor  
Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary

**V. Mrs. Mueller read the following Sunshine Law**

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session(s) on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss:

- Personnel matter(s)
- Matters subject to attorney-client privilege and other confidentiality laws

**VI. Correspondence**

**VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, December 3, 2025, Monthly Board Meeting and Reorganization Meeting**

**VIII. Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report dated: December 2025**

**IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda**

**TABLED Items 1 and 2 under Legislative Committee**

**X. Recognition/Presentation**

**Dr. Pasquerilla - Board of Education Appreciation Month**

On behalf of the administration, students, and staff of the Ambridge Area School District, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to our Board of School Directors. In honor of Board of Education Appreciation Month, we recognize these hardworking volunteers for their dedicated leadership and essential service to our community. We appreciate your commitment to our students’ success every day, and tonight, we honor your tireless efforts. Please join us in thanking them for their hard work and service to the district.

**Student/Employee Recognition**

**Football All-Conference**

Congratulations to our athlete who earned **All-Conference** honors this season!

Honorable Mention Offense – **Darold Cain**, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade – Quarterback

**November Students of the Month**

**High School Student of the Month**

- Gianna Georgakis, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Holly Budzak, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade
- John Seifer, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade
- David Walls, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

**High School Extra Effort Award**

- Karlyce Chandler, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Joseph Leseiko, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Kendall Romo, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Abigail Howell, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Middle School Student of the Month**

- Luca Fabanich, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Ellie Young, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Taw Taw Shwe, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Economy Elementary Student of the Month**

- Isabel Wilson, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

**Highland Elementary Student of the Month**

- Dream Gaddis, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**State Street Elementary Student of the Month**

Isabella Botelho, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**November Employees of the Month**

**High School Employee of the Month**

Rob Jamery, Custodian

**Middle School Employee of the Month**

Lauren Metz, Special Education Teacher

**Economy Elementary Employee of the Month**

Lynn Hartle, First Grade Teacher

**Highland Elementary Employee of the Month**

Kellee Gnipp, Kindergarten Teacher

**State Street Elementary Employee of the Month**

Erica Brozich, Pre-K Teacher

**December Students of the Month**

**High School Student of the Month**

Lana Holcomb, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Bella Spencer, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

Wayne McCracken, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

Ashley Grande-Reyes, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

**High School Extra Effort Award**

Michael Briola, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Matthew Grier, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

Kenya Sawyer, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

Da'moni Hardy, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Middle School Student of the Month**

Brianna Ricci, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Fyndie Ford, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Milyn Hayes, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Economy Elementary Student of the Month**

Matthew Schmidt, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Highland Elementary Student of the Month**

Bayani Strong, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**State Street Elementary Student of the Month**

Alivia Hysong, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**December Employees of the Month**

**High School Employee of the Month**

Chelsea Benedict, Guidance Counselor

**Middle School Employee of the Month**

Samantha King, Special Education Teacher

**Economy Elementary Employee of the Month**

JoAnn Hersh, Paraprofessional

**Highland Elementary Employee of the Month**

Barb McGeorge, Cafeteria Supervisor

**State Street Elementary Employee of the Month**

Lauren Tierney, 2nd Grade Teacher

**The 2025 Beaver County Challenge Program Award Winners**

**Community Service**

Halle Prusniski, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Eden DeMuth, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Academic Achievement**

Abby Smith, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Parker Eisel, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Academic Improvement**

Evan Lang, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Isabella Cannon, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Attendance**

Samantha Waschak, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Daron Cox, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

**STEM**

Jana Rusnak, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Isaiah Kovach, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Community Service (Beaver County Career and Technology Center students)**

Jordin Pritchard, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Mileena Unsworth, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Distinguished Student Heroism**

We are honored to recognize a group of students who displayed extraordinary courage during a recent bus transit emergency. When their driver experienced a medical emergency, these students immediately stepped up to help. Their heroic actions kept their classmates safe.

Nicolly Camargo Sampaio, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Michael Smith, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

**2025 Holiday Greeting Card Contest Winners**

Ja'nyla Bland, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Highland Elementary

Juliet Wayne, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Economy Elementary

Isla Wojciechowski, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – State Street Elementary

*Congratulations!*

**Creative Writing Program**

The following students from State Street Elementary's 5th Grade Class participated in the Creative Writing Program. These students' stories were selected for publishing in The Young Writer's Anthology Book.

Kendall Loftus

Amiya Cobbs

Alyssa Mihalek

Alivia Hysong

Preston Sheets

Kennedy Hines-Lucas

Roscia Quib-Chub

Kamari Hayes

Anthony Crawford

Bryden Bishop

Madeline Brown

Evalisse Thompson

Ellie Duda

Ella Cortright

Bryce Douds

*Congratulations!*

**XI. 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 Comment

**XII. Committee Reports**

**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.

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

**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).

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

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

Mrs. Fischer moved to approve Item 1, seconded by Mrs. Kehoe. The vote in favor was unanimous, with Mrs. Romasco abstaining.

**Public Relations**

**Miss Fitsko**

**Steering and Rules**

**Mrs. Kehoe**

**Legislative**

**Miss Fitsko**

1. **TABLED** Special School Authority (SSA) Revitalization Resolution 2025-2026-11

It is recommended to adopt Special School Authority (SSA) Revitalization Resolution 2025-2026-11, that the Ambridge Area School Board of School Directors appoint a representative to the Authority’s Board, pending final review of the solicitor.

2. **TABLED** Beaver County Special School Authority

It is recommended that the Ambridge Area School District hereby appoints \_\_\_\_\_ to represent the Ambridge Area School District as a Board Member of the Beaver County Special School Authority, as per the terms of Resolution 2025-2026-11.

Mr. Kovacevic moved to table items 1-2, seconded by Mrs. Scott. All in favor.

**Salary Schedule and Labor Relations**

**Mr. Kovacevic**

1. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the Ambridge Area Educators Association, as presented, contingent upon final solicitor approval and union ratification.

Mrs. Fischer moved to approve item 1, seconded by Mrs. Scott. The vote in favor was unanimous, with Mr. Constantine abstaining.

**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. Professional Employee

It is recommended to ratify Hana Pruchnitsky, as the Ambridge Area High School Art Teacher at a salary of \$50,981.00 (Master, Step 1) pro-rated, effective January 16, 2026, as per the terms of The Ambridge Area Education Association AAEE/PSEA Agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act168 screening, and PDE certifications if applicable.

2. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Katilee Parnell as a Four-Hour Cook at the Ambridge Area Middle School, effective January 13, 2026, with regret.

3. Rescind

It is recommended to rescind Jameson Franz from the position of Girls’ Volleyball Middle School Coach.

4. 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.

1) <u>Softball</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Alexandra Fontana, Middle School Coach	\$1,350.00
2) <u>Girls’ Volleyball</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Hanna Kesserlring, Middle School Coach	\$2,050.00
b) Michaela Pavlinich, Middle School Coach	\$1,350.00
c) Kim Bogati, Middle School Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
3) <u>Track</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Savannah Fischer, Assistant Coach	\$2,400.00
4) <u>Boys’ Volleyball</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Jason Benkowski, Assistant Coach	\$2,400.00

Mrs. Scott moved to approve items 1-4, seconded by Miss Fitsko. Mr. Constantine abstained from items 1-4; Mrs. Fischer abstained from item 4. 3)a). Mr. Gill abstained from items 1-3.

**XIII. President’s Address**

Mrs. Scott congratulated the students and thanked the State Street Student Council for leading the Pledge of Allegiance and presenting their report. Additionally, she shared details regarding the upcoming winter sports kickoff.

**XIV. Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated the students, highlighting the well-rounded achievements of those recognized in the arts, creative writing, and sports. We are incredibly proud of our students and staff.

**XV. Solicitor’s Report**

Ms. Turnbull – Happy Board Appreciation!

**XVI. 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.

**XVII. Motion to Adjourn**

**At approximately 8:10 a.m., Miss Fitsko moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Romasco. All in favor.**

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