

**AMBRIDGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING  
AGENDA  
March 18, 2026**

**7:00 p.m.**

**High School Auditorium**

**I. Call to Order**

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District Board of Directors is called to order on Wednesday, March 18, 2026.

**II. Flag salute-please rise**

**Economy Elementary Student Council**

**III. 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**

**V. Sunshine Law**

The Board of School Directors held an Executive Session(s) on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss:

- Personnel matter(s)
- Information, strategy, and/or negotiation session relating to the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement
- Considering the purchase or lease of real estate
- Matters subject to attorney-client privilege and other confidentiality laws
- Litigation or threatened litigation matters
- Sensitive public safety issues
- Salary schedule and labor relations

**VI. Correspondence**

**VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes** of Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> Meet and Discuss Voting and Non-Voting Meeting and Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting

**VIII. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report dated:** February 2026

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

## **X. Recognition/Presentation**

### **2026 McDonald's All American Games Nominees**

We are thrilled to recognize Jared Astorino and Keldan Carr for their elite achievement in being nominated for the 2026 McDonald's All-American Games. Now in its 49th year, this program is the nation's premiere high school basketball showcase, with an alumni list that includes legends such as Michael Jordan, LeBron James, and Maya Moore. Jared and Keldan are among a select group of only 738 nominees nationwide—representing 48 states—vying for one of the final 24 roster spots to compete in Phoenix, Arizona, this March. We congratulate these two student athletes on this distinguished honor and for representing the very best of Ambridge athletics on a national stage.

### **Beaver County MATHCOUNTS Competition**

The MATHCOUNTS Team competed in the Beaver County competition on February 14<sup>th</sup> and earned an impressive 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish, with strong contributions from many talented team members. Felix Bruner advanced to the countdown round and finished in 7<sup>th</sup> place overall. Jayda Palmer finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and earned a spot in the State Competition in April. We are excited to cheer her on as she represents Ambridge in Harrisburg!

### **WPIAL Gymnastics Championship**

Ambridge senior gymnast Marena Baker delivered an exceptional performance at the WPIAL Gymnastics Championships. Competing in the Intermediate 2 Division, Marena earned 4<sup>th</sup> place on Bars and 4<sup>th</sup> All-Around, showcasing her skill, consistency, and competitive spirit.

Her achievements also qualified her for the PA Classic Gymnastics Championships. This accomplishment highlights her dedication and continued excellence in the sport.

In addition to her success in Intermediate 2, Marena also competed in the Silver Division, where she placed 3<sup>rd</sup> on Bars and 10<sup>th</sup> All-Around.

Marena has been a committed member of the Ambridge gymnastics program for the past four years, and her coach expressed tremendous pride in her growth and accomplishments.

Congratulations to Marena Baker on her outstanding performances and for representing Ambridge with strength and determination!

### **Competitive Cheer**

Under the outstanding leadership of senior co-captain Marena Baker, the cheer program achieved one of its most successful seasons in school history. Marena's dedication was instrumental in hosting the "Battle at the Bridge"—now the largest competition in the region—and leading the squad to a top three finish in every competition they entered.

Congratulations Marena!

## **WPIAL Wrestling Tournament**

Congratulations to our talented wrestlers on their hard work, grit, and determination throughout the season. Their dedication has truly paid off. We are incredibly proud to see them represent our program on one of the biggest stages of the year.

- Nadia Benkowski gave an impressive performance, securing 4<sup>th</sup> place at 107 lbs. Her consistency and competitive drive continue to shine.
- Ja'Von Monroe battled through a tough bracket to earn 6<sup>th</sup> place at 139 lbs., showcasing both resilience and technical skill.
- Matthias Davis delivered a standout effort to place 4<sup>th</sup> at 145 lbs., proving he is a force to be reckoned with in his weight class.
- Quinn Tkatch powered his way to a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at 285 pounds, demonstrating exceptional strength and determination on the mat, while advancing to the second day of competition.

These four athletes competed in the WPIAL Tournament, going head-to-head with some of the best in the region. We wish them the best of luck as they continue their wrestling journey.

## **March 2026 Marks the 41st Anniversary of Music in Our Schools Month!**

For 41 years, March has been designated by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) as Music in Our Schools Month (MIOSM). The positive impact of music education on the lives of students lasts a lifetime; therefore, ensuring equitable access to music education for our students is paramount.

Everyday, in classrooms and rehearsal rooms across our school district, music educators dedicate themselves to providing all students with life-changing musical experiences. While parents, administrators, and the wider community often see the wonderful results of music performances, we sometimes overlook the months of practice and the vital learning process that make those performances possible.

I encourage all members of our community to acknowledge and celebrate music education as an essential part of every student's educational journey.

### **Honors Band**

Lana Holcomb  
Samantha Waschak  
Bryan (J.R.) Koster

### **District Band**

Lana Holcomb  
Samantha Waschak  
McKayla Lebeck  
Jessica Waschak

### **District Orchestra**

Lana Holcomb

### **District Jazz**

Bryan (J.R.) Koster

### **Region Band**

Lana Holcomb  
Samantha Waschak

## **Junior High Band Fest**

Jayda Palmer  
John Pielin  
Lily Buchanan  
Quinn Zatchey  
Zachary Samarco  
Alyssa Smith  
Maria Hill  
Robert Calvin  
Elizabeth Speicher

## **February Students of the Month**

### **High School Student of the Month**

Madeline Loschiavo, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Charles Stefanik, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Jackson Baker, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Alyssa Smith, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

### **High School Extra Effort Award**

Quinn Tkatch, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Hadden Green, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade  
My' Arie Morris, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Steven Martinez-Vasques, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

### **Middle School Student of the Month**

Lily Buchanan, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Nathan Racioppo, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Patrick Marsilio, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

### **Economy Elementary Student of the Month**

Madison Megarry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

### **Highland Elementary Student of the Month**

Ja'Von Yaworski, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

### **State Street Elementary Student of the Month**

Ellie Duda, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Owen Duda, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## **February Employee of the Month**

### **High School Employee of the Month**

Nicole Tallarico, Social Studies Teacher

### **Middle School Employee of the Month**

Ed Noorlag, Maintenance

### **Economy Elementary**

Carrie Malinich, Intervention Teacher

**Highland Elementary**

Michelle Archibald, Paraprofessional

**State Street Elementary**

Sue Palombo, Food Service

**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.

**XII. Committee Reports**

**Education and Technology**

**Mrs. Romasco**

**Point of Discussion**

Discussion and consideration of digital accessibility: Live streaming of board proceedings.

**Education and Technology**

**Mrs. Romasco**

1. Senior Projects

It is recommended that the Ambridge Area High School Senior Projects Manual for the 2026-2027 school year be approved.

2. 2026-2027 High School Course Book Adjustment

It is recommended to approve the adjustment to the 2026-2027 school year Course Selection Book to add CCBC Business Academy. This academy will offer students an additional pathway focused on business-related coursework, including Marketing, Economics, and Accounting.

3. Pennsylvania MATHCOUNTS Competition

It is recommended that Noah Rinker be authorized to travel with a middle school student to the Pennsylvania MATHCOUNTS Competition to be held at the Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey in Harrisburg, PA, from March 20 - 21, 2026. The student will be reimbursed as per Board Policy 240 – *Student Contest/Competitions* (50% of travel cost or \$250.00 per student, whichever is less) for a maximum total of \$3,000.00. The teacher will be reimbursed for all expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, and meals) as per Board Policy 431, *Job-Related Expenses*. The teacher's approximate total cost is \$570.00.

4. 2026 National Academic Games League of America (AGLOA)

It is recommended that Caitlin Bajgier be authorized to take seven (7) students to the 2026 National Academic Games League of America (AGLOA), in which students compete in a wide variety of Gifted activities related to Chapter 16 Gifted Individualized Education Plans. The event will be held from April 24 - 27, 2026, in Charlotte, NC. Students will be reimbursed as per Board Policy 240 – *Student Contest/Competitions* (50% of travel cost or \$250.00 per student, whichever is less) for a maximum total of \$3,000.00. The teacher will be reimbursed for all expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, and meals) as per Board Policy 431, *Job-Related Expenses*. The teacher’s approximate total cost is \$1,450.00.

5. PA TSA Leadership Conference

It is recommended to rescind the approval of Scott Setzenfand to attend the local chapter of the PA Technology Student Association Conference and approve Brad Olenic and Shana Dowlin to attend. The event will be held April 15 - April 18, 2026. The teachers will be reimbursed at the contracted rate with an expense report attached, which covers registration, fees, travel, lodging, and meals.

6. Summer Credit Recovery Program

It is recommended to approve a Summer Credit Recovery Program to provide high school students with the opportunity to recover course credits. Pending adequate enrollment, the program will run Monday through Friday, June 15 – June 26, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Ambridge Area High School. This is at no cost to the district.

7. E-Rate

It is recommended to approve the purchase of network infrastructure equipment, installation services, and associated cloud management support from Communications Consulting, Inc. in the total amount of \$163,050.00 through PEPPM pricing and E-Rate Category 2 Funding. The E-Rate program will pay 80% of the total cost. The Ambridge Area School District will pay approximately 20% of the total cost.

8. Personal Financial Literacy Textbook Adoption

It is recommended to approve the adoption of a five (5) year Nucleus *Personal Finance* series, grade 12. This is at a total cost of \$35,538.00.

9. Technology Purchase

It is recommended to approve a quote from Communications Consulting, Inc. to purchase seventy-seven (77) Chromebooks at a cost of \$35,359.17 and two (2) Chrome Carts at a cost of \$6,544.61 through PEPPM pricing. This purchase will be funded through the Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) Grant, as per the grant's requirements.

#### 10. Pennsylvania School Breakfast Summit 2026

It is recommended that Leigh Anne Holman be approved to attend the Pennsylvania School Breakfast Summit 2026 at The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College, PA, held on April 29 - 30, 2026. The summit will provide critical training for School Nutrition Program Operators on the upcoming 2027-2028 federal nutrition standard changes. All expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, and meals) will be reimbursed in accordance with Board Policy 331 – Job-Related Expenses, at an approximate cost of \$360.00.

#### 11. PASBO 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference and Exhibits

It is recommended that Kristen Ferguson be approved to attend the PASBO 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference and Exhibits, being held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA, on March 25 – 26, 2026. The conference provides PA school business officials with essential professional development, networking opportunities, and access to innovative operations. All expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, meals) will be paid as per Board Policy 331 – Job-Related Expenses. The approximate cost will be \$400.00.

### **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 \$3,344,250.52 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,334,894.07 be paid.

#### 2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$65,351.21 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$43,994.34 be paid.

#### 3. Adoption of the 2026-2027 BVIU General Operating Budget

It is recommended that the 2026-2027 Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit's General Operating Budget be approved. The Budget totals \$2,952,409.00. Ambridge Area School District contributes \$21,813.80.

#### 4. BVIU 2025-2026 Allocation of Federal 619-IDEA B Funds

It is recommended to accept the 2025-2026 Allocation of Federal 619-IDEA B Funds to the Ambridge Area School District, in the amount of \$4,472.00.

#### 5. BVIU 2025-2026 Allocation of Federal 611-IDEA Funds

It is recommended to accept the 2025-2026 Allocation of Federal 611-IDEA Funds to the Ambridge Area School District, in the amount of \$365,055.31.

#### 6. Omni Approved Vendors

It is recommended to add PFS Investments/Primerica as a service provider for the Ambridge Area School District's 403(b) plan, administered by the Omni Group.

7. GSL

It is recommended to approve an agreement between GSL Government Consulting LLC and the Ambridge Area School District to pursue funding available through the Department of Community and Economic Development or other state agencies to assist with costs associated with bleacher renovations at Ambridge Area School District.

**Building and Grounds**

**Dr. Constantine**

1. High School Vape Detectors

It is recommended to approve a quote from The Wilson Group for the purchase and installation of a Verkada SV Series Environmental Monitoring System and integrated security cameras at the high school, for a total cost of \$35,559.78 through State contract pricing (Co-Stars).

2. Middle School Vape Detectors

It is recommended to approve a quote from The Wilson Group for the purchase and installation of a Verkada SV Series Environmental Monitoring System and integrated security cameras at the middle school, for a total cost of \$30,739.10 through State contract pricing (Co-Stars).

3. High School Speaker System

It is recommended to approve a quote from Horizon Information Services to install a six-speaker paging expansion and amplifier for the gymnasium, and necessary repairs to the existing cafeteria and kitchen audio systems. This is at a total cost of \$5,632.00 through State contract pricing (Co-Stars).

4. Phone Systems

It is recommended to approve a quote from Communications Consulting, Inc. to purchase and install twelve (12) additional phone line systems, including four (4) new cable runs throughout the district. This is at a total cost of \$9,502.54 through State contract pricing (Co-Stars).

5. High School Door

It is recommended to approve a quote from Builders' Hardware to replace one of the high school hallway doors. This is at a total cost of \$6,125.00.

**Athletics**

**Mrs. Fischer**

**Public Relations**

**Miss Fitsko**

**Steering and Rules**

**Mrs. Kehoe**

**Legislative**

**Miss Fitsko**

1. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the local Law Enforcement Authorities for the 2026-2027, 2027-2028, and 2028-2029 school years.

**Personnel**

**\*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. 2025-2026 Coach

It is recommended that the following individual be approved to fill the designated coaching position 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>Track</u>                     | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Leilana Pickens, Assistant Coach | \$1,900.00     |

2. 2026-2027 Coach

It is recommended that the following individual be approved to fill the designated coaching position for the 2026-2027 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>Girls' Golf</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) _____, Head Coach  | \$4,300.00     |

3. Resignation

It is recommended to accept the resignation of Cami Miller from her position as a Paraprofessional at the middle school, effective March 13, 2026, with regret.

4. Extended School Year Services

- a. It is recommended the following teachers be approved to provide Extended School Year services to students from Monday, July 13, 2026, through Thursday, July 16, 2026, and Monday, July 20, 2026, through Thursday, July 23, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Highland Elementary and the High School at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement (with an additional hour of planning time per day for teachers):

Jamie Wellman  
 Hannah Jozwiak  
 Madison Hiltz  
 Patty Weale  
 Mackenzi Uber  
 Jennifer Shannon

- b. It is recommended the following speech teacher be approved to provide Extended School Year services to students from Monday, July 13, 2026, through Thursday, July 16, 2026, and Monday, July 20, 2026, through Thursday, July 23, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Highland Elementary and the High School at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement (with an additional hour for planning time per day for teachers):

Mara Vitovsky  
Marie Buck (Early Intervention)

- c. It is recommended the following para-educators be approved to provide Extended School Year services to students from Monday, July 13, 2026, through Thursday, July 16, 2026, and Monday, July 20, 2026, through Thursday, July 23, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Highland Elementary and the High School at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement:

Lacey McCullough (Sweitzer)  
Melissa Holcomb  
Lisa Patton  
Carly Humphries  
Anton DeLuca

- d. It is recommended the following nurses be approved to provide Extended School Year services to students from Monday, July 13, 2026, through Thursday, July 16, 2026, and Monday July 20, 2026, through Thursday, July 23, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Highland Elementary and High School at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement.

Kristine McCloskey  
Stuart Rusnak

5. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #2381 be approved for a leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave, beginning March 10, 2026, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

6. Assistant Middle School Principal

It is recommended to hire Susan Mannion as the Assistant Principal at the Ambridge Area Middle School at a salary of \$95,000.00, effective TBD, 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.

**XIII. President's Address**

**XIV. Superintendent's Report**

**XV. Solicitor's Report**

**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**