

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Media Center on Wednesday, February 18, 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, February 18, 2026.

II. Mrs. Scott asked all present to rise as the High School Student Council led us in 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
 Mrs. Kathleen Curtis
 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
 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, February 18th 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. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, January 14th Meet and Discuss Voting and Non-Voting Meeting and Wednesday, January 21st Board Meeting

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

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

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

IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda**X. Recognition/Presentation****Student/Employee Recognition****Ambridge Area School District Cheer Competitive Squad**

This year, our cheer program was guided by the outstanding leadership of senior captains Marena Baker and Amaree Seymour, whose dedication, teamwork, and commitment set the tone for one of the most successful seasons in school history. Under their direction, the team opened the year by hosting Battle at the Bridge, which has grown into the largest cheer competition in both Beaver and Allegheny Counties. This event not only showcased the tremendous spirit of our athletes, but also demonstrated their ability to organize and execute a premier regional competition.

Throughout the season, the squad represented Ambridge with pride as they traveled to competitions at Thomas Jefferson, Thiel, Plum, and Bishop McCort, consistently delivering high-level performances. At every competition they entered, they placed within the top three, a testament to their discipline, skill, and relentless work ethic.

Their competitive achievements were outstanding. One of the hallmark moments of the season came when they earned First Place in the Small Varsity Division at the Pennsylvania State Cheerleading Championship held at IUP, a major accomplishment against some of the strongest programs in the state. They continued to make history by securing back-to-back WPIAL Championships, reinforcing their status as one of the premier cheer teams in the region. The season culminated in a remarkable performance at PIAA States, where the team finished 4th in the state with zero deductions. That flawless routine marked the strongest state performance in Ambridge cheerleading history, closing the year on a milestone that the entire community can take pride in.

Your Bridger Competitive squad:

Ada Stojan
Amaree Seymour
Anna Simpson
Ava Draganjac
Avrie Fustich
Caroline Dobich
Eleni Bratton
Hannah Hohman
Jiavanna Necci
Kendall Harper
Mallory Smith
Marena Baker

McKenzie Waters
Myah Sherrill

Go Bridgers!

PMEA District 5 Band Festival

Congratulations to McKayla Lebeck, Jessica Waschak, Samantha Waschak, and Lana Holcomb for their outstanding performances at the PMEA District 5 Band Festival held at Sharon High School. We are proud to announce that Samantha Waschak (Bass Clarinet, 1st Chair) and Lana Holcomb (Tuba, 3rd Chair) have successfully qualified for the PMEA Region 1 Band Festival to be held at Upper Saint Clair High School. They will compete for the prestigious opportunity to earn a spot at the state level. We commend all four students for representing Ambridge with such musical excellence and wish Samantha and Lana the best of luck in their upcoming regional competition.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

We are proud to recognize the students from our Business Information Systems and Commercial Art programs for their outstanding performance at this year's FBLA Regional Leadership Conference. Competing in a region that encompasses over 14 school districts across Beaver, Allegheny, and Butler Counties—with more than 500 active FBLA members—our students demonstrated exceptional skill and leadership. We congratulate the following award winners for their hard work and success in representing our district at this prestigious level.

Adriyanna Tierney
Jerrin Johnson-Sims
Noah Clendenen
Thomas Fontana
Isaiah Gavin

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 premier 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.

December Students of the Month

High School Extra Effort Award

Da'Moni Hardy, 9th Grade

Economy Elementary Student of the Month

Matthew Schmidt, 4th Grade

January Students of the Month

High School Student of the Month

Jaylynn Campbell, 12th Grade
Kendall Harper, 11th Grade
Elionexis Mejias Rivera, 10th Grade
Alena Strong, 9th Grade

High School Extra Effort Award

Jayda Lorenc, 12th Grade
Eleni Bratton, 11th Grade
Josie Noullet, 10th Grade
Meadow Hernandez, 9th Grade

Middle School Student of the Month

Shaelynn Nestor, 8th Grade
Kamrynn Lawson, 7th Grade
Quinn Olenic, 6th Grade

Economy Elementary Student of the Month

Jack Pletz, 5th Grade

Highland Elementary Student of the Month

Jacey Zaraspe, 5th Grade

State Street Elementary Student of the Month

Kendall Loftus, 5th Grade

January Employee of the Month

High School Employee of the Month

Paul Hladio, Physics Teacher

Middle School Employee of the Month

Noah Rinker, Math Teacher

Economy Elementary

Jaclyn Cosky, Kindergarten Teacher

Highland Elementary

Kristina Coscarelli, Emotional Support Teacher

State Street Elementary

Amanda Pfeifer, Kindergarten Teacher

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.

Richard Ferreira, Repository Purchase/Tax Exoneration Requestor

- A developer presented plans for the redevelopment of an abandoned property, with the intent of converting the location into 22 apartment units.
- The project is estimated to take between 1 and 1.5 years to complete. This includes an initial phase of 6 months to a year for permitting, architectural approvals, and required inspections for electrical, plumbing, and general installations.
- Projected rental rates for the units are expected to range between \$1,000 and \$1,500 per month.
- The requester noted the recent purchase of the vacant VFW building on Duss Avenue. Plans for that site include Professional office space. An indoor playground for children.
- The request for tax relief was framed as a necessary step to support the financial viability of returning these vacant/abandoned properties to productive use and improving the local tax base.

Mr. Gill

- Inquired whether the project's progress is currently contingent upon securing financing or if the investment capital is already in place.
- Questioned the necessity of the exoneration request, noting that if the developer has the capital to invest in a project of this scale, the payment of the \$35,000 in back taxes should be a manageable part of the development cost.
- Specifically asked the developer to clarify if the redevelopment of the property could proceed successfully without the District granting the school tax exemption.

Mrs. Kehoe

- Emphasized that granting the exoneration would return a long-vacant property to the tax rolls, whereas denying it would likely cause the property to continue accruing debt without generating revenue for the District.
- Framed the decision as a choice between supporting community reinvestment or allowing the structure to remain vacant and continue to deteriorate.
- The immediate cost of the exoneration is outweighed by the long-term value of having an occupied, renovated building contributing to the local economy.

Mrs. Romasco

- State that while the exoneration involves an immediate cost, the resulting improvements will increase taxes coming back for the District in the long term compared to the property's current stagnant state.

Mrs. Fischer

- Expressed agreement regarding the importance of reinvesting in the Ambridge community, specifically by supporting the redevelopment of long-neglected properties.
- Noted the critical state of the current structure, pointing out that the property has been abandoned for a significant amount of time and is suffering from major structural failure, including a collapsing roof.
- Implied that the renovation would address a significant neighborhood eyesore and potential safety hazard.

XII. Committee Reports

Education and Technology

Mrs. Romasco

1. Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association (PSADA) Conference

It is recommended that Anthony Amadio be authorized to attend the 58th Annual PSADA Conference to be held in Hershey, PA, from March 17 – 20, 2026. The conference focuses on the management and operations of athletic events. All expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, and meals) will be paid as per Board Policy 331 – Job-Related Expenses. The approximate cost will be \$1,900.00.

2. PA TSA Leadership Conference

It is recommended that Ben Holmes, Kristin Holmes, Pamela Green, Zach Dugan, and Scott Setzenfand be authorized to take students to the local chapter of the PA Technology Student Association Conference, in which students will compete in a wide variety of technology and S.T.E.M. related areas at the Pennsylvania Technology Student Association State Leadership Conference. The event will be held April 15 through April 18, 2026, at Seven Springs Mountain Resort. Students who attend PA TSA States will be reimbursed as per Board Policy 240 (50% of travel cost or \$250.00 per student, whichever is less) for a maximum total of \$3,000.00. The teachers will be reimbursed at the contracted rate with an expense report attached, which covers registration, fees, travel, lodging, and meals.

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

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 \$1,857,580.71 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,334,799.24 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$90,387.36 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$46,898.65 be paid.

3. 2024-2025 Final Auditor's Report

It is recommended that the 2024-2025 final auditor's report be accepted.

4. Repository Settlement

It is recommended to approve the Sale of Property from the Beaver County Repository of Unsold Property for the following properties:

- a) Tax Parcel 64-002-0824.000, located at 624 Howard Street, Ambridge, PA, for the bid amount of \$1,553.00, to be purchased by A Home U, LLC, Betty Miller.
- b) Tax Parcel 64-009-0555.000, located at 2407 Duss Avenue, Ambridge, PA, for the bid amount of \$1,511.00, to be purchased by Richard Ferreira.

5. 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 properties:

- a) Tax Parcel 64-002-0824.000, located at 624 Howard Street, Ambridge, PA, for the real estate taxes from 2021 to present, to be purchased by A Home U, LLC, Betty Miller.
- b) Tax Parcel 64-009-0555.000, located at 2407 Duss Avenue, Ambridge, PA, for the real estate taxes from 2021 through 2025, to be purchased by Richard Ferreira.

6. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve tax exoneration regarding the collection of Real Estate, conditioned upon mutual municipal and county reciprocal exoneration for the tax year 2024, relevant to the following properties, which were purchased by the Baden Methodist Church:

- a) Tax Parcel 1300502190000, located at 500 State Street, Baden, PA
- b) Tax Parcel 1300502150000, located at 433 Dippold Avenue, Baden, PA
- c) Tax Parcel 1300505010000, located at 420 Dippold Avenue, Baden, PA
- d) Tax Parcel 1300505000000, located at 420 Dippold Street Hall, Baden, PA

7. Budget Transfer

It is recommended to approve the Theater Accounts budget transfers for February 2026.

8. Public School Facility Improvement Grant Resolution 2025-2026-12

It is recommended to adopt Resolution 2025-2026-12 authorizing the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant. The funding will be used for the upcoming facility upgrades and roof projects.

9. Beaver County and Economy Borough

It is recommended to approve an agreement with Beaver County and Economy Borough to allocate costs associated with an appraisal for case 2025-0003.

Mrs. Romasco moved to approve items 1-9, seconded by Mrs. Kehoe. Mr. Gill voted against item 5, and Mrs. Scott voted against item 5.b).

Building and Grounds

Dr. Constantine

1. Field House Drainage System

It is recommended to approve the estimate from Bufalini’s Plumbing Solutions, LLC, for repairs to the primary drainage system in the Field House visitor locker room. This is at a total cost of \$5,898.00.

2. High School Ice Maker

It is recommended to approve the quote from Tri-State Equipment Company to purchase an ice maker for the high school cafeteria. This is at a total cost of \$5,450.00 through state contracting pricing (Co-Stars).

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

Athletics

Mrs. Fischer

Public Relations

Miss Fitsko

Steering and Rules

Mrs. Kehoe

Legislative

Miss Fitsko

1. Beaver County Special School Authority

It is recommended that the Ambridge Area School District hereby appoints Valerie Scott 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.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to approve item 1, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous, with Mrs. Romasco absent from the vote.

Salary Schedule and Labor Relations

Mrs. Curtis

1. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended that the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association ESPA/PSEA-NEA regarding a four-day work week for the summer of 2026, be approved.

2. Memorandum of Understanding

It is recommended that the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Local 248 Ambridge Area School Employees AFSCME-AFL-CIO regarding a four-day work week for the summer of 2026, be approved.

Mrs. Fischer moved to approve items 1-2, seconded by Mrs. Scott. The vote in favor was unanimous, with Mrs. Romasco being absent from the vote.

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. Ambridge Area Educational Support Personnel Association Cafeteria Branch

a) It is recommended to approve the elimination of the following union positions, effective March 1, 2026:

1. Four-Hour Cook at State Street Elementary
2. Four-Hour Cook at Economy Elementary
3. Four-Hour Cook at Economy Elementary
4. Four-Hour Cook at Highland Elementary
5. Four-Hour Cook at Highland Elementary

b) It is recommended to open the following union positions, effective March 1, 2026:

1. Five-Hour Cook at State Street Elementary
2. Five-Hour Cook at Economy Elementary
3. Five-Hour Cook at Economy Elementary
4. Five-Hour Cook at Highland Elementary
5. Five-Hour Cook at Highland Elementary

2. 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. <u>Baseball</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Ryan Pitaro, Middle School Coach	\$2,050.00
b) Marcus Michalik, Middle School Coach	\$1,350.00
c) James Wetzal, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration
d) Aidyn Iorfido, Volunteer Coach	No Remuneration

2. <u>Track</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Marlon Kittrell, Assistant Coach	\$2,200.00
b) Xavier Henry, Middle School Coach	\$1,850.00
3. <u>Baseball</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Joseph Pugh, Assistant Coach	\$2,200.00

3. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities Resignations

It is recommended to retroactively accept the resignations of the following club sponsors who have left the district:

Sara Yannessa, Middle School Student Council Co-Sponsor, effective November 5, 2025

Kelly Hartley, Middle School Student Council Co-Sponsor, effective December 10, 2025

4. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities Rescind

It is recommended to rescind Kim Racioppo as the co-sponsor of both the Interact Club and Mock Trial Club.

5. Posted Positions: Clubs / Activities

It is recommended to retroactively approve Kim Bogati as the co-sponsor of the Interact Club, effective January 20, 2026, at a stipend of \$287.50. It is furthermore recommended to adjust the stipend of Christina Briola, co-sponsor, to \$862.50, effective August 21, 2026.

6. Permanent Contract

It is recommended that the following professional staff, who will have completed three years of satisfactory service in the Ambridge Area School District, be awarded permanent professional contracts:

Nicole Vlcek (McQuillan)

Erica Brozich

Cory Bailey

7. Accounts Management and Student Registration Secretary

It is recommended to hire David Kerr as the Accounts Management and Student Registration Secretary at an annual salary of \$29,698.50, pro-rated, effective February 18, 2026, as per the negotiated agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

8. Paraprofessional

It is recommended to retroactively hire Ashley Reed as a paraprofessional at the middle school, effective February 16, 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.

9. Custodian

It is recommended to hire Andrew Doyle as a full-time custodian at Economy Elementary School, effective February 18, 2026, as per the terms of the Local 248 Ambridge Area School Employees, AFSCME – AFL – CIO negotiated agreement, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

10. Resignation

It is recommended to accept the resignation of Ashley Glass from her position as a Food Service Assistant at State Street Elementary School, effective February 11, 2026, with regret.

Mr. Gill moved to approve items 1-10, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous, with Mrs. Romasco being absent from the vote.

XIII. President's Address

Mrs. Scott offered a heartfelt thank you to the cheerleaders for their unwavering dedication and hard work throughout the season. Closing the report, Mrs. Scott expressed hope that many would come out to support the students by attending the upcoming high school musical.

XIV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated the students on their wide range of accomplishments, specifically recognizing the hard work and dedication of the cheerleading squad. He noted the immense time and pressure involved in perfecting a single routine and commended the athletes for their performance. Furthermore, he stated that the recognition ceremony held for the cheerleaders this evening was a wonderful event and expressed his sincere appreciation to Dr. Filipowski for her efforts in organizing the presentation.

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.

Randy Dawson, Ambridge, PA

- Inquired regarding the current status and timeline of the bleacher replacement project.
- Urged the Board to form a dedicated committee to identify a builder for the bleachers and to secure the necessary funding for the project.
- Referenced Dr. Pasquerilla's previous efforts to expedite the construction process to ensure the bleachers are completed as soon as possible.
- Emphasized that the current seating arrangement is inadequate, stating that the District cannot continue to place the band in the end zone.
- Noted that the lack of proper seating negatively impacts visiting bands, who have expressed dissatisfaction with being seated in the end zone area.
- Recommended that the District investigate the costs associated with renting temporary bleachers in the meantime.

XVII. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 8:45 p.m. Mrs. Scott moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Mrs. June Mueller
Board Secretary**