

Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, March 11, 2026.

I. Mrs. Scott called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m.

The Meet and Discuss Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is held on Wednesday, March 11, 2026. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

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
- Mr. Gregory Constantine
- 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, March 11th 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
- Sensitive public safety issues
- Salary schedule and labor relations

VI. Correspondence

No Correspondence

VII. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda

VIII. Recognition/Presentation

Personal Financial Literacy Textbook Adoption Presentation – Dr. Meghan Watelet

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.

Board Discussion:

Mr. Gill requested that the Board discuss live streaming of Board meetings. Following the discussion, Mrs. Scott asked the Administration and Solicitor to research how other districts implement live streaming and determine the associated costs.

X. LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THIS MEETING

Education and Technology

Mrs. Romasco

1. 2026 Stronger Connections Grant Conference

It is recommended that Meghan Watelet be approved to attend the 2026 Stronger Connections Grant Conference being held in King of Prussia, PA, from March 16 – 18, 2026. The conference focuses on trauma-informed care, bullying prevention, and violence reduction in school environments. All expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, meals) will be paid as per Board Policy 331 – Job-Related Expenses. The approximate cost will be \$906.00.

Mrs. Romasco moved to approve item 1, seconded by Mr. Gill. 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. 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.

- Nancy McCool, Trips and Charters Only
- James Mings, Trips and Charters Only
- Tiffany Cass, Trips and Charters Only
- Reed Sirinek, Van Driver
- Michael Truskowski, Van Driver
- Jessica Bruyer, Van Driver
- Quierra Littles, Aide

2. Coach Rescinded

It is recommended to rescind Alexandra Fontana as a Softball Middle School Assistant Coach.

3. 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.

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| 1) <u>Track</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Michael Blackshear, Assistant Coach | \$2,000.00 |
| b) Michael Blackshear, Middle School Coach | \$1,550.00 |
| 2) <u>Boys' Volleyball</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Brendan Jones, Volunteer Coach | No Remuneration |
| b) Anthony Seymore, Volunteer Coach | No Remuneration |
| c) Lee Smith, Volunteer Coach | No Remuneration |

4. 2025-2026 Club Coaches

It is recommended that the following individual be approved to fill the designated club coaching position 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, provided the school year allows coaches to hold sports as normal.

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| 1) <u>Lacrosse (Club)</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Amy Ilko, Volunteer Coach | No Remuneration |

5. 2026-2027 Coaches

It is recommended that the following individuals be approved to fill the designated coaching positions 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.

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| 1) <u>Football</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) David Coleman, Assistant Coach | \$5,000.00 |
| b) Richard Chambers, Assistant Coach | \$4,200.00 |
| c) Zachary Reinheimer, Assistant Coach | \$4,200.00 |
| d) Nate Smith, Assistant Coach | \$4,200.00 |
| e) Ron Wilson, Equipment Co-Coach | \$1,750.00 |
| f) Craig Wiltrek, Equipment Co-Coach | \$1,750.00 |
| g) Kendall Coleman, Weightlifting Coach | \$3,500.00 |
| 2) <u>Boys' Soccer</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) David Stuebgen, Head Coach | \$4,300.00 |
| 3) <u>Girls' Soccer</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) James Raymer, Head Coach | \$4,300.00 |
| 4) <u>Girls' Tennis</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Megan Racioppo, Head Coach | \$4,300.00 |
| 5) <u>Boys' Golf</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Chris Yannessa, Head Coach | \$4,300.00 |

6. Hall Monitor

It is recommended to ratify Daniel Lalama as a Hall Monitor at the middle school, effective February 23, 2026, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Support Professional Association (ESPA/PSEA/NEA), pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

7. Cafeteria Food Service Union Worker

It is recommended to retroactively hire Dawn Price as a Five-Hour Cook at the high school, effective February 26, 2026, 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.

8. Retirement

It is recommended to accept the resignation of Susan Parisi, due to retirement, from her position as an Economy Elementary, State Street Elementary, and Highland Elementary Health and Physical Education Teacher, effective June 5, 2026, with regret.

9. Resignation

It is recommended to accept the resignation of Andrew Doyle from his position as a full-time custodian at Economy Elementary, effective March 6, 2026, with regret.

Mr. Gill moved to approve items 1-9, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)

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.

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.

Building and Grounds

Mr. Constantine

Point of Information

The Ambridge Area School District is proud to host the 2026 Beaver County Band Festival on Thursday, April 9, 2026.

The event will be led by Ambridge Band Director Stephen Rogers, with organizational assistance from Hannah Claerbaut, Band Director of New Horizon School. The festival features approximately 185 students in grades 7–12 representing schools from across the county.

To conclude the event, a free concert, open to the public, will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Building and Grounds

Mr. 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).

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.

XII. President’s Address

Mrs. Scott congratulated the musical students and staff on their performance, noting their hard work. She also expressed that she is looking forward to the spring sports season, as well as the upcoming band and chorus concerts.

XIII. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated the musical director, students, and staff for their work and expressed pride in the musical. He also shared that he is looking forward to the upcoming spring events.

XIV. Solicitor’s Report

Ms. Gannon had nothing to 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.

Mr. Gill inquired about adding student protective language to policy regarding protocols when law enforcement has access to students during the school day. He noted that he supports local law enforcement but wants to ensure clear protocols are in place for students and parents, including appropriate parent notification.

Dr. Pasquerilla explained that the police MOUs were placed back on the agenda due to the addition of language ensuring timely coordination and communication between the District's threat assessment team and local law enforcement regarding potential threats and emergencies.

Fabiola Gergerich, Ambridge, PA

- Personal Finance Literacy (grades 10–12): Asked what happens if a student fails the course.
- E-Rate: Asked if the District is responsible for only 20% of the total cost.
- Vape detectors: Expressed concern about the amount of money spent and inquired about the placement of security cameras.
- “1776” musical: Inquired about the District's plans.

Dr. Pasquerilla

- Personal Finance Literacy (grade 12 requirement): If failed, students must complete credit recovery.
- E-Rate: The District pays approximately 20% of the total cost (slightly more or less depending on final calculations).
- Vape detectors: No security cameras are placed inside restrooms; only vape detectors are installed. Cameras are positioned outside, at the bathroom entrances.

Nancy Pritchard, Economy Borough

- Reported that the bathroom sinks are not functioning properly.
- Noted that microphones are not loud enough and the audience cannot hear the Board clearly.
- Expressed concern, as a parent of a band student and member of the Band Boosters, regarding band safety due to the lack of visiting bleachers and the band being seated in the end zone on the field.
- Stated that footballs are frequently coming close to or passing the band area, creating an unsafe situation and discouraging visiting districts from attending games.
- Noted that there was an incident last season in which a band parent was struck by a football.
- Urged the Board to find a practical solution to accommodate both the home and visiting bands.
- Asked the Board to act, emphasizing that the band represents Ambridge and school pride.
- Mrs. Pritchard also read a letter from the Band Boosters expressing similar concerns.

Randy Dawson, Ambridge

- Urged the Board to form a committee to develop a feasible plan to construct visiting bleachers.
- Stated that this is a risk management concern and could potentially lead to legal liability.
- Noted that visiting bands are also seated in the end zone and have expressed dissatisfaction with the current arrangement.

Board Discussion

The Board discussed how other school districts manage similar situations, including seating arrangements for bands and visiting groups. Dr. Pasquerilla stated that he continues to support his recommendation to invest in the construction of bleachers. The Board also discussed the possibility and cost of renting bleachers, as well as exploring potential grant funding opportunities. Mrs. Amadio expressed support for bringing the bleacher project back for consideration. Dr. Pasquerilla concluded the discussion by requesting that the Administration prepare action steps for Board review.

Josh Gill, Board Member, Economy

- Inquired how a small paring knife was able to pass through the Evolv system.
 - Asked when the last Evolv system training was conducted.
 - Requested clarification on the standard policy for Board members to formally obtain information from Administration.
 - Asked whether the Administration can provide more than one candidate for consideration before the Board makes a final hiring decision.
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- Dr. Pasquerilla noted that Evolv training took place at the end of the last nine-week grading period.
 - It was noted that some small items may occasionally pass through the system.
 - Ms. Gannon will send the relevant policies to Mr. Gill.

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 9:00 p.m. Mrs. Scott moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Kovacevic. All in favor.

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