

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, March 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, March 18, 2026.

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

Economy Elementary Student Council

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
- 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
- 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 18th to discuss:

- Personnel matter(s)
- Matters subject to attorney-client privilege and other confidentiality laws
- Litigation or threatened litigation matters
- Sensitive public safety issues

VI. Correspondence

No correspondence.

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

Miss Fitsko moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Gill. All in favor.

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

Miss Fitsko moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Mrs. Kehoe. All in favor.

IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda

Added item 12 under Education and Technology

Mrs. Romasco moved to make the addendum, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. All in favor.

Added Discussion Point under Steering Rules: Formalizing Specialized Sub-Committees

Mr. Gill moved to make the addendum, seconded by Mrs. Romasco. All in favor.

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 14th and earned an impressive 3rd place finish, with strong contributions from many talented team members. Felix Bruner advanced to the countdown round and finished in 7th place overall. Jayda Palmer finished in 3rd 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 4th place on Bars and 4th 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 3rd on Bars and 10th 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 4th place at 107 lbs. Her consistency and competitive drive continue to shine.
- Ja'Von Monroe battled through a tough bracket to earn 6th place at 139 lbs., showcasing both resilience and technical skill.
- Matthias Davis delivered a standout effort to place 4th at 145 lbs., proving he is a force to be reckoned with in his weight class.
- Quinn Tkatch powered his way to a 3rd 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, 12th Grade
Charles Stefanik, 11th Grade
Jackson Baker, 10th Grade
Alyssa Smith, 9th Grade

High School Extra Effort Award

Quinn Tkatch, 12th Grade
Hadden Green, 11th Grade
My’Arie Morris, 10th Grade
Steven Martinez-Vasques, 9th Grade

Middle School Student of the Month

Lily Buchanan, 8th Grade
 Nathan Racioppo, 7th Grade
 Patrick Marsilio, 6th Grade

Economy Elementary Student of the Month

Madison Megarry, 3rd Grade

Highland Elementary Student of the Month

Ja'Von Yaworski, 2nd Grade

State Street Elementary Student of the Month

Ellie Duda, 5th Grade
 Owen Duda, 5th 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.

Board Discussion

The Board discussed live-streaming Board meetings. Mrs. Scott and Mr. Kovacevic noted that there are 24 Board meetings per year, providing ample opportunity for the community to attend in person, and also noted that correspondence may be submitted in advance to be read during meetings. Mr. Gill spoke in support of YouTube live streaming, stating that it would improve access for individuals who are unable to attend in person and provide additional opportunities to raise concerns. The Board discussed concerns about monitoring and regulating outside comments during live streaming, including who would be responsible for oversight. Mrs. Romasco noted that the community has the ability to email Board members

and that the agenda is posted 24 hours in advance. The Solicitor recommended referring the matter to Administration to coordinate with the Technology Department to evaluate how live streaming would be implemented and what the associated costs would be.

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 71st Annual Conference and Exhibits

It is recommended that Kristen Ferguson be approved to attend the PASBO 71st 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.

12. Technology Purchase

It is recommended to approve a quote from Communications Consulting, Inc. to purchase six hundred (600) Chromebooks at a cost of \$275,526.00 through PEPPM pricing.

Mrs. Romasco moved to approve items 1-12, as amended, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. Mr. Constantine and Mr. Gill voted against item 8.

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.

Miss Fitsko moved to approve items 1-7, seconded by Mrs. Romasco. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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.

Miss Fitsko moved to approve items 1-5, seconded by Mrs. Scott. Mr. Constantine, Mr. Kovacevic, and Mrs. Romasco voted against items 1 and 2.

Athletics

Mrs. Fischer

Public Relations

Miss Fitsko

Steering and Rules

Mrs. Kehoe

Discussion Point:

Formalizing Specialized Sub-Committees

Board Discussion

Mr. Gill asked whether there is a policy or procedure that limits the formation of Board subcommittees. There was discussion, and it was noted that all Board polices are available on the district website.

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.

Miss Fitsko moved to approve item 1, seconded by Mrs. Romasco. Mr. Constantine and Mr. Gill abstained.

Salary Schedule and Labor Relations

Mrs. Curtis

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. 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) Noah Rinker, 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 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 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 with 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.

Mr. Gill moved to approve items 1-6, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XIII. President’s Address

Mrs. Scott stated that she appreciates the Board for all that they do.

XIV. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Pasquerilla expressed pride in the students and staff recognized at the meeting and each month. He noted that there is a lot of good happening in the schools and expressed appreciation for the hard work that makes it possible.

XV. Solicitor’s Report

Nothing to 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

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

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