

Minutes for the Meet and Discuss Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, April 8, 2026.

I. Mrs. Scott called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m.

The Meet and Discuss Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District is held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026. This meeting is being held to review the agenda for the regular monthly Board Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 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
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, April 8th 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
- Salary schedule and labor relations

VI. Correspondence

No correspondence

VII. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda

Amended item #1 under Legislative and item 6. 1)a) under Personnel to add names.

Mr. Kovacevic voted against amending item 1 under Legislative and item 6. 1)a) under Personnel

Mrs. Fischer abstained from amending item 1 under Legislative

Added discussion items #10-12 under Steering and Rules

Mr. Kovacevic and Mrs. Scott voted against the addendum of item 10 under Steering and Rules

Mrs. Curtis, Mrs. Kehoe, and Mr. Kovacevic voted against the addendum of item 12 under Steering and Rules

VIII. Recognition/Presentation

Welcome, Ms. Susan Mannion – Ambridge Area Middle School Assistant Principal

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.

Mr. Gill initiated a discussion regarding the presence of animals on school district property, specifically highlighting issues on the baseball and softball fields. He proposed the implementation of a formal policy to address safety, sanitation, and facility maintenance.

The proposal included the following key components:

- **Prohibition of Animals:** A strict "no animals" policy specifically for the district's baseball and softball fields.
- **Sanitation Concerns:** The proposal was prompted by recurring issues with owners not picking up animal feces, creating health and maintenance concerns for student-athletes.
- **Signage:** The installation of clear, visible signs at all field entrances to inform the public of the restrictions.
- **Enforcement:** The implementation of a fine-based penalty system for individuals who violate the policy.

*Following a proposal by Mr. Gill to prohibit animals on baseball and softball fields due to concerns over waste and maintenance, the Board and Dr. Pasquerilla held a discussion and determined that more information is necessary to reach an effective decision, as these items were added to the agenda this evening. The Board requested that the solicitor research policies in other districts to compare total prohibitions versus "clean-up" requirements, while also noting the need to evaluate the potential costs of required signage before further action is taken.

Mr. Gill led a discussion regarding the accessibility of all district athletic fields.

- The proposal aims to ensure that all facilities are fully **ADA accessible** to accommodate individuals with disabilities or injuries.

The Board and Administration discussed past observations of the fields and ADA compatibility. The Board discussed the legality of the current conditions and concluded discussions with the decision to have the solicitor decide by law if the fields are ADA-compliant. Dr. Pasquerilla noted that they would have legal counsel to make recommendations if the fields are not in compliance, so the district can plan accordingly with the budget.

X. LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THIS MEETING

Finance and Budget

Mr. Kovacevic

1. 2026-2027 Proposed Final Budget

It is recommended that the Proposed Final General Operating Fund Budget for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year, with Expenditures of \$66,540,450.00, be approved. The Proposed Final Budget is on display for public inspection at the Administration Office and on our district website.

2. E-Rate

It is recommended to amend the previously approved purchase of network infrastructure equipment, installation services, and associated cloud management support from Communications Consulting, Inc., increasing the total amount from \$163,050.00 to \$172,744.00, 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.

Mrs. Romasco moved to approve items 1-2, seconded by Mrs. Scott. Mr. Gill, Mr. Kovacevic, and Mrs. Scott voted against item 1. The vote in favor of item 2 was unanimous.

Legislative**Miss Fitsko**1. Beaver County Area Vocational Technical School Authority Board

It is recommended that the Ambridge Area School District hereby appoints Cathy Fischer to represent the Beaver County Area Vocational Technical School Authority Board.

Miss Fitsko moved to approve item 1, as amended, seconded by Mrs. Romasco. Mrs. Fischer abstained.

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. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #1798 be approved for a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave, beginning April 16, 2026, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

2. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #2758 be approved for a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave, beginning May 7, 2026, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

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

3. Extended School Year

It is recommended to approve Stormi Yemm as a paraeducator 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.

4. 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.

Barbara Davis, Trips/Charters
Karolina Cox, Van Driver

5. 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>Girls' Softball</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Kim Bogati, Middle School Coach	\$1,350.00

6. 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.

1) <u>Girls' Basketball</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Nate Smith, Head Coach	\$6,000.00
2) <u>Girls' Soccer</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Amy Braund, Middle School Coach	\$2,050.00
b) Don Ayers, Middle School Coach	\$1,350.00
3) <u>Boys' Soccer</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Don Ayers, Middle School Coach	\$2,050.00
b) Amy Braund, Middle School Coach	\$1,350.00

7. Middle School Club Sponsor

It is recommended to remit reimbursement for Mr. Mason Zabucky in a pro-rated amount for his Club Sponsorship for the middle school Dungeons & Dragons Club, through March 27, 2026.

Mr. Gill moved to approve items 3-7, seconded by Mrs. Romasco. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NON-VOTING AGENDA ITEMS)**Education and Technology****Mrs. Romasco**1. AOT Service Agreement Renewal

It is recommended to renew the service agreement with Associated Occupational Therapy for the 2026-2027 school year, at a minimal increase.

2. Precision HR Solutions

It is recommended to approve a one (1) year extension agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Precision HR Solutions, Inc. The term of this agreement shall end on June 30, 2027, **subject to solicitor review**. This is at no increase in cost.

3. Special Education Plan

It is recommended that the Special Education Plan Report for July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029, be approved and submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

4. 2026 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) All-State Festival

It is recommended to approve Stephen Rodgers to take a high school student to participate in the 2026 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association - PMEA All-State Festival and Annual In-Service Conference. The Conference will be held April 22 – April 25, 2026, at Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Pocono Manor, PA. 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*. This will be at an approximate cost of \$1,600.00.

5. Carlow University Affiliation Agreement

It is recommended to approve an Affiliation Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Carlow University for its College of Health and Wellness students to seek clinical practicum experience within the district, **pending the solicitor's review**.

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 \$2,926,854.17 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,323,873.41 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$102,267.59 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$59,962.09 be paid.

3. 2026-2027 Beaver County Career & Technology Center Operating Budget

It is recommended to approve the 2026-2027 Beaver County Career & Technology Center Operating Budget for \$8,512,832.00. It is further recommended that the Board President and Board Secretary be authorized to execute the BCCTC Resolution Form.

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 12-006-0101.009, located at 0 Oak Aly (Lot), Ambridge, PA, for the bid amount of \$2,109.75, to be purchased by John Swaray.

5. Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA)

It is recommended to approve the renewal dues for the 2026-2027 Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA) membership for a total of \$16,681.63.

Building and Grounds

Mr. Constantine

Athletics

Mrs. Fischer

Public Relations

Miss Fitsko

Steering and Rules

Mrs. Kehoe

1. Policy 202- Eligibility of Nonresident Students – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to update Policy 202 – *Eligibility of Nonresident Students* to include the requirements for disenrollment of a nonresident student. Also, the legal citation, regarding National Guard or Reserve parent/guardian and student support, was added to the policy where applicable.

2. Policy 209.2 – Diabetes Management – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to update Policy 209.2 – *Diabetes Management* is recommended for legal liability purposes, to provide parents/guardians of incoming elementary school students and students entering grade six with the Type 1 Diabetes Fact Sheet developed by the PA Department of Health on the school district's website.

3. Policy 234 – Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to revise Policy 234 – *Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students* to provide equal access and reasonable modifications to the district's educational program for a student experiencing pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, or parenting.

4. Policy 247 – Hazing – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to revise Policy 247 *Hazing* to more broadly reference the responsibilities for coordinating with the Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator when reports of alleged hazing may also be impacted by laws, regulations, and policies addressing discrimination/harassment.

5. Policy 252 – Dating Violence- First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to revise Policy 252 – *Dating Violence* to more broadly reference the responsibilities for coordinating with the Title IX Coordinator when reports of dating violence may also be impacted by laws, regulations, and policies addressing discrimination/harassment.

6. Policy 317 – Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to update Policy 317 – *Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures* to reference the Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators.

7. Policy 317.1 – Educator Misconduct – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to adopt Policy 317.1 – *Educator Misconduct* to promote the integrity of the education profession and to create a climate within district schools that fosters ethical conduct and practice.

8. Policy 336 – Personal Necessity Leave – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to revise Policy 336 – *Personal Necessity Leave* to address situations in which a paid or unpaid leave or absence may be part of an accommodation under the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act, or other applicable laws and regulations.

9. Policy 807 – Opening Exercises/Moment of Silence/Flag Displays – First Reading

It is recommended, as a first reading, to update Policy 807 – *Opening Exercises/Moment of Silence/Flag Displays* to include a provision for a moment of silence on the anniversary of September 11th.

10. **Discussion Point:** Policy Review: Dogs on School Grounds and Athletic Fields

11. **Discussion Point:** Review of ADA Accessibility Compliance for School Athletic Field Access

Legislative

Miss Fitsko

Salary Schedule and Labor Relations

Mrs. Curtis

XII. President's Address

Mrs. Scott noted that the Board's decision to elect her as President carries the expectation of direct communication. She stated that all members possess her contact details and should utilize them to reach out with any questions or concerns.

XIII. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla expressed his commitment to finalizing the upcoming collective bargaining agreements, noting that this includes both teachers and support staff.

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.

No Comments

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 8:25 p.m. Mrs. Fischer moved to adjourn, seconded by Miss Fitsko. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary