

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, May 20, 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, May 20, 2026.

II. Mrs. Scott asked all to rise as the State Street Student Council led us in the Flag salute

State Street 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. Gregory Constantine

Mrs. Kathleen Curtis

Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe

Mr. Garrett Kovacevic

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, May 20th 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

VII. Motion to accept or correct the Minutes of Wednesday, April 8th Meet and Discuss Voting and Non-Voting Meeting and Wednesday, April 15th Board Meeting

Mrs. Kehoe moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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

Mrs. Fischer moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Mrs. Kehoe. The vote in favor was unanimous.

IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda**Added items #7 and 8 under Personnel**

Mrs. Fischer moved to approve the addendum, seconded by Mrs. Kehoe. All in favor.

X. Recognition/Presentation**Naval Academy Preparatory School**

We are pleased to recognize **Lily Carpenter** on her appointment to the Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS) as a Midshipman Candidate.

Approximately 16,000 individuals apply for this prestigious opportunity each year, with only 200–250 appointments offered annually.

Lily is tenacious, purposeful, and intellectual. As a musician, athlete, and scholar, we agree she is an outstanding candidate for this appointment.

At NAPS, Lily will prepare for the U.S. Naval Academy through a program that blends military discipline, academics, and athletics to build the moral, mental, and physical foundations needed for success.

Congratulations, Lily! The Ambridge Area School District is proud of you!

Ambridge Area High School Production of Chicago

We are pleased to recognize the Ambridge Area High School production of *Chicago: Teen Edition* for its nominations and award recognition in the Mancini Awards.

The production received nominations for Best Supporting Actress (Ariana Avolio-Mason as Matron “Mama” Morton), Best Ensemble (Budget 3), Best Execution of Choreography (Budget 3), Best Scenic Design (Budget 3), and Best Lighting Design (Budget 3). **Ariana Avolio-Mason was also selected as the winner for Best Supporting Actress for her portrayal of Matron “Mama” Morton.**

These honors reflect the outstanding talent, creativity, and dedication of our students and staff involved in the production.

Chicago Cast

Faith Aguirre	Alexis Tenney
Ariana Avolio-Mason	Emily Vignere
Taylor Bentz	
Lily Buchanan	
Isabella Cannon	
Claire Elias	
Milo Elias	

Chicago Stage Crew

Katherine Angeloni	Jake Turko
Zi'Yah Aspiotes	Aiden Voloch
Eli Arlof	Alex Welling
Alivia Chase Arlof	Maria Ziemkiewicz
Caden Caler	
Jaylynn Campbell	
Jaycenn Davis-Arnold	

Alexander Fay
Charlotte Hill
Lana Holcomb
Bryan Koster
Anna Kwolek
Jasmyn Mahmoud
Jayda Palmer
Brooklynn Parris
Vincent Riegner
Cosette Rotondo
Alyssa Smith
Elizabeth Speicher
Elaine Summers
Natalee Sweeney

Jane Fusco
Nadia Hoag
Stella Homich
Aeris Hudak
Alyssa Kinkade
George Kowalsky
Jayda Lorenc
Jazlyn Martinez
Za'Merra Necci
Josie Noullet
Jordin Pritchard
Daisy Reinders
Taylor Scott
Ryenne Stonehouse

Caring Place Poster Contest Finalist – High School

Please join us in congratulating **Katarynia Benkowski** on winning The Caring Place Poster Contest at Ambridge Area High School. Her submission was selected as the winning poster out of more than 250 entries.

Thank you to our Art Department for encouraging students to pursue their artistic interests and for supporting participation in this meaningful opportunity each year. Thank you also to the staff for providing the opportunity to present Kat with this award.

Congratulations, Kat!

Caring Place Poster Contest Finalist – Middle School

We are proud to recognize **Lillya Janectic** for being selected as a finalist in The Caring Place Poster Contest. This year's theme, "How can you support a friend that is grieving?", received more than 250 entries statewide, including approximately 100 from AASD Middle School students. Special thanks to Mrs. Ax, Mrs. Orth, and our Art Department for encouraging student participation in this meaningful program.

Beaver County Career and Technology Center April Student of the Month

Jerrin Johnson-Sims, 12th Grade
Hunter Couch, 12th Grade

2026 Senior Challenge Program

We are proud to recognize these outstanding Beaver County Career & Technology Center (BCCTC) seniors for their hard work, growth, and impact:

Jayda Lorenc, STEM / "The Light Bulb" Award - Carpentry

Beaver County Academic Games League

Tonight, we are proud to recognize a group of students who have demonstrated exceptional academic talent, dedication, and perseverance through their participation in the Beaver County Academic Games League.

The Academic Games challenge students to think critically, apply advanced problem-solving skills, and compete at a high level against peers from across the region. Success in this league requires not only strong academic ability but also focus, teamwork, and determination.

First, we would like to recognize our students who earned **one qualifying score** at local tournaments. Achieving a qualifying score is a significant accomplishment and reflects a high level of academic excellence. We congratulate these students for their hard work and commitment.

Highland Elementary 5th Grade

Jacey Zaraspe - Presidents

Marielle Cordes - Current Events

State Street Elementary 5th Grade

Leeland Wood - Current Events

Middle School**6th Grade**

Jordan Ax - Equations

7th Grade

Ava Grace Akella - Presidents

Jack D'Emilio - Presidents

Jace Singh - Propaganda

Johannah Hustead - Equations

8th Grade

Simon Singh - Current Events

Next, we are especially proud to recognize three **students who earned two qualifying scores**, an achievement that invited them to compete at the **National Academic Games Tournament**. This distinction places them among the top competitors in our region, and we commend them for reaching this elite level.

Economy Elementary 5th Grade

Ava Burns - Propaganda & Current Events

Middle School**6th Grade**

Quinn Olenic - Propaganda & Presidents

7th Grade

Mia Paganie - Propaganda & Presidents

Additionally, we had seven students who received two qualifying scores and **competed at the national level**, representing our school and community with pride. Competing at Nationals is an extraordinary experience that requires not only academic skill but also confidence, resilience, and a willingness to challenge oneself among the best students in the country. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and the way they represented us.

Economy Elementary 5th Grade

Taylor Gilbert - Propaganda & Theme

Tegan Hokenbrough - Current & Presidents

Cameron Brodmerkel - Theme & Presidents

Middle School**6th Grade**

James Pielin - Equations & Current Events

Luca Fabanich - Theme & Presidents

Mason Schweikert - Propaganda, Theme & Current Events

This is Mason's 2nd year attending Nationals, and he qualified for the most events in the district.

Finally, we would like to offer special recognition to one of our 8th-grade students, **Jayda Palmer**, who has demonstrated remarkable consistency and dedication by qualifying for and attending the National Academic Games Tournament for **three consecutive years**. This level of sustained excellence is truly outstanding and serves as an inspiration to others.

8th Grade

Jayda Palmer - Propaganda & Equations

Math 24 Competition

We are proud to recognize our students who participated in the Beaver County Math 24 Competition. This is an event that challenges students to think quickly, apply mental math strategies, and demonstrate strong number sense under pressure. Competitors must use all four numbers on a card to make 24 using any combination of operations, requiring both accuracy and speed.

We are especially excited to share that two of our 8th-grade students advanced to the **semifinal round**, an impressive accomplishment given the high level of competition from across the county. Their success reflects not only strong mathematical ability but also perseverance, focus, and confidence in problem-solving.

We congratulate these students on their outstanding achievement and for representing our school so well. Congratulations to **Jayda Palmer** and **Adam Dunn**!

April Students of the Month**High School Student of the Month**

Amanda Neves da Silva, 12th Grade

Emmitt Olenic, 11th Grade

Liam Cooper, 10th Grade

Lila Catalano, 9th Grade

High School Extra Effort Award

Henry Budzak, 12th Grade

Idalia Grande-Reyes, 11th Grade

Maegan Fitzgibbons, 10th Grade

Mikhaela Tarrant, 9th Grade

Middle School Student of the MonthKelsey Krokono, 8th GradeMia Paganie, 7th GradeGreyson Priore, 6th Grade**Economy Elementary Student of the Month**Cecilia Savage, 2nd Grade**Highland Elementary Student of the Month**Ezra Baltimore, 5th Grade**State Street Elementary Student of the Month**Lillian Dobich, 5th Grade**April Employee of the Month****High School Employee of the Month**

Bonnie DeAngelis, Special Education Teacher

Middle School Employee of the Month

Jen Buchanan, Building Secretary

Economy Elementary

Alex Burzese, Custodian

Highland Elementary

Dawn Gonzalez, Pre-K Teacher

State Street Elementary

Terri Deblasio, Food Service Assistant

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 Second 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.

No comments.

XII. Committee Reports**Education and Technology****Mrs. Romasco****1. 2026 Pre-K Counts Grantee Conference Meeting**

It is recommended that Jo Ann Hoover be approved to attend the 2026 Annual Pre-K Counts Grantee Meeting being held at Blair County Convention Center, Altoona, PA, from May 26 - May 27, 2026. The conference will provide professional development to enhance program quality and management. All expenses (registration, fees, travel, lodging, meals) will be paid as per Board Policy 331, Job-Related Expenses. The approximate cost will be \$650.00 to be paid through pre-K funds.

2. Pennsylvania School-Based ACCESS Program (SBAP)

It is recommended to approve the Pennsylvania School-Based ACCESS Program (SBAP) Local Education Agency Agreement for the 2026-2027 school year.

3. Special Education Out-of-District Placements

It is recommended to approve the following agreements with the Special Education Out-of-District Placements for the 2026-2027 school year, pending review by the Administrators and the Solicitor:

1) Outside Special Education Placement

- a) Adelphoi School
- b) Bradley Center
- c) BCRC, Inc.
- d) CARES Transitions
- e) CLASS Academy (Private)
- f) DePaul Institute
- g) Easter Seals
- h) Holy Family Institute
- i) MHY Longmore Academy
- j) The School at McGuire Memorial
- k) New Horizon School
- l) Pressley Ridge Day School
- m) Pressley Ridge School for Autism
- n) St. Stephen's Academy/Glade Run
- o) Watson Education Center
- p) Watson Institute (WISCA)
- q) Western PA School for the Blind
- r) Western PA School for the Deaf
- s) Wesley Spectrum Academy

2) Mental Health Facilities

- a) Clarion Psychiatric Services
- b) Abraxas
- c) Pathways Adolescent Center
- d) Persius

- e) Sharon Regional Health System
- f) Southwood
- g) Taylor Diversion Program
- h) Western Psychiatric
- i) MHY Family Services

3) Detention Center

- a) Keystone Adolescent Center/Charter School
- b) Adelphoi Village

4. Beaver County Children and Youth Services Transportation

It is recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ambridge Area School District and the Beaver County Children and Youth Services to establish transportation procedures to ensure the educational stability of Foster Care Youth for the 2026-2027 school year.

5. Geneva College Direct Admission Agreement

It is recommended to approve a three (3) year Direct Admission Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Geneva College for the purpose of providing qualifying seniors with direct admission opportunities, **pending Solicitor's review.**

6. Mental Health Support

It is recommended to approve a contract between the Ambridge Area School District and the Prevention Network for five (5) days a week at the High School, two (2) days a week at the Middle School, and one (1) day a week at each elementary school for the 2026-2027 school year to provide mental health support at a cost of \$113,000.00.

7. Alternative Education/Private Academic Services Agreement

It is recommended to approve the purchase of eight (8) Alternative Education seats through the CLASS Academy Program for the 2026-2027 school year at a cost of \$19,250.00 per seat, and it is furthermore recommended to approve the purchase of four (4) Private Academic seats for the 2026-2027 school year at a cost of \$24,000.00 per seat.

8. Psychology and Learning Center

It is recommended to ratify a Memorandum of Understanding between the Psychology and Learning Center and the Ambridge Area School District to provide neurological evaluations, outpatient therapy and medical management of district students at no cost to the district, **subject to final review of solicitor.**

9. PSBA Policy Services Member Agreement

It is recommended to approve the PSBA Policy Service Member Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA) for policy development, maintenance, licensing, and related policy services and resources, **pending solicitor review**.

10. Dual Enrollment Agreement

It is recommended to ratify a Dual Enrollment Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the University of Pittsburgh. This program will allow students to concurrently enroll in an associate degree, certificate, or diploma program while completing their high school requirements.

11. 2026-2027 High School Course Adjustment

It is recommended to approve the adjustment to the 2026-2027 school year Course Selection Book to add the University of Pittsburgh AP Biology Dual Enrollment Course, pending acceptable agreement and solicitor review.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to approve items 1-11, seconded by Mrs. Scott. 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 \$4,754,829.85 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$1,343,673.99 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$101,674.05 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$62,585.63 be paid.

3. The PIMS People, LLC

It is recommended to approve a renewal agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and The PIMS People, LLC, to provide PIMS Administrators to the district, ensuring accurate data collection and reporting within the PIMS system for a total cost of \$2,250.00 per month, beginning July 1, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2027.

4. Audit Engagement

It is recommended to approve an agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and Hosack, Specht, Muetzel and Wood, LLP for School District Financial and Real Estate Tax Collector Audits, at a cost of \$24,200.00 for the Year Ended June 30, 2027; \$24,900.00 for the Year Ended June 30, 2028; \$25,650.00 for the Year Ended June 30, 2029.

5. Student/Athletic Insurance

- a) It is recommended that the United States Fire Insurance Company (PSBA endorsed) be approved for **voluntary** student insurance coverage for the 2026-2027 school year beginning August 1, 2026. Goodwin & Gruber Agency will act as the insurance broker. The medical limits are \$250,000.00 for a one-year period. The rate for school-time coverage is \$22.50 and \$90.00 for 24-hour coverage.
- b) It is recommended that the United States Fire Insurance Company be approved for student **athletic and field trip** coverage at a cost of \$12,507.00 to insure interscholastic athletes, band, cheerleaders, and field trips. The medical limit for sports and field trips is \$1,000,000.00 with a two-year benefit period. Plan 1, which pays all medical expenses "Usual & Customary," will be used.

6. Tax Exoneration

It is recommended to approve tax exoneration regarding the collection of Real Estate, conditioned upon mutual municipal and county reciprocal exonérations for the tax year 2025, relevant to the following properties, which the Saint Teresa of Calcutta Maronite Catholic Church, INC. purchased:

- a) Tax Parcel 13-004-0143.000, located at 371 Linmore Avenue, Baden, PA
- b) Tax Parcel 13-004-0130.000, located at 377 Linmore Avenue, Baden, PA
- c) Tax Parcel 13-004-0134.000, located at 0 Linmore Avenue, Lots 5 through 8, Baden, PA

Mrs. Kehoe moved to approve items 1-6, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Building and Grounds

Dr. Constantine

1. State Street Elementary Dishwasher Repair

It is recommended to approve a quote from Mark A. Redinger Plumbing for dishwasher plumbing repairs at State Street Elementary. This is at a total cost of \$9,500.00.

2. Middle School Curb and Walkway Repair

It is recommended to approve a quote from 3D Murin Construction to repair the Middle School curb and walkway. This is at a total cost of \$24,294.00.

3. Head Start of Beaver County Lease Agreement

It is recommended to approve the Lease Agreement with the Head Start of Beaver County Program, effective June 1, 2026, through August 31, 2027, **subject to final solicitor review**.

4. State Street Elementary Chiller

It is recommended to approve a quote from Huckestein Mechanical for repairs to the chiller at State Street Elementary at a total cost of \$16,114.25 through State contract pricing (Co-Stars).

Mrs. Curtis moved to approve items 1-4, seconded by Mrs. Kehoe. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Athletics**Mrs. Fischer**1. **Overnight Boys' Soccer**

It is recommended that David Stuebgen, the Boys' Soccer Head Coach, be authorized to take the high school Boys' Varsity Soccer Team to Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA, to attend the Westminster Titan's Men's Soccer Elite ID Camp from July 31 – August 2, 2026. All expenses will be covered through fundraising, with no cost to the district. Parents and/or guardians will be required to sign permission and release forms. Chaperones will be required to have current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Mr. Kovacevic moved to approve item 1, seconded by Mrs. Scott. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Public Relations**Miss Fitsko****Point of Information**

The School Safety Report was provided to the Board of School Directors.

Steering and Rules**Mrs. Kehoe****Legislative****Miss Fitsko**1. **Board of School Directors of the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit (BVIU) Mail Ballot**

It is recommended that the 2026 mail ballot be cast for the 2026-2027 Board of School Directors of the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit. The term of the Board of School Directors of the BVIU elected by this ballot shall be for three (3) years beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029, as provided in the School Code.

2. **The Beaver County Vocational-Technical School Authority Resolution**

It is recommended to approve a Resolution for the revival of the Beaver County Vocational-Technical School Authority.

3. **Beaver County Area Vocational-Technical Authority**

It is recommended to approve the filing of the Municipal Statement of Revival.

Mrs. Fischer moved to approve items 1-3, seconded by Mrs. Kehoe. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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. Retirement

It is recommended to approve the resignation due to retirement of Kent Withrow from his position as an Ambridge Area High School Math Teacher, Grades 7-12, effective June 5, 2026, with regret.

2. Retirement

It is recommended to approve the resignation due to retirement of Deborah Stieving from her position as an Ambridge Area High School Science Teacher, effective June 16, 2026, with regret.

3. Resignation

It is recommended to approve the resignation of Samantha King from her position as a Special Education Teacher at the Middle School, effective June 5, 2026, with regret.

4. Uncompensated Leave

It is recommended to approve employee #3260 taking unpaid leave, effective April 27 through June 30, 2026. This will be a one-time approval for the duration of employment with the district.

5. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #3188 be approved for a leave of absence under Board Policy 535, Family and Medical Leave, beginning June 8, 2026, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

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>Cheer</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Emily O'Malley, Middle School Coach | \$1,650.00 |
| b) Monica Cocis, Middle School Volunteer Coach | No Remuneration |
| 2) <u>Football</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| a) Anthony DeRiggi, Middle School Coach | \$3,650.00 |

7. 2026-2027 Summer Band Camp

It is recommended to approve the following band camp positions for the 2026-2027 summer band camp at the designated stipends, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening, provided band camp can be held as normal:

	<u>Stipend</u>
Kara Russo – Marching Band Auxiliary	\$2,000.00
Evie Jankowski - Marching Band Auxiliary	\$2,000.00
Todd Hartman – Music Tech	\$1,000.00
Zoe Elias – Percussion Tech	\$ 800.00
Jaylyn Campbell – Volunteer Percussion Tech	No Remuneration

8. 2026-2027 District Course and Section Adjustments

A. It is recommended to hereby approve the following position curtailment at the close of the 2025-2026 school year:

1. Ambridge Area Middle School Special Education Teacher

B. It is recommended to approve the alteration of the following position for the 2026-2027 school year:

1. Ambridge Area Middle School Learning Support/Emotional Support/Autistic Support/Life Skills/Transition/Special Education Teacher

Mr. Kovacevic moved to approve items 1-8, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XIII. President's Address

Mrs. Scott congratulated the students and staff on their accomplishments throughout the year. She stated that she is looking forward to graduation and wished everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

XIV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated the students and staff on their many accomplishments, including successes in music, recognition of armed services awards, and the variety of awards earned throughout the year. He thanked the staff for all they do to support students and the district. Dr. Pasquerilla wished everyone a safe summer and stated that he is looking forward to graduation.

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 Second 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. Middleton requested an update on a repository. Ms. Gannon will update him after the conclusion of the meeting.

XVII. Motion to Adjourn

At 8:20 p.m., Mrs. Fischer moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Kehoe. All in favor.

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