

Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Ambridge Area School District held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, September 16, 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, September 16, 2026.

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

Mrs. Valere Scott, President
Mrs. Cathleen Fischer, Vice President
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, September 16th to discuss:

- Personnel matter(s)
- 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, August 12th Meet and Discuss Voting and Non-Voting Meeting and Wednesday, August 19th Board Meeting

Miss Fitsko made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Romasco. All in favor.

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

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

IX. Amendment/Addendum to Agenda/Approval of Agenda**X. Recognition/Presentation****PSBA's Honor Roll of School Board Service Program**

Miss Amy Fitsko, Mrs. Kelly Romasco, and Mrs. Valerie Scott are recognized for achieving five (5) years of dedicated service through the Pennsylvania School Boards Association's Honor Roll of School Board Service Program.

We sincerely appreciate their commitment, leadership, and continued service to our students, staff, and community. We thank them for their five years of dedication to the Ambridge Area School District.

Recognition of Donation – Nicole Tripp

In recognition and appreciation of **Nicole Tripp**, an alumna of Ambridge Area High School, for her generous donation of a fire truck to the Beaver County Career & Technology Center Emergency Services Program. Her generosity will provide students with valuable hands-on learning opportunities and support the education of future emergency service professionals.

Meet the Head Coach

Girls' Flag Football Head Coach – Marlon Kittrell

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. VMWare Software Licensing

It is recommended to approve a three-year renewal agreement for VMWare Software Licensing through the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit (BVIU) Consortium at an annual cost of \$6,160.00.

2. PA TSA Leadership Conference

It is recommended to authorize Ben Holmes, Kristen Holmes, Pam Green, Shana Dowlin, and Scott Setzenfand to take students to the TSA State Leadership Conference, at which students compete in a wide variety of technology and STEAM-related areas. The conference will be held April 14 – April 17, 2027, at Seven Springs Resort in Champion, PA. Students who attend will be reimbursed as per Board Policy 240 – *Student Contests/Competitions* (50% of travel cost or \$250.00 per student, whichever is less) for a maximum of \$3,000.00. (Only a total of four of the five teachers approved will attend the conference) The teachers will be reimbursed at the contracted rate with an expense report attached, which covers registration, fees, travel, lodging, and meals.

3. The Blues Program

It is recommended to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Keystone Wellness Programs to provide The Blues Program, an evidence-based prevention and emotional resiliency program for students in grades 8-12 during the 2026-2027 school year, at no cost to the District, **pending solicitor review**.

Mrs. Romasco moved to approve items 1-3, 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 \$1,988,351.89 and the monthly school district personnel salaries in the amount of \$ 1,053,105.67 be paid.

2. Cafeteria Monthly Bills and Salaries

It is recommended that the monthly cafeteria bills in the amount of \$8,417.66 and the monthly cafeteria personnel salaries in the amount of \$14,045.61 be paid.

3. Disabled Veterans Tax Exemption

It is recommended to approve the requested real property tax exemption for Robert G. Thiry, 144 Shady River Blvd, Economy Borough (Parcel 60-044-0562.000) for 2026 school taxes, as certified by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs letter dated July 22, 2026.

4. Gift in Kind

It is recommended to accept, with gratitude, the donation of a fire truck to the Beaver County Career & Technology Center Emergency Services Program from Nicole Tripp, an alumna of Ambridge Area High School. The donor has received no goods or services in return for this gift.

5. Gift in Kind

It is recommended to accept, with gratitude, the donation of a drum set, accessories, and related percussion equipment from an anonymous donor for use by the high school Music Department. The donor has received no goods or services in return for this gift.

6. Gift in Kind

It is recommended to accept, with gratitude, the monetary donation and school supplies from Good Samaritan Parish and St. Vincent De Paul, for use by all elementary buildings. The donor has received no goods or services in return for this gift.

7. Gift in Kind

It is recommended to accept, with gratitude, the donation of school supplies from Family Connections, a program of Adoption Connection, PA, for use by our students in need. The donor has received no goods or services in return for this gift.

8. Grant Acceptance

It is recommended to accept the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable grant for the following elementary schools from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), Bureau of Food and Nutrition (BFN), for the 2026-2027 school year. This award is to provide free fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the school day. Mrs. Leigh Anne Holman was instrumental in securing this grant.

Highland Elementary in the amount of \$19,092.00

State Street Elementary in the amount of \$16,650.00

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

Building and Grounds**Dr. Constantine**1. NRG/Direct Energy

It is recommended to approve a six (6)-month contract between the Ambridge Area School District and NRG/Direct Energy for Electricity through Duquesne Light. With approximate savings of \$930.00 for the full six (6)-month term of the contract.

Dr. Constantine moved to approve item 1, seconded by Mrs. Fischer. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Athletics**Mrs. Fischer****Public Relations****Miss Fitsko**

Steering and Rules**Mrs. Kehoe**1. Memorandum of Agreement

It is recommended that the Memorandum of Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Area Education Association regarding a Library stipend be approved, **pending solicitor review**.

Mrs. Kehoe moved to approve item 1, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Legislative**Miss Fitsko**1. PSBA Officer Elections

It is recommended that the Board Secretary be directed to cast the vote of the Ambridge Area School Board for the election of the following PSBA Slate of Candidates for 2027:

President-elect: Matt Vannoy, Sharon City School District

Vice President: Kristy Bolte, Northwestern School District

Insurance Trust: Marianne L. Neel
Dr. Michael Faccinetto

Miss Fitsko moved to approve item 1, seconded by Mrs. Romasco. 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. Professional Employee

It is recommended to retroactively hire Tanner Zissis as an Ambridge Area Middle School Social Studies Teacher at a salary of \$54,281.00 (Step 1, Master), effective September 10, 2026, as per the terms of the Ambridge Area Education Association AAEE/PSEA Agreement, pending receipt of satisfactory and current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening, and receipt of current PDE certification.

2. Mentor Teacher

It is recommended that the following individual be approved as a mentor teacher for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years at the rate of pay as per the collective bargaining agreement:

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>New Teacher</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Dale Steigerwald	Tanner Zissis	\$350.00

3. Paraprofessional

It is recommended to retroactively hire Alyssa Sciarretta as a Paraprofessional at Economy Elementary, 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.

4. Credit Recovery

It is recommended that the following individuals be approved as instructors for the Credit Recovery Program at the high school. Teachers will be paid as per the collective bargaining agreement.

Pamela Green, Anatomy and Biology
 Nicole Tallarico, Social Studies
 Christina Briola, English and Social Studies
 Shane Newhouse, Social Studies
 Kim Bogati, English
 Jodi Musser, Math
 Jennifer Sirianni, Health and Physical Education
 Jeffrey Modrovich, Health and Physical Education
 Teri Kutzavich, Chemistry
 Joie Dusold, Math
 Zachary Newsock, Social Studies
 Paul Hladio, Math and Science

5. 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' Volleyball</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a) Tanner Zissis, Middle School Coach	\$1,650.00

6. ABC Transit Bus Driver/Aide

It is recommended to approve the individuals listed as an operator, attendant, and maintenance for ABC Transit, Inc. for the 2026-2027 school year, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Peter Gavan: Aide

David Schumann: Van Driver

7. FMLA

It is recommended that Employee #2509 be approved for a leave of absence under Board Policy 435, Family and Medical Leave, beginning September 14, 2026, not to exceed sixty (60) days.

8. Non-Union Cafeteria Worker

It is recommended to hire Andrew Gross as a Cashier/Monitor at Highland Elementary, pending receipt of current clearances, satisfactory drug screening, TB testing, and responses by current/former employers to Act 168 screening.

Mr. Gill moved to approve items 1-8, seconded by Miss Fitsko. The vote in favor was unanimous.

XIII. President's Address

Mrs. Scott thanked Mrs. Tripp and Coach Kitrell for attending the meeting. She expressed her appreciation to Mrs. Tripp for her generous donation and thanked Coach Kitrell for sharing information regarding his plans for the upcoming season.

Mrs. Scott also encouraged everyone to attend the District's athletic and extracurricular events. She shared that she recently attended a football game and had a great time, encouraging the community to come out and support the students, band, basketball teams, and other activities.

Mrs. Scott also provided an update regarding athletic protection coverage. She stated that she has applied for protection coverage through Guardian Sports for the middle and high schools. If approved, the District will have coverage for all middle and high school football programs.

XIV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pasquerilla reiterated his appreciation to Coach Kitrell for attending the meeting and for his leadership. He also thanked Nicole Tripp for her generous donation benefiting the BCCTC Emergency Services Program and welcomed her back to Ambridge, expressing appreciation for her support of the District.

Dr. Pasquerilla congratulated the Board members recognized for their years of service and acknowledged the dedication and time required to serve on the Board. He expressed his appreciation for their continued hard work on behalf of the students and community.

Dr. Pasquerilla also reiterated that the school year is off to a great start. He noted that there are many athletics and activities taking place throughout the District and that it has been a pleasure attending Friday night events and seeing the students participate. He also shared that he has attended several open houses, noting that the classrooms looked great and that parent attendance was strong. He thanked the staff for their work in preparing for the open houses and the parents for attending and supporting the District.

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.

Lesabeth Trzcianka, Baden Library President

- What library is item 1 under Legislative referring to?
- Is the District being asked to make a financial contribution or donation?
- If this is regarding the Baden Library, how much funding will the library receive from the District?
- Stated that the Baden Library would like to appoint a District representative to serve as a Liaison to the library.

Dr. Pasquerilla

- Explained that this item refers to a teachers' union Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).
- The MOA will create additional reading opportunities for elementary students.
- A small budget will be provided to support the reading initiative.
- Current district teachers may apply to serve as reading program coordinators in addition to their regular duties.
- This is not a donation to or funding for an outside library.
- The initiative is a reading program within the District's elementary schools, in addition to community libraries.

Mr. Gill took a moment to thank the staff for the recent open houses he was able to attend, specifically recognizing Economy Elementary for the welcoming atmosphere created by the teachers and staff for parents and students. He shared that, as a parent, he greatly appreciated their efforts.

Mr. Gill also recognized Dr. Pasquerilla for his dedication as a baseball coach and parent, noting the time and commitment it takes to practice and coach. He commended Dr. Pasquerilla for all he does for District students and the children in his community.

Dr. Pasquerilla thanked Mr. Gill and likewise praised him and the coaching staff for having a great team and program. He noted that their efforts are helping build the Bridger baseball program from the ground up. Dr. Pasquerilla added that the team played an excellent game and that he was very proud of them.

XVII. Motion to Adjourn

At approximately 7:30, Miss Fitsko moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Gill. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. June Mueller, Board Secretary