

October 9, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** — The Board of School Directors of the Fox Chapel Area School District held its regular business meeting at Fox Chapel Area High School October 9, 2023. President Marybeth Dadd called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Also in attendance were Vice President Ronald P. Frank, Assistant Secretary Vanessa K. Lynch, Treasurer Eric G. Hamilton, Amy B. Cooper, Adam G. Goode, and Ariel Zych.

**A Lens on Learning (October 2, 2023)** — Each month, we focus on student work in our schools to highlight lessons, growth, and successes of all kinds. This month, Fox Chapel Area High School counselor **John Baxter** was joined by juniors **Liam Koffler** and **Cooper McIntyre** who are both enrolled in the automotive technology program at the A.W. Beattie Career Center. Liam and Cooper shared information on their coursework, as well as talked about their career goals.

## GUESTS

**Certificates of Merit** — The Board presented certificates of merit to the following students:

•Six Fox Chapel Area High School students have been designated as National Merit Semifinalists and 22 have been named Commended Students in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. The Semifinalists from Fox Chapel Area High School are seniors **Lucas Gravina, Chloe Kim, Shriya Krishnamurthy, Adhitya Thirumala, Abraham White, and Dylan Work**. The Commended Students from Fox Chapel Area High School are seniors **Jacob Anthikad, Annalese Bartolacci, Dylan Berman, Joshua Correnti, Amelia Costello, Nicholas Cusano, Eliza Davis, Logan Dressman, David Feder, Adam Ferris, Emmett Gillespie, Darren Jayaratnam, Clara Kelley, Henry Koloc, Rachel Milcheck, Eduardo Phelan-Vidal, Lakshanya Rajaganapathi, Emily Torbert, Gloria Wen, Isabella White, and Bridget Yun**, and 2023 graduate **Liviya Rubin**.

All of these students were selected based on their 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) scores. Each year, more than 1.3 million juniors complete the PSAT/NMSQT and are automatically entered in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Approximately 16,000 advance to become Semifinalists and about 34,000 are Commended. The Semifinalists represent less than 1% of the nation's high school seniors and the Commended Students scored in the top 5%. A Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT or ACT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test. Semifinalists must also participate in school and community activities, demonstrate leadership abilities, and receive other awards and honors. The Commended Students are recognized for their exceptional academic promise. The Semifinalists now have the opportunity to advance to the Finalist level and compete for some 7,140 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million to be offered in the spring of 2024.

•Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Safiya Stewart** has been recognized with the National African American Recognition Award. The honor is given as part of the College Board's National Recognition Programs that celebrate students' hard work in high school and showcase their strong academic performance. The criteria for eligible students include a GPA of 3.5 or higher; PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10 assessment scores that are within the top 10% of assessment takers in each state for each award program, or earned a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP Exams in 9th and 10th grade; and attend a school in a rural area or small town, or identify as African American/Black, Hispanic American/Latino, or Indigenous/Native.

**FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES** — Senior **Clara Kelley** from the Diversity Council gave a report on the group's activities. Additionally, seniors **Owen Levy** and **Gloria Wen** provided an update on the upcoming Boo Bash sponsored by the National Honor Society.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**Enrollment and Fire Drills** — The Board received the enrollment and fire drills report.

### Information

•**High School Recertified as National Banner Unified Champion School**

Fox Chapel Area High School has been recertified as a National Banner Unified Champion School by the international headquarters of Special Olympics. Fox Chapel Area first received this designation in 2019.

The honor is bestowed upon a small number of schools that demonstrate a commitment to inclusion by meeting 10 standards of excellence, developed by a national panel of leaders from Special Olympics and the education community, that center around inclusion, acceptance, and respect.

“We are so proud of the values that are embraced every day by the Fox Chapel Area school community: inclusion, respect, understanding, and empowerment,” says Matthew Aaron, president and CEO of Special Olympics Pennsylvania. “Through the uplifting culture promoted by the students and staff at Fox Chapel Area, everyone is valued. Everyone contributes meaningfully through their unique talents. And everyone is included.”

“We appreciate our partnership with the Special Olympics and are humbled by the recognition,” says Dr. Mary Catherine Reljac, Fox Chapel Area School District superintendent. “We appreciate the efforts of our students, staff, administrators, and school community to provide wonderful, inclusive opportunities for all of our students.”

Fox Chapel Area is one of 146 high schools in the nation to be named a National Banner Unified Champion School for 2023-2024 and was one of only two schools in Pennsylvania to be recertified this year.

Of note, Fox Chapel Area is one of only 24 schools in Pennsylvania to ever receive the National Unified Champion Banner School designation and was the first school in Allegheny County to do so. Fox Chapel Area also was the first school in Allegheny County to have a Unified Track team, which was established during the 2018-2019 school year. The high school also has had a Unified Bocce team since the 2017-2018 school year. These teams include students with and without disabilities, and these athletes work side by side in both training and competition.

The high school will receive its Unified Champion School national banner later this school year.

#### • **Student Named Among Top 300 in National Science Competition**

Dorseyville Middle School seventh-grader **Rishabh Krishnamurthy** was named one of the Top 300 Junior Innovators in the inaugural Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge (Thermo Fisher JIC). Thermo Fisher JIC is the nation’s premier science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) competition for middle school students. The Thermo Fisher JIC, a program of Society for Science, seeks to inspire young scientists, engineers, and innovators to solve the grand challenges of the 21st century.

The Top 300 Junior Innovators (including 15 from Pennsylvania) were selected from nearly 2,000 students from 49 states, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and Puerto Rico who applied to compete in the Thermo Fisher JIC. Students who are named in the top 10% of their local science fair are eligible to enter the contest. Rishabh was chosen based on his project “Modeling the Detection of Pathogens in Sewage Sheds,” for which he was awarded a first place in the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair in March 2023.

“Congratulations to these exceptional middle school students,” said Maya Ajmera, president and CEO of Society for Science and executive publisher of Science News. “Middle school is a pivotal time in the lives of young people – when many make decisions about engaging in STEM fields. I call on each of these young people to continue down this path, where they have an opportunity to make an impact on our world’s most pressing scientific and engineering challenges.”

“We are awed and inspired by this inaugural class of Top 300 Junior Innovators, whose research and innovations reflect a rich diversity of academic and personal experiences,” said Dr. Karen Nelson, chief scientific officer of Thermo Fisher Scientific. “As a global life sciences leader with a mission to enable our customers to make the world healthier, cleaner, and safer; we especially admire these students’ shared passion for using science, technology, engineering, and math to solve problems in their communities and make the world a better place.”

Each of the Top 300 Junior Innovators received a \$125 award from Department of Defense (DoD) STEM, as well as a special prize package.

Thermo Fisher was named the title sponsor of the Society’s middle school competition in August 2022. It was previously sponsored by the Broadcom Foundation.

### **Fox Chapel Area School Board Upcoming Meetings**

October 11, 2023 – 6 p.m. – Academic Committee Meeting – Administrative Offices Staff Development Room  
October 26, 2023 – 6 p.m. – Projects and Planning Committee Mtg. – Admin. Offices Staff Development Rm.  
November 6, 2023 – 6 p.m. – Committee of the Whole Meeting – High School – LGI Room  
November 6, 2023 – 7 p.m. – Agenda Study Session – Fox Chapel Area High School LGI Room  
November 13, 2023 – 7 p.m. – Regular Business Meeting – Kerr Elementary School Gym  
November 14, 2023 – 6 p.m. – Governance Committee Meeting – Admin. Offices Staff Development Room  
November 15, 2023 – 6 p.m. – Academic Committee Meeting – Admin. Offices Staff Development Room  
November 21, 2023 – 6 p.m. – Projects & Planning Committee Mtg. – Admin. Offices Staff Development Rm.  
December 4, 2023 – 7 p.m. – Reorg. Mtg. & Combined Agenda Study Session & Reg. Bus. Mtg. – HS LGI Rm.  
January 9, 2024 – 6 p.m. – Governance Committee Meeting – Administrative Offices Staff Development Rm.  
January 16, 2024 – 6 p.m. – Academic Committee Meeting – Administrative Offices Staff Development Room  
January 23, 2024 – 6 p.m. – Projects and Planning Committee Mtg. – Admin. Offices Staff Development Rm.  
February 6, 2024 – 6 p.m. – Governance Committee Meeting – Administrative Offices Staff Development Rm.  
February 7, 2024 – 6 p.m. – Academic Committee Meeting – Administrative Offices Staff Development Room  
February 20, 2024 – 6 p.m. – Projects and Planning Committee Mtg. – Admin. Offices Staff Development Rm.  
March 5, 2024 – 6 p.m. – Projects and Planning Committee Mtg. – Admin. Offices Staff Development Room  
April 2, 2024 – 6 p.m. – Governance Committee Meeting – Administrative Offices Staff Development Rm.  
April 3, 2024 – 6 p.m. – Academic Committee Meeting – Administrative Offices Staff Development Room

### **SOLICITOR’S REPORT**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** — Approved the minutes of the combined agenda study session and regular business meeting dated September 11, 2023.

**FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** — Public comment is limited to residents or taxpayers of this district. The first public comment period is for items that are scheduled for deliberation or official action on the agenda. To register to make a public comment, please contact the Board Secretary during business hours, but no later than 12 p.m., on the day of the meeting by email (boardsecretary@fcasd.edu), telephone (412-967-2413), or at the district office (611 Field Club Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238). Please provide your name, complete address, telephone number, the subject of the comment or topic to be addressed, and any group affiliation. During the meeting, the Board Secretary will call those community members scheduled to comment by telephone. Sign-in sheets will also be provided at each meeting for those attending who wish to offer public comment and did not register in advance.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS** — Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, the Board took action on the following items of business:

#### **Facilities/Transportation**

**Additional School Bus Drivers – 2023-2024 School Year** — Ratified hiring the additional ABC Transit, Inc., drivers from the presented list effective for the 2023-2024 school year. All required licensing, clearances, and all other essential employment requirements for school bus operators under the laws of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania have been verified.

#### **Finance**

**Disbursements (Fund 10) – September 2023** — General fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$12,376,918.26 from September 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023, were approved.

**Finance Report – August 2023** — The finance report for August 2023 was acknowledged and filed for audit.

**Budget Transfers** — Several budget transfers for 2023-2024 were approved.

**PowerSchool Group LLC Agreement – eFinancePlus Software** — Approved the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and PowerSchool Group LLC for eFinancePlus software for the period January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, at a cost of \$81,631.79. **This is a renewal of services.**

**403(b) Adoption Agreement** — Approved the 403(b) Adoption Agreement, amending the Fox Chapel School District 403(b) plan administered by U.S. OMNI & TSACG Compliance Services, to permit Roth contributions, effective October 10, 2023. **This amendment complies with federal regulations in accordance with Secure Act 2.0.**

**Instruction**

**Fox Chapel Area School District Comprehensive Plan** — Approved the required Fox Chapel Area School District Comprehensive Plan.

**Wesley Family Services – Agreement** — Ratified the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Wesley Family Services for child/adolescent Partial Hospital Program (PHP) services for the 2023-2024 school year, effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. **This is a renewal of services.**

**Stipulated Adjudications** — Approved the stipulated adjudications as presented.

**Personnel**

*Candidates for employment under this section were approved subject to verification of the results of physical and drug screening examinations, required clearances, and all other essential employment requirements under Policy and Administrative Regulations 304-AR and 304-AR-4.*

**Resignations**

**Professional** — Accepted the following professional resignation:

- **Jamie M. Glogowski**, school nurse at Fox Chapel Area High School, due to personal reasons, effective November 6, 2023.

**Custodial/Maintenance** — Accepted the following custodial resignation:

- **John F. Morrison**, 12-month, 8-hour per day custodian at Fox Chapel Area High School, due to personal reasons, effective October 9, 2023.

**Supplemental Contracts – Athletic** — Accepted the following athletic supplemental contract resignations:

- **John Anderson**, intramurals basketball – boys Fairview, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective September 19, 2023.
- **Eric Baker**, volleyball, boys, MS assistant (partial), due to personal reasons, effective September 19, 2023.
- **Allison McGrath**, basketball – girls, program development assistant, due to personal reasons, effective November 17, 2023.
- **Mannix McKaveney**, volleyball, boys, MS assistant (partial), due to personal reasons, effective September 19, 2023.
- **Rachel Ranii**, basketball – girls, MS assistant, due to personal reasons, effective November 17, 2023.

**Supplemental Contracts – Non-Athletic** — Accepted the following non-athletic supplemental contract resignations:

- **Kathleen S. Fischerkeller**, spring musical choreographer at the high school, due to personal reasons, effective September 11, 2023.
- **Stanley S. Strzempek, Jr.**, student government – Kerr sponsor (33%), due to personal reasons, effective September 11, 2023.

**Appointments**

**Supplemental Contracts – Athletic** — The following athletic supplemental contracts were approved, effective November 17, 2023: **Allison McGrath** – Basketball – Girls, HS 1st Assistant and **Rachel Ranii** – Basketball – Girls, Program Development Assistant.

**Supplemental Contract – Non-Athletic** — The following non-athletic supplemental contract was ratified, effective September 19, 2023: **Nicolas Luciano** – Overnight Camp Counselor.

**Leaves**

**Professional** — Approved the following professional leaves:

- **Kristy A. Ferragonio**, educational support teacher at O’Hara Elementary School, for childrearing/ adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective November 2, 2023, with return scheduled for April 1, 2024.

- **Heather D. Flynn**, educational support teacher at Hartwood Elementary School, for a medical sabbatical, effective January 22, 2024, with return scheduled for the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.
- **Mackenzie M. Seymour**, art teacher at Dorseyville Middle School, for childrearing/ adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective November 13, 2023, with return scheduled for March 22, 2024.
- **Amy J. Zottola**, elementary teacher at Hartwood Elementary School, for an additional educational sabbatical, effective January 22, 2024, with return scheduled for the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.

**Leave Replacement**

**Professional** — Approved the following professional leave replacement:

- **Yaryna Korenovska** as a second-semester leave replacement elementary teacher at Hartwood Elementary School effective January 22, 2024, through the day after the last day for students for the 2023-2024 school year. Salary and fringe benefits were set (prorated) based on Step 1, B+0. This position is available due to the additional educational sabbatical of **Amy Zottola**.

**Personnel Information Item:**

**Tenure** — The following employee has completed three years of satisfactory professional employment and is eligible for a Professional Employee’s Contract (tenure) effective August 14, 2023: **Johnna Regan**.

**Operations/Cooperative Services**

**Fox Chapel Area School District Comprehensive Emergency Management (CEM) Plan** — Approved the district’s Comprehensive Emergency Management (CEM) Plan. This multi-hazard plan replaces the basic emergency plan, and is in compliance with state and federal emergency guidelines under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). This plan must be approved annually.

**Permission to Advertise – Districtwide Landscaping Services** — Authorized the advertisement of bids for districtwide landscaping services.

**Hartwood Elementary School HVAC Project – Engineering Services Agreement** — Approved the agreement with H.F. Lenz Co. for engineering services related to the Hartwood Elementary School HVAC project at a fee of \$312,000, plus reimbursable expenses not to exceed \$5,000.

**SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** — Public comment is limited to residents or taxpayers of this district. The second public comment period is for other matters of concern within the authority of the School Board. To register to make a public comment, please contact the Board Secretary during business hours, but no later than 12 p.m., on the day of the meeting by email (boardsecretary@fcasd.edu), telephone (412-967-2413), or at the district office (611 Field Club Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238). Please provide your name, complete address, telephone number, the subject of the comment or topic to be addressed, and any group affiliation. During the meeting, the Board Secretary will call those community members scheduled to comment by telephone. Sign-in sheets will also be provided at each meeting for those attending who wish to offer public comment and did not register in advance.

**FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE**

**BOARD COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT** — The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

*The Fox Chapel Area School District is an equal rights and opportunity school district. The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, or handicap/disability. The district shall make reasonable accommodations for identified physical and mental impairments that constitute disabilities, consistent with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations.*

*Additional information pertaining to civil rights, school district policies, and grievance procedures can be obtained by contacting the compliance officers listed below between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. This notice is available from the compliance officers in large print, on audiotape, and in Braille.*

*Title IX: David P. McCommons, Ed.D. (412/967-2456)  
Section 504 and ADA: Timothy A. Mahoney, Ed.D. (412/967-2435)  
Address: Fox Chapel Area School District, 611 Field Club Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238*