

January 8, 2024

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** — The Board of School Directors of the Fox Chapel Area School District held its combined agenda study session and regular business meeting at Fox Chapel Area High School January 8, 2024. 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, Kimberly Joi Andrews (via telephone), Amy B. Cooper, Katie Findley, Adam G. Goode (via telephone), and Ariel Zych.

#### GUESTS

•**Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) School Director Recognition Month/A Lens on Learning** – In honor of School Director Recognition Month, a Dorseyville Middle School seventh-grade flute ensemble, directed by teacher **Anne Goggin**, played for the School Board and presented them with gifts. The flute ensemble also spotlighted the DMS band for this month’s Lens on Learning.

**FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE** — Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Colin Lazzara** from the Fox Leadership Council wellness council provided an update to the Board on recent initiatives.

#### SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

•**Presentation of the District Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023** – **Peter J. Vancheri**, CPA, Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood LLP

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

**Proposed 2024-2025 School Calendar** — The proposed 2024-2025 school calendar is available for the public on the district website. A final recommendation will be made to the Board of School Directors as part of the February 12, 2024, regular business meeting agenda.

#### Information

•**District Telethon Raises \$66,775 for Backpack for Hunger**

Fox Chapel Area School District students held their 34th annual telethon December 22, 2023, and raised \$66,775. This year’s total brings the money raised by Fox Chapel Area students and staff to more than \$1,188,268 over the last 34 years for various local and regional charities.

The telethon raised money for the local organization Backpack for Hunger and involved students from all six schools in the Fox Chapel Area School District (Fairview, Hartwood, Kerr, and O’Hara elementaries; Dorseyville Middle School; and Fox Chapel Area High School). Student, teacher, parent, and community representatives participated in the telethon benefitting Backpack for Hunger by making donations during the event. The public may still make donations through the following website: <https://backpackforhunger.org/donate/>.

The telethon was broadcast beginning December 22 on the Swift Fox Media YouTube Channel at [www.youtube.com/@SwiftFoxMedia](http://www.youtube.com/@SwiftFoxMedia), and anyone can watch the telethon anytime via this link.

The telethon was coordinated by the Fox Chapel Area High School Fox Leadership Council and the video production students of the high school, who plan and produce the event.

Backpack for Hunger is a local volunteer organization that provides weekend food for students in the Fox Chapel Area School District. The group provides children with nourishing food over the weekends via bags of food that are sent home with them every Friday. Additionally, the group also provides food bags to district children during the summer months through various programs which service the district. Since its inception in 2015, the group has distributed more than 85,000 bags of food.

•**TribLive High School Sports Network Girls Soccer All-Star**

A Fox Chapel Area High School girls soccer player was named a TribLive High School Sports Network (HSSN) all-star. Senior **Katherine Friday** was named to the Feb 15.

•**Valley News Dispatch Girls Soccer All-Stars**

Several Fox Chapel Area High School girls soccer players were named to Valley News Dispatch all-star teams. Seniors **Katherine Friday** and **Anna Troutman** were named to the first team. Freshman **Emily McKee** was named to the second team, and junior **Alyssa Quackenbush** received an honorable mention to the team.

•**Student Named to Post-Gazette All-Area Boys Soccer Team**

A Fox Chapel Area High School student was named to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette All-Area Boys Soccer Team. Junior **Pablo Linzoain** was one of 12 students from across the WPIAL to be named to the team.

•**TribLive High School Sports Network Boys Soccer All-Star**

A Fox Chapel Area High School boys soccer player was named a TribLive High School Sports Network (HSSN) all-star. Junior **Pablo Linzoain** was named to the Feb 15.

•**Valley News Dispatch Boys Soccer All-Stars**

Three Fox Chapel Area boys soccer players were named to Valley News Dispatch all-star teams. Junior **Pablo Linzoain** was named to the first team, and senior **Colin Lazzara** and junior **Milo Chiu** were named to the second team.

•**Student Chosen for All-Star Volleyball Team**

Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Scarlett Hancock** was selected to participate in the We Serve First Foundation All-Star Girls Volleyball Classic. The event included 40 seniors from throughout the Alle-Kiski Valley and other schools in the region. The matches were held December 2, 2023, at Kiski Area High School.

The We Serve First Foundation was established in 2015 by the late Ellen Toy, a longtime high school and club volleyball coach in Western Pennsylvania. The group provides scholarships for high school volleyball players that enable them to participate on club volleyball teams and in volleyball camps.

•**Student Named to Valley News Dispatch All-Star Team**

Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Tyrese Samuels** was named to a Valley News Dispatch football all-star team. Tyrese was selected for the newspaper's second team.

**Fox Chapel Area School Board Upcoming Meetings**

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 5, 2024 – 7 p.m. – Agenda Study Session – High School LGI Room  
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 12, 2024 – 7 p.m. – Regular Business Meeting – Hartwood Elementary Gym  
February 20, 2024 – 6 p.m. – Projects and Planning Committee Mtg. – Admin. Offices Staff Development Rm.  
March 4, 2024 – 7 p.m. – Agenda Study Session – High School LGI Room  
March 11, 2024 – 7 p.m. – Regular Business Meeting – Fairview Elementary Gym  
March 12, 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  
April 8, 2024 – 7 p.m. – Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Business Mtg. – High School LGI Room  
May 6, 2024 – 7 p.m. – Combined Agenda Study Session & Reg. Business Mtg. – Dorseyville MS Auditorium  
June 3, 2024 – 7 p.m. – Agenda Study Session – High School LGI Room  
June 10, 2024 – 7 p.m. – Regular Business Meeting – O'Hara Elementary Auditorium  
August 12, 2024 – 7 p.m. – Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Business Mtg. – High School LGI Room  
September 9, 2024 – 7 p.m. – Combined Agenda Study Session & Reg. Business Mtg. – High School LGI Room  
October 7, 2024 – 7 p.m. – Agenda Study Session – High School LGI Room  
October 14, 2024 – 7 p.m. – Regular Business Meeting – High School LGI Room  
November 4, 2024 – 7 p.m. – Agenda Study Session – High School LGI Room  
November 11, 2024 – 7 p.m. – Regular Business Meeting Kerr Elementary Gym  
December 3, 2024 (Tues.) – 7 p.m. – Reorg. Mtg. & Comb. Agenda Study Sess. & Reg. Bus. Mtg. – HS LGI Room

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** — Approved the minutes of the reorganization meeting and the combined agenda study session and regular business meeting dated December 4, 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** — The superintendent recommended that action be taken on the following items of business:

**Finance – Disbursements (Fund 10) – December 2023** — The general fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$11,048,672.12 from December 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, were approved.

**Disbursements (Fund 31) – December 2023** — The capital reserves fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$23,070.25 from December 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, were approved.

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

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

**2022-2023 Audit Report** — The audit report submitted by Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood LLP for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, was approved. **This report is available for the public on the district website.**

**Asset Control Solutions, Inc. – Agreement** — Approved the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Asset Control Solutions, Inc., for the management of fixed assets effective January 9, 2024, at an annual cost of \$12,500. **This is a renewal of services.**

## **Instruction**

**Stipulated Adjudication** — Approved the stipulated adjudication as presented.

## **Legislation/Policy**

**Policies – Revised – Second Reading and Adoption** — Approved the second reading and adoption of the following revised policies: No. 219 – Student Complaint Process, No. 220 – Student Expression/Dissemination of Materials, No. 224 – Care of School Property, No. 228 – Student Government, No. 230 – Public Performances by Students, No. 231 – Social Events and Class Trips, No. 232 – Student Involvement in Decision-Making, No. 235 – Student Rights and Responsibilities, No. 235.1 – Surveys, No. 237 – Electronic Devices, and No. 250 – Student Recruitment.

## **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**

**Food Services** — Accepted the following food services resignation:

- **Mindi Holtzman**, food services employee at Dorseyville Middle School, due to personal reasons, effective December 1, 2023.

**Supplemental Contract – Athletic** — Accepted the following athletic supplemental contract resignation:

- **Nicholas G. White**, soccer, boys, HS assistant, due to personal reasons, effective January 2, 2024.

## Appointments

**Custodial/Maintenance** — Approved the following custodial appointment:

- **Justin M. Ober** as a 12-month, 8-hour per day custodian at Fox Chapel Area High School for a probationary period, effective January 9, 2024, pursuant to the Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). The salary and fringe benefits were set as per the CBA. This position is available due to the termination of employee "X."

**Food Services** — Approved the following food services appointments:

- **Christine Johnson** as a permanent, part-time (5.75 hours per day) food services employee at Dorseyville Middle School. Hourly wage was set based on the wage scale for food services employees, General Food Worker, with no fringe benefits, effective date to be determined, pending the fulfillment of pre-employment requirements. This position is available due to the resignation of **Amanda Ramirez**.
- **Paula Couto** as a permanent, part-time (4 hours per day) food services employee at Dorseyville Middle School. Hourly wage was set based on the wage scale for food services employees, General Food Worker, with no fringe benefits, effective date to be determined pending the fulfillment of pre-employment requirements. This position is available due to the resignation of **Mindi Holtzman**.

**Supplemental Contract – Non-Athletic** — The following non-athletic supplemental contract was approved effective January 29, 2024, through the day after the last day of school for students for the 2023-2024 school year: **Joshua J. Randall** – Mentor Teacher – O'Hara Elementary School.

## Leave

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

- **Jessica L. Gentilcore**, gifted 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 February 12, 2024, with return scheduled for the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.

## Changes of Status

**Administration** — Approved the following administrative change of status:

- **Katelyn R. Toth**, program principal at O'Hara Elementary School, as a leave replacement principal at Kerr Elementary School, effective January 16, 2024, through March 18, 2024. This position is available due to a leave of absence.

**Educational Support** — Ratified the following personal care assistant change of status:

- **Colleen S. Kozak**, personal care assistant at Kerr Elementary School, as an instructional assistant at Kerr Elementary School, effective January 8, 2024. Salary was set based on the salary scale for instructional assistants, Step 2, with benefits as per the Fox Chapel Area Education Support Professionals Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. This position is available due to the retirement of **Sharon Craft**.
- **Leanne Zottola**, personal care assistant at O'Hara Elementary School, as an instructional assistant at O'Hara Elementary School, effective January 8, 2024. Salary was set based on the salary scale for instructional assistants, Step 2, with benefits as per the Fox Chapel Area Education Support Professionals Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. This position is available due to the retirement of **Susan George**.

## Leave Replacement

**Administration** — Approved the following administrative leave replacement:

- **Daniel E. Lentz**, Ph.D., as an intermittent leave replacement program principal for the Fox Chapel Area School District, effective date January 16, 2024, at a daily rate. If evening hours are required, the daily rate for that day will be a different set rate. This position is available due to a leave of absence.

## Extra Innings

**Substitute Teacher** — The following individual was approved as an Extra Innings substitute teacher for the 2023-2024 school year at an hourly rate: **Fairview Elementary** – **Marla Brashear**.

## Volunteer

**Athletic** — The following athletic volunteer was ratified, effective December 1, 2023: **Jason Rivera** – Wrestling, HS.

**Operations/Cooperative Services**

**Cyclone Energy Group – Agreement** — Approved the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Cyclone Energy Group to evaluate the chiller at Kerr Elementary School, effective January 9, 2024, at a cost of \$9,500. **This is a new service.**

**Convergint Technologies – Proposal** — Approved the proposal from Convergint Technologies for upgrades to the district’s integrated security system at a cost of \$254,853.26. **This is partially funded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) school safety grant.**

**AEC Group, LLC – Proposal** — Accepted the five-year proposal from AEC Group, LLC for upgraded network management for district safety and security systems at a cost of \$123,734.60, effective January 9, 2024. **This is a replacement of services.**

**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 7:55 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