

February 12, 2024

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** — The Board of School Directors of the Fox Chapel Area School District held its regular business meeting at Hartwood Elementary School February 12, 2024. President Marybeth Dadd called the meeting to order at 7:02 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, and Ariel Zych (via telephone).

**FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE** — Fox Chapel Area High School Fox Leadership council members from the Black Student Union and the Diversity Council, senior **Virag Slavadore** and junior **Tyanne Binion**, made a presentation on the group's activities.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** (*February 5, 2024*)

• **Hartwood Elementary School HVAC Project** — **Daniel Breitreutz**, Director of Ancillary Services

• **2024-2025 School District Calendar** — **Mary Catherine Reljac**, Ed.D., Superintendent

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** (*February 12, 2024*)

• **A Lens on Learning** — Each month, we focus on student work in our schools to highlight lessons, growth, and successes of all kinds. This month, elementary teachers and students made a presentation on the district's after-school Extra Innings program. Third-grade elementary teachers from Hartwood Elementary School **Lynn DePellegrini**, **Kathy Frederick**, and **Becky Stefanyak** had their students share an overarching view of the program, and walked the board through a "Day in the Life" of an Extra Innings student. Fairview Elementary School educational support teacher **Gabby Bonelli** and gifted support teacher **Julia Puntil** and some students then provided a sneak peek of what a lesson looks like in the program.

• **Fox Chapel Area School District Data Review** — **Stephen Edwards**, Ed.D., Director of Student Achievement and Instructional Verification

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

### Information

#### **FCAHS Students Nominees for Drama Awards**

Fox Chapel Area High School students received 12 nominations in Prime Stage Theatre's Fourth Annual High School Drama Awards. The students were nominated for their performances and/or involvement in "The Man Who Came to Dinner," the high school's fall play. The students nominated are junior **Lincoln Marshal** in the best actor category, senior **Sophia Rike** in the best actress category, junior **Noah Miller** in the best supporting actor category, junior **Marina Dunham** in the best supporting actress category, senior **Kaylee Dunham** in the best student stage manager category and the best student program/poster design and/or fabrication category, senior **Sofia Liberto** in the best student prop design and/or fabrication category and the best student costume design and/or fabrication category, and senior **Carolyn Caracciolo** in the best student makeup design and/or application category. Additionally, Fox Chapel Area's November play was nominated in the best student scenic design and/or fabrication category, in the best student backstage run crew category, and in the best overall production category.

"What makes these awards unique," says drama awards coordinator John Dolphin, "is that to be eligible, the students must be in a backstage leadership role or an onstage performance role. We encourage adult mentorship and assistance, but in the end, these productions are student-run."

"The High School Drama Awards is our way of looking to the future," says Dr. Wayne Brinda, Prime Stage Theatre producing artistic director. "By encouraging these young actors and production specialists in their early efforts, we're building a strong foundation for Pittsburgh theatre in years to come."

The awards ceremony was held January 29, 2024, at Prime Stage's New Hazlett Theater where the winners were announced. The awards are open to schools from across Southwestern Pennsylvania.

#### • **High School Students Win Awards at Dalmasse Sterner Steel City Invitational**

Four Fox Chapel Area High School students placed in the Dalmasse Sterner Steel City Invitational. The team of sophomores **Joanna Li** and **Zachary Rubin** were named semifinalists, meaning they were in the top four of Policy Debate Teams; sophomore **Ulyana Kubini** won fourth place in Persuasive Speaking; and junior **Swati Mylarappa** placed sixth in Impromptu Speaking.

The Dalmasse Sterner Steel City Invitational was held December 15 and 16, 2023, and was hosted by Pittsburgh Central Catholic and Oakland Catholic high schools. A total of 274 students representing 22 high schools from across Pennsylvania competed at the event.

•**High School Students Win Awards at North Catholic High School Tournament**

Three Fox Chapel Area High School students were named winners in the North Catholic High School Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament. The Parliamentary Debate team of sophomores **Maya Agarwal** and **Prachi Behal** were named semifinalists finishing in the top four, and sophomore **Ulyana Kubini** won fourth place in Persuasive Speaking.

The North Catholic speech and debate tournament was held December 8 and 9, 2023, at North Catholic High School. A total of 295 students representing 25 high schools from Western Pennsylvania competed at the event.

•**Students Win Awards in Virtual Speech and Debate Tournament**

Two Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the TOC Digital Speech and Debate Series 1 Tournament. Senior **Adhitya Thirumala** and junior **Moonyoung Hwang** finished as octofinalists, meaning they were in the top 16 out of 60 Policy Debate teams participating in the tournament.

A total of 929 students representing 188 high schools from 33 states participated in the virtual tournament that was held December 1-3, 2023.

•**Students Place at Moon Area/Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School Tournament**

Three Fox Chapel Area students placed at the Moon Area/Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School Speech and Debate Tournament. The team of Fox Chapel Area High School sophomores **Maya Agarwal** and **Prachi Behal** placed sixth in Parliamentary Debate, and Dorseyville Middle School eighth-grader **Divya Thirumala** won sixth place in Humorous Interpretation.

The tournament was held at Moon Area High School November 18, 2023. A total of 279 students representing 23 high schools from Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia participated in the competition.

•**Students Win at M&M Lake Erie Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament**

Two Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the annual M&M Lake Erie Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament. The team of junior **Moonyoung Hwang** and sophomore **Joanna Li** won third place in Policy Debate.

The tournament, sponsored by Mercyhurst Preparatory School and McDowell High School, was held November 11, 2023, on the campus of Penn State Behrend in Erie, Pennsylvania. Approximately 200 students from 14 high schools from Western Pennsylvania and Northeast Ohio participated in the event.

•**Students Place at Seton LaSalle High School Novice Tournament**

Two Fox Chapel Area students placed at the Seton LaSalle High School Novice Tournament. Dorseyville Middle School eighth-grader **Divya Thirumala** placed second in Dramatic Performance, and Fox Chapel Area High School sophomore **Priscila Hayetian** won fifth place in Impromptu Speaking.

The tournament was held at Seton Lasalle High School October 28, 2023. A total of 181 students representing 20 high schools from across Western Pennsylvania participated in the competition.

•**High School Students Chosen for All-Star Hockey Game/Coach to Lead All-Star Team**

Three Fox Chapel Area High School juniors were selected for a Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL) all-star game. Forwards **Dominic Casile** and **Liam Wiseman** and defenseman **Tyler Goldstein** were chosen to play in the Class 2A game. Additionally, coach **Cam Raidna** was selected as a coach for the Class 2A team. This is the third consecutive year he has been asked to coach an all-star PIHL team. The games were played January 28, 2024, at the Robert Morris University Island Sports Center.

**Fox Chapel Area School Board Upcoming Meetings**

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 combined agenda study session and regular business meeting dated January 8, 2024.

**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.

**NEW BUSINESS** — The Board of School Directors recommended that action be taken on the following item of business:

**Election of District Superintendent** — Approved the reappointment of Mary Catherine Reljac, Ed.D., to the position of District Superintendent of the Fox Chapel Area School District, for a 5-year term commencing July 1, 2024, with a beginning base salary under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and in accord with the agreement for employment of superintendent as presented.

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

### **Finance**

**Disbursements (Fund 10) – January 2024** — The general fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$8,880,465.34 from January 1, 2024, through January 31, 2024, were approved.

**Disbursements (Fund 31) – January 2024** — The capital reserves fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$17,735 from January 1, 2024, through January 31, 2024, were approved.

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

**Student Activity Financial Reports** — The second quarter 2023-2024 middle school and high school student activity financial reports were acknowledged and filed for audit.

**Permission to Advertise – Athletic Supplies** — Authorized the advertisement of bids for the 2024-2025 school year for the following: athletic supplies (fall and winter) and athletic supplies (spring).

**Exoneration of Tax Collectors** — Approved a motion to exonerate the local tax collectors for Indiana Township, O’Hara Township, Aspinwall Borough, Blawnox Borough, Fox Chapel Borough, and Sharpsburg Borough from further collection on the 2023 school district real estate tax duplicates, and to turn over to PA Del Tax for collection the 2023 real estate tax listings certified as delinquent by the local tax collectors.

## **Instruction**

**2024-2025 School District Calendar** — Approved the 2024-2025 school district calendar. The calendar is available on the district's website at [www.fcasd.edu](http://www.fcasd.edu).

**Allegheny Intermediate Unit Math & Science Collaborative (AIU MSC) – Letter of Agreement** — Approved the letter of agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Math & Science Collaborative for science-related services to the district in 2024-2025 totaling \$25,000. **This is a new letter of agreement and will be funded by a PSmart Advancing Grant (STEM A.C.E.S.).**

**Camp Allegheny Inc. – Group Contract** — Approved the group contract between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Camp Allegheny Inc. for lodging, meals, and meeting spaces for the fifth-grade environmental education program in the fall of 2024, dates to be determined. **This is a renewal of services.**

## **Legislation/Policy**

**Policies – Revised – First Reading** — Approved the first reading of the following revised policies: No. 221 – Dress and Grooming; No. 227 – Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia; No. 304 – Employment of District Staff; No. 306 – Employment of Summer School Staff; No. 307 – Student Teachers/Interns; No. 308 – Employment Contract/Board Resolution; No. 311 – Reduction of Staff; No. 313 – Evaluation of Employees; No. 314 – Physical Examination/Drug Screening; No. 314.1 – HIV Infection; No. 317 – Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures; No. 317.1 – Educator Misconduct; No. 318 – Attendance and Tardiness; No. 319 – Outside Activities; No. 320 – Freedom of Speech in Nonschool Settings; and No. 819 – Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response.

## **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 resignations:

- **James A. Angelo**, physical education teacher at Fox Chapel Area High School, under the retirement plan as outlined in the 2023-2028 Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement that was approved on October 10, 2022, effective June 30, 2024.
- **Pamela S. Barentine**, French teacher for the Fox Chapel Area School District, under the retirement plan as outlined in the 2023-2028 Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement that was approved on October 10, 2022, effective June 30, 2024.
- **Diana G. DeCamp**, Latin teacher at Dorseyville Middle School, under the retirement plan as outlined in the 2023-2028 Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement that was approved on October 10, 2022, effective June 30, 2024.
- **Cheryl L. Eppers**, art teacher at Dorseyville Middle School, under the retirement plan as outlined in the 2023-2028 Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement that was approved on October 10, 2022, effective June 30, 2024.
- **Susan A. Farino**, math teacher at Fox Chapel Area High School, under the retirement plan as outlined in the 2023-2028 Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement that was approved on October 10, 2022, effective June 30, 2024.
- **Kirsten L. Moller**, librarian at Hartwood Elementary School, under the retirement plan as outlined in the 2023-2028 Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement that was approved on October 10, 2022, effective June 30, 2024.
- **Mary Jo Montgomery**, art teacher at Fox Chapel Area High School, under the retirement plan as outlined in the 2023-2028 Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement that was approved on October 10, 2022, effective June 30, 2024.
- **Debra L. Skiles**, social studies teacher at Dorseyville Middle School, under the retirement plan as outlined in the 2023-2028 Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement that was approved on October 10, 2022, effective June 30, 2024.
- **Julie H. Susser**, English teacher at Fox Chapel Area High School, under the retirement plan as outlined in the 2023-2028 Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement that was approved on October 10, 2022, effective June 30, 2024.

**Educational Support** — Accepted the following secretarial resignation:

- **Susan L. Pesci**, 10-month building secretary at Kerr Elementary School, due to retirement, effective June 14, 2024.

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

- **Rebecca Stefanyak**, cheerleading, MS head (fall), due to personal reasons, effective February 8, 2024.
- **Rebecca Stefanyak**, cheerleading, MS head (winter), due to personal reasons, effective February 8, 2024.

#### **Appointments**

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

- **Erin K. Rebish** as a school nurse at Fox Chapel Area High School effective February 13, 2024. Salary was set (prorated) based on Step 3, M+0, with fringe benefits as per the collective bargaining agreement. This position is available due to the resignation of **Jamie Glogowski**.

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

- **Karrie F. Daniels** as a 10-month, 8-hour per day custodian at Fox Chapel Area High School for a probationary period, effective February 13, 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 an open position.

**Educational Support** — Approved the following personal care assistant appointment:

- **Kristin L. Correll** as a personal care assistant at O'Hara Elementary School, effective February 13, 2024. Salary was set based on the salary scale for personal care assistants, Step 1, with benefits as per the Fox Chapel Area Education Support Professionals Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. This position is available due to the transfer of **Leanne Zottola**.

**Supplemental Contract – Non-Athletic** — Ratified the following non-athletic supplemental contract effective January 22, 2024, through the day after the last day of school for students for the 2023-2024 school year:  
**Jessica R. Shannon** – Mentor Teacher – Dorseyville Middle School.

#### **Leaves**

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

- **Kelsey L. Cavaliere**, elementary teacher at O'Hara Elementary School, for childrearing/ adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective April 18, 2024, with return scheduled for the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.
- **Gail J. Hetu**, special education and mathematics teacher at Fox Chapel Area High School, for childrearing/ adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective April 12, 2024, with return scheduled for June 7, 2024.
- **Erin E. Rowlands**, science teacher at Dorseyville Middle 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 an extension of childrearing/ adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective April 1, 2024, with return scheduled for the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.

#### **Leave Replacements**

**Professional** — Ratified the following professional leave replacements:

- **Shauna L. Ferris** as a leave replacement teacher at Dorseyville Middle School effective November 15, 2023 through the day after the last day of school for students for the 2023-2024 school year. Salary was set based on Step 8, B+0, with fringe benefits as per the collective bargaining agreement. This position is available due to the extension of the childrearing/ adoption leave of **Mackenzie Seymour**.
- **Emily G. Grychowski** as a second-semester leave replacement science teacher at Dorseyville Middle School effective January 22, 2024, through the day after the last day of school for students for the 2023-2024 school year. Salary was set (prorated) based on Step 2, B+0. This position is available due to the medical sabbatical of **Erin Rowlands**.

#### **Summer Program – 2024**

**STEAM Camp** — **Stephanie S. Reilly** was approved as the Summer STEAM Camp program facilitator at an hourly rate with a maximum of 120 hours.

#### **Corrections**

**Supplemental Contracts – Athletics** — Approved the following supplemental contract corrections:

- **Christopher Bandurski**, previously approved as baseball, freshman head at a flat salary, was approved as the baseball, HS JV 2nd assistant at a flat salary, effective February 13, 2024.
- **David Kotts**, previously approved as baseball, HS JV 2nd assistant at a flat salary, was approved as baseball, freshman head at a flat salary, effective February 13, 2024.

## Volunteers

**Athletic** – The following athletic volunteers were ratified/approved: **Conor Ryan** – Lacrosse, Boys, HS (effective February 13, 2024); Robert Siar – Wrestling, HS (effective January 12, 2024); and Ethan Wagner – Baseball, MS (effective February 13, 2024).

## Personnel Information Item:

**Tenure** — The following employee has completed three years of satisfactory teaching and is eligible for a Professional Employee’s Contract (tenure) effective January 12, 2024: **Elizabeth Feldman**.

## Operations/Cooperative Services

**Hartwood Elementary School HVAC Project – Award of Bid** — Approved to award the following bid for the HVAC project at Hartwood Elementary School to the Hranec Corporation for the Hartwood Elementary School HVAC Project in the amount of \$767,000 for Base Bid #1 (the prepurchase of the hot water mechanical equipment) subject to the bidder’s successful completion of the post-award documentation.

**Kennywood – Online Ticket Agreement** — Approved the online ticket agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Kennywood for the Wednesday, May 29, 2024, school picnic. **There is no cost to the district.**

**Indiana University of Pennsylvania – IUP Field Experience Agreement** — Approved the 5-year agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Indiana University of Pennsylvania for internship, practicum, and clinical experience for university students. **This is a new agreement.**

**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@fcsd.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 8:34 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