

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMBINED AGENDA STUDY SESSION
AND REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

JANUARY 8, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The combined agenda study session and regular business meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fox Chapel Area School District was called to order by president, Marybeth Dadd, at 7:03 p.m. on January 8, 2024, in the LGI Room at Fox Chapel Area High School. Before tonight's public meeting, the Board met in executive session to discuss several matters. The Board discussed information that if disclosed in public would create a reasonable likelihood of jeopardizing the security of a building, resource, infrastructure, facility, or information storage system. The Board also reviewed agency business involving a student matter that, if conducted in public, would violate a lawful privilege or lead to the disclosure of information or confidentiality protected by law. Information was provided related to collective bargaining or labor relations. Finally, the Board also discussed with counsel information and strategy related to issues about which litigation or identifiable complaints are expected to be filed.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL-CALL

The Board members present at roll call were Ms. Andrews (via telephone), Mrs. Cooper, Ms. Dadd, Ms. Findley, Mr. Frank, Mr. Goode (via telephone), Mr. Hamilton, Mrs. Lynch, and Ms. Zych. Also present were Dr. Reljac, Dr. McCommons, Mr. Giuffre, and Mrs. Anuszek. Other members of the public were present.

GUESTS

• **Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) School Director Recognition Month** – Dorseyville Middle School students

FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Colin Lazzara, Wellness Council lead, gave a report on the work of the Wellness Council as well as the Wellness Day that was held on January 4, 2024.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

• **A Lens on Learning** – Each month, we focus on student work in our schools to highlight lessons, growth, and successes of all kinds.

Tonight's presentation focused on the Dorseyville Middle School band.

We were joined by Anne Goggin, Dorseyville Middle School band director, and a flute ensemble. They played two selections for the Board.

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

• **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, 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.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Dadd asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the reorganization meeting and the combined agenda study session and regular business meeting dated December 4, 2023. On motion by Mr. Frank and seconded by Mr. Hamilton, the minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

The superintendent recommended that action be taken on the following items of business:

FACILITIES/TRANSPORTATION

A. Facilities/Transportation

There was no business.

FINANCE

B. Finance

On motion by Mr. Hamilton and seconded by Mr. Frank, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Finance items:

1. Disbursements (Fund 10) – December 2023

General fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$11,048,672.12 from December 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, are approved.

2. Disbursements (Fund 31) – December 2023

Capital reserves fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$23,070.25 from December 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, are approved.

3. Finance Report – November 2023

The finance report for November 2023 is acknowledged and filed for audit.

4. Budget Transfers

The budget transfers for 2023-2024 are approved.

5. 2022-2023 Audit Report

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

6. Asset Control Solutions, Inc. – Agreement

Approve 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

C. Instruction

On motion by Mrs. Cooper and seconded by Ms. Findley, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Instruction item:

1. Stipulated Adjudication

Approve the stipulated adjudication as presented.

LEGISLATION/POLICY

D. Legislation/Policy

On motion by Mr. Frank and seconded by Mr. Hamilton, and after a discussion, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Legislation/Policy item:

1. Policies – Revised – Second Reading and Adoption

Approve 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
- No. 250 – Student Recruitment

PERSONNEL

E. Personnel

Candidates for employment under this section are 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.

On motion by Ms. Zych and seconded by Mrs. Cooper, and after a discussion, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Personnel items:

1. Resignations

a. Food Services

- (1) The resignation of Mindi Holtzman, food services employee at Dorseyville Middle School, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective December 1, 2023.

a. Supplemental Contract – Athletic

- (1) The resignation of Nicholas G. White, soccer, boys, HS asst., due to personal reasons, is accepted effective January 2, 2024.

2. Appointments

a. Custodial/Maintenance

- (1) Justin M. Ober is approved 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 are set as per the CBA. This position is available due to the termination of employee "X."

b. Food Services

- (1) Christine Johnson is approved as a permanent, part-time (5.75 hours per day) food services employee at Dorseyville Middle School. Hourly wage is 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.
- (2) Paula Couto is approved as a permanent, part-time (4 hours per day) food services employee at Dorseyville Middle School. Hourly wage is 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.

c. Supplemental Contract – Non-Athletic

- (1) The following non-athletic supplemental contract is 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	\$1,062.66
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3. Leave

a. Professional

- (1) Jessica L. Gentilcore, gifted support teacher at O'Hara Elementary School, is approved 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.

4. Changes of Status

a. Administration

- (1) Katelyn R. Toth, program principal at O'Hara Elementary School, is approved 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.

b. Educational Support

- (1) Colleen S. Kozak, personal care assistant at Kerr Elementary School, is ratified as an instructional assistant at Kerr Elementary School, effective January 8, 2024. Salary is 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.

- (2) Leanne Zottola, personal care assistant at O'Hara Elementary School, is ratified as an instructional assistant at O'Hara Elementary School, effective January 8, 2024. Salary is 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.

5. Leave Replacement

a. Administration

- (1) Daniel E. Lentz, Ph.D., is approved as an intermittent leave replacement program principal for the Fox Chapel Area School District, effective January 16, 2024, at a rate of \$500 per day. If evening hours are required, the daily rate for that day will be \$600 per day. This position is available due to a leave of absence.

6. Extra Innings

a. Substitute Teacher

- (1) The following individual is approved as an Extra Innings substitute teacher for the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of \$30.92 per hour:

Fairview Elementary
Marla Brashear

7. Volunteer – Athletic

- a. The following athletic volunteer is ratified, effective December 1, 2023:

Jason Rivera Wrestling, HS

OPERATIONS/COOPERATIVE SERVICES

F. Operations/Cooperative Services

On motion by Ms. Findley and seconded by Mr. Hamilton, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Operations/Cooperative Services items:

1. Cyclone Energy Group – Agreement

Approve 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.**

2. Convergent Technologies – Proposal

Approve the proposal from Convergent 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.**

3. AEC Group, LLC – Proposal

Accept 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

There was one comment.

1. James Randall Thompson, district resident, commented on track access between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m.

FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

Rachel Machen, Fox Chapel Educators Association president, gave her report.

BOARD COMMENTS

There were nine comments. Mr. Goode, Ms. Andrews, Ms. Zych, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Hamilton, Mrs. Lynch, Ms. Findley, Mr. Frank, and Ms. Dadd commented.

ADIJOURNMENT

It was unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.



Kathleen Anuszek
Board Secretary