

March 11, 2024

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL — The Board of School Directors of the Fox Chapel Area School District held its regular business meeting at Fairview Elementary School March 11, 2024. Vice President Ronald P. Frank called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Also in attendance were President Marybeth Dadd (via telephone), 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.

GUESTS (March 4, 2024)

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

• Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Kaylee Dunham** and junior **Lincoln Marshal** were named winners in Prime Stage Theatre’s Fourth Annual High School Drama Awards. Kaylee won in the best student program/poster design category and Lincoln won in the best actor category for Fox Chapel Area High School’s fall play, “The Man Who Came to Dinner.”

The Fox Chapel Area High School students performed a scene from the fall play as part of the awards ceremony that was held January 29, 2024, at Prime Stage’s New Hazlett Theater. The awards, sponsored by Prime Stage Theatre, recognize excellence in student-run high school drama and were open to schools from across Southwestern Pennsylvania.

• A team of Dorseyville Middle School students won first place at the Hack the Ram competition. The students are eighth-graders **Steven Hu**, **Kanisk Prakash**, and **Siddarth Srinivasan**, and seventh-grader **PJ Hart**.

Hack the Ram was a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) 12-hour invention marathon. The purpose of hackathons is to create technology with like-minded peers in a collaborative environment. As part of the contest, students were tasked to come up with a way to support environmental/green initiatives. They were then given 10 hours of “hacking time” to create a website, app, program, robot, or other technology initiative to support the theme. The Dorseyville Middle School students developed a prototype website that provided information on common recycling errors, enabled individuals to search for nearby recycling centers and also for those centers to post their information, and enabled individuals to calculate their carbon footprint. The Dorseyville students each won a GPS drone for their efforts.

The competition was held January 27, 2024, at Pine-Richland High School and was open to students from grades 6-12 from across the greater Pittsburgh area.

FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

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. This evening, students from the business education department at the high school shared their learning experiences in the business practicum course and other business courses. Students also shared what has been most impactful to them and how the courses are helping to inform their academic and career choices after high school. Department chair **Brian Yanizeski** accompanied the students.

• **K-12 Guidance Plan Presentation** — **Timothy Mahoney**, Ed.D., Director of Special Education and Pupil Services

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

Information

• **High School Seniors Named National Merit Finalists**

Six Fox Chapel Area High School seniors have been designated as National Merit Finalists in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. The Finalists from Fox Chapel Area High School are **Lucas Gravina**, **Chloe Kim**, **Shriya Krishnamurthy**, **Adhitya Thirumala**, **Abraham White**, and **Dylan Work**.

These students were named Semifinalists in September 2023 and have met all the requirements to advance to Finalist standing in the competition for National Merit Scholarships. The students are selected as Finalists based on their Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) scores and other factors, including SAT and/or ACT scores, a student essay, a school recommendation, and having an outstanding academic record throughout high school.

Each year college-bound 11th-grade students complete the PSAT/NMSQT. All the students who take this test are automatically enrolled in the National Merit Scholarship Program and approximately 15,000 advance to become Finalists. The Finalists represent less than one percent of the nation's high school seniors and compete for some 7,140 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million that will be offered this spring.

•**High School Students Candidates in Presidential Scholars Program**

Fox Chapel Area High School seniors **Jacob Anthikad, Adam Ferris, Lucas Gravina, Katherine Haas, and Dylan Work** have been selected as candidates in the 2024 United States Presidential Scholars Program. Approximately 5,000 students from approximately 3.3 million high school seniors graduating this year from across the U.S. have been named candidates in this year's program, and 154 are from Pennsylvania.

Inclusion in the Presidential Scholars Program, begun in 1964, is one of the nation's highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Students are first selected for the program based on their superior academic achievements. They are then further evaluated on their academic achievements, leadership and service activities, and the quality and content of a submitted essay.

Approximately 600 students will be selected as Semifinalists in the program, and then students chosen as U.S. Presidential Scholars (up to 161) will be notified this spring.

•**High School Students to be Inducted Into National Technical Honor Society**

Three Fox Chapel Area High School and A.W. Beattie Career Center students will be inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) this year. Juniors **Shayna Horwitz, Gretchen Shelestak, and Emma Stein** all participate in Beattie's cosmetology program and will be inducted into the NTHS at a ceremony March 12, 2024, at A.W. Beattie Career Center.

To be considered for the honor, students must maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale, have a grade of at least 95% in their career training program, and miss no more than five days of school. Candidates also must have a clear disciplinary record and belong to a service organization or participate in an extracurricular activity.

•**Student Publication Wins First-Place National Award**

Fox Chapel Area High School's literary magazine "Tapestry" was named a first-place winner in the 2023 American Scholastic Press Association's Annual Review and Contest Awards for scholastic yearbooks, magazines, and other publications. The publication was one of 16 from across the nation with an enrollment of 1,001-1,700 students to receive a first-place award.

The 2022-2023 student staff members of "Tapestry" were 2023 graduates **Ishaan Acharya** (editor-in-chief), **Talia Bugel, Helia Hamidi, Aura Chuck Hernandez, Mikhail Ion** (layout designer), and **Sophie Shao**; and 2023-2024 seniors **Caroline Berger, Mira Busch, Laura Carter, Kaylee Dunham, Emmett Gillespie, Eileen Healy, Clara Kelley** (head of submissions), **Emma Kim, and Isabella White**. The students' advisor is Fox Chapel Area High School English teacher **Jessica Green**.

•**DMS Students Score High in PA Math League Contest**

Five Dorseyville Middle School students scored high, attaining marks of 30 or better out of 35, in the annual Pennsylvania Math League (PAML) Contest. The students are eighth-graders **Steven Hu** and **Henry Sun**, seventh-grader **Rishabh Krishnamurthy**, and sixth-graders **Shengfeng Fei** and **Brian Xu**. Additionally, Shengfeng also attained a perfect score in the contest.

The annual PAML Contest is a mathematics competition offered to students in grades 4-12. The students have 30 minutes to answer 35 high-level math questions. The purpose of the competition is to promote problem-solving skills and the enjoyment and study of mathematics.

•**Boys Basketball Players Named to Big 56 All-Section Teams**

Three Fox Chapel Area High School boys basketball players were named to Big 56 all-section teams. Senior **William Siegel** and junior **Asher White** were named to the WPIAL Class 5A Section 2 first team, and senior **Jefferson Moorefield-Brown** was named to the second team.

•**Girls Basketball Players Named to Big 56 All-Section Teams**

Five Fox Chapel Area High School girls basketball players were named to Big 56 all-section teams. Junior **Bella Urso** and sophomore **Lyla Jablon** were named to the WPIAL Class 5A Section 2 second team, and seniors **Isabella Barbour, Skylar Byrnes, and Sarah Slember** all received honorable mentions to the team.

•District Wins Eight Awards in State Communications Contest

The Fox Chapel Area School District won eight awards in the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association’s (PenSPRA) 2023 Excellence in Education Communications Contest. The district received Awards of Honor in the writing category for the stories “O’Hara Students Crack the Case of Zero the Hero” and “Jared Boxes’ Bring Joy to Ill Children,” both of which appeared in the spring 2023 IN Fox Chapel Area Community Magazine; and for the summer 2023 IN Fox Chapel Area Community Magazine in the publications category. The district received Awards of Merit in the writing category for the stories “Students’ Efforts Aid African Villages,” “Unified Hackathon Bolsters Inclusivity,” and “FCAHS & DMS Polar Plunge Team Tops in State,” all of which appeared in the spring 2023 IN Fox Chapel Area Community Magazine. The district received additional Awards of Merit in the publications category for the Fox Chapel Area School District Strategic Vision Summary and the winter 2023 IN Fox Chapel Area Community Magazine.

Nearly 275 entries from educational institutions throughout Pennsylvania were submitted for the contest. The winners will be honored at the Annual PenSPRA Symposium in March as part of an awards luncheon.

Fox Chapel Area School District’s winning entries were coordinated **Jill Leonard**, the district’s community engagement specialist, and by **Bonnie Berzonski**, the district’s coordinator of communications.

PenSPRA is a nationally recognized professional organization. The group strengthens the leadership role of the school communications profession, fosters the continual development of its members, celebrates student and teacher achievement, and promotes school and community partnerships in support of education.

Fox Chapel Area School Board Upcoming Meetings

- 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 regular business meeting dated February 12, 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@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.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Finance

Disbursements (Fund 10) – February 2024 — The general fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$7,963,084.71 from February 1, 2024, through February 29, 2024, were approved.

Disbursements (Fund 31) – February 2024 — The capital reserves fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$14,060.68 from February 1, 2024, through February 29, 2024, were approved.

Finance Report – January 2024 — The finance report for January 2024 was acknowledged and filed for audit.

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

Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU3) – 2024-2025 Program of Services Budget — Upon the recommendation of the administration, the Board approve the proposed 2024-2025 Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU3) Program of Services Budget in the amount of \$2,263,093. The Allegheny County school districts' total contribution to the budget is \$1,936,965. The Fox Chapel Area School District's contribution to the Program of Services Budget is estimated to be \$105,647.78 and will be determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education sometime after July 1, 2024, based on the District Aid Ratio and Weighted Average Daily Membership (WADM).

Real Estate Tax Collector – Borough of Sharpsburg — Approved appointing Jordan Tax Service, Inc. to collect the 2024 and 2025 Fox Chapel Area School District real estate taxes within the Borough of Sharpsburg at a fee of \$3.65 per tax bill according to the proposal. **This appointment is due to the resignation of Patricia Hyatt as Tax Collector for Sharpsburg Borough.**

Instruction

Updated Health and Safety Plan — Approved the updated Fox Chapel Area School District Health and Safety Plan.

K-12 Guidance Plan — Approved the Fox Chapel Area School District K-12 Guidance Plan as required every three years by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Notice of Adoption of Policies, Procedures, and Use of Funds — Approved the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Notice of Adoption of Policies, Procedures, and Use of Funds for the program year 2024-2025.

Allegheny Intermediate Unit – IDEA-Part B Use of Funds Agreement — Approved the subgrant agreement for Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)-Part B between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

LearnWell – Agreement — Ratified the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and LearnWell for tutoring services for the 2023-2024 school year at a cost stated in Exhibit A. **This is a renewal of services.**

The School at McGuire Memorial – Extended School Year (ESY) Addendum — Approved the extended school year addendum for Extended School Year (ESY) program rates pursuant to the agreement with The School at McGuire Memorial that was approved August 14, 2023. **This is a renewal of services.**

The Watson Institute – WISCA-Sharpsburg – Letter of Agreement — Ratified the letter of agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and The Watson Institute for one unnamed student enrolled in The Watson Institute Social Center for Academic Achievement (WISCA-Sharpsburg) for the 2023-2024 school year beginning March 6, 2024, and authorized the superintendent to execute the letter of agreement on behalf of the district. **This is a renewal of services.**

Stipulated Adjudications — Approved the stipulated adjudications as presented.

Instruction Information Item:

A.W. Beattie Career Center 2024-2025 School Calendar – Information — Acknowledged the A.W. Beattie Career Center 2024-2025 school calendar.

Legislation/Policy

Policies – Revised – Second Reading and Adoption — Approved the second reading and adoption 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.

Policies – Revised – First Reading — Approved the first reading of the following revised policies: No. 200 – Enrollment of Students, No. 321 – Political Activities, No. 323 – Tobacco and Vaping Products, No. 324 – Personnel Files, No. 325 – Dress and Grooming, No. 326 – Complaint Process, No. 330 – Overtime, No. 331 – Job Related Expenses, No. 332 – Working Periods, No. 333 – Professional Development, No. 334 – Sick Leave, No. 337 – Vacation, No. 338 – Sabbatical Leave, No. 610 – Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation, and No. 810 – Transportation.

Policy – New – First Reading — Approved the first reading of the following new policy: No. 254 – Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

Policy – Deleted — Approved deleting the following policy: No. 327.1 – School Building Responsibility. (This policy is procedural in nature and aligns more with job responsibilities that would be outlined in the applicable contract, collective bargaining agreement, administrator compensation plan, etc.)

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:

- **Heidi S. Pandolfi**, music teacher for the elementary program, due to retirement, effective June 12, 2024.

Educational Support — Accepted the following secretarial resignation:

- **Cynthia A. Misencik**, secretary to the director of special education and pupil services, due to retirement, effective July 2, 2024.

Custodial/Maintenance — Accepted the following maintenance resignation:

- **Erik A. Stefancic**, 12-month, 8-hours per day maintenance employee for Fox Chapel Area School District, due to personal reasons, effective March 11, 2024.

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

- **Emily P. Humiston**, field hockey, HS head, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective March 5, 2024.
- **Erik Ingram**, lacrosse, girls, HS 1st assistant, due to personal reasons, effective February 12, 2024.
- **Lawrence Kamenicky**, football, MS assistant, due to personal reasons, effective February 21, 2024.
- **Matthew L. Kamenicky**, football, MS assistant, due to personal reasons, effective February 13, 2024.
- **Eleni M. McGrath**, lacrosse, girls, HS 2nd assistant, due to personal reasons, effective February 13, 2024.
- **Noelle M. Noel**, intramurals, MS activity sponsor 1, 9th Period, due to personal reasons, effective June 30, 2024.
- **Noelle M. Noel**, intramurals, MS activity sponsor 5, 9th Period, due to personal reasons, effective June 30, 2024.

Appointments

Administration — Approved the following administrative appointment:

- **Matthew J. Patterson**, Ph.D., as the executive director of secondary education and instruction, with an effective date to be determined. Yearly salary was set with fringe benefits per the Act 93 agreement. This position is available due to the retirement of **Matthew J. Harris**, Ed.D.

Supplemental Contracts – Athletic — The following athletic supplemental contracts were ratified / approved: **Kelsey Lancon** – Lacrosse, Girls, HS 2nd Assistant (for the 2023-2024 school year, effective March 4, 2024), **Eleni M. McGrath** – Lacrosse, Girls, HS 1st Assistant (for the 2023-2024 school year, effective March 4, 2024), and **Brendon Urso** – Football, MS Assistant (for the 2024-2025 school year, effective March 12, 2024).

Supplemental Contracts – Non-Athletic — The following non-athletic supplemental contracts were ratified: **Cheryl L. Eppers** – Mentor Teacher – Dorseyville Middle School (effective November 15, 2023, through the day after the last day of school for students for the 2023-2024 school year) and **Karen L. Meinert** – Mentor Teacher – High School (effective February 13, 2024, through the day after the last day of school for students for the 2023-2024 school year).

Leave

Professional — Approved the following professional leave:

- **Miluska T. Lauterbach**, elementary teacher at Kerr Elementary School, for an educational sabbatical, effective August 14, 2024, with return scheduled for the first day of the 2025-2026 school year.

Change of Status

Administration — Approved the following administrative change of status:

- **Katelyn R. Toth**, program principal at O’Hara Elementary School, as principal at Kerr Elementary School, effective date to be determined. Yearly salary was set with benefits as per the Act 93 Administrative Compensation and Performance Appraisal Agreement. This position is available due to the retirement of **Paul Noro**, Ed.D.

Employment Agreement — The following employment agreement was approved as presented: School Psychologist, **Eric M. Milke**.

Summer Program – 2024

STEAM Camp Instructors — The individuals listed below were approved as instructors for the STEAM Camp at Fairview Elementary School at a flat rate: **Adam Danielson**, **Isabella Donaldson**, **Katelyn Fanning**, **Martha Freese**, **Alyssa Gavron**, **Miluska Lauterbach**, **Tracey Planz**, **Jessica Queck**, **Jessica Resek**, **Stanley Strzempek**, and **Ashley Thiebaud**.

STEAM Camp Assistant Teacher — The individual below was approved as an assistant teacher for the STEAM Camp at Fairview Elementary School at a flat rate: **Marie Chir**.

Salary Crossovers

Professional Employees — The following professional employees are eligible to cross over on the salary scale for the 2023-2024 school term based on verification of additional credits earned: **Katelyn Fanning** from B+15 to B+24, **Beth Ferber** from B+15 to B+24, **Kelly Glus** from M+30 to M+45, **Olivia McCall** from M+15 to M+30, **Brandon Peifer** from M+0 to M+15, **Hannah Roux** from B+15 to B+24, and **Emily Suchevid** from B+15 to B+24. This change is effective as of March 1, 2024, in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement.

Volunteer

Athletic — The following athletic volunteer was ratified, effective February 12, 2024: **Erik Ingram** – Lacrosse, Girls, HS.

Operations/Cooperative Services

Care Solace – Renewal of Services — Approved the renewal of services with Care Solace to provide a web-based navigation system to assist its school district clients and the districts’ students and parents in locating and connecting with mental health treatment providers, effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at a total cost of \$14,000, pursuant to the service agreement that was approved January 10, 2022. **This will be funded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) school safety grant.**

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 8:09 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*