

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

FEBRUARY 12, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The regular business meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fox Chapel Area School District was called to order by president, Marybeth Dadd, at 7:02 p.m. on February 12, 2024, in the Gym at Hartwood Elementary School. Ms. Dadd announced that immediately prior to tonight's public meeting, the Board met in executive session to discuss with counsel information and strategy in connection with litigation matters and related issues. The Board also reviewed information related to a student matter that, if discussed in public, would violate a lawful privilege or lead to the disclosure of information or confidentiality protected by law.

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, Mr. Hamilton, Mrs. Lynch, and Ms. Zych (via telephone). Also present were Dr. Reljac, Mr. Giuffre, and Mrs. Anuszek. Absent was Dr. McCommons. Other members of the public were present.

GUESTS

There were no guests.

FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Tyanne Binion and Virag Salvador gave a report on the work of the Black Student Union and the Diversity Council.

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 after-school Extra Innings Program, designed to support students in English language arts and math in grades 3 through 5.

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 Punttil 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

• **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.

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 combined agenda study session and regular business meeting dated January 8, 2024. On motion by Mr. Frank and seconded by Mr. Hamilton, the minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was one comment.

1. Phoebe Reese, district resident, commented on the Hartwood Elementary School HVAC project award of bid.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

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

ELECTION OF DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

On motion by Ms. Dadd and seconded by Mr. Frank, and after a discussion, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Election of District Superintendent item:

A. Election of District Superintendent

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 the beginning base salary of \$237,000, under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and in accord with the agreement for employment of superintendent as presented is approved.

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) – January 2024

General fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$8,880,465.34 from January 1, 2024, through January 31, 2024, are approved.

2. Disbursements (Fund 31) – January 2024

Capital reserves fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$17,735 from January 1, 2024, through January 31, 2024, are approved.

3. Finance Report – December 2023

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

4. Student Activity Financial Reports

The second quarter 2023-2024 middle school and high school student activity financial reports are acknowledged and filed for audit.

5. Permission to Advertise – Athletic Supplies

Authorize the advertisement of bids for the 2024-2025 school year for the following: athletic supplies (fall and winter) and athletic supplies (spring).

6. Exoneration of Tax Collectors

Approve 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

C. Instruction

On motion by Mrs. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Goode, and after a discussion, it was resolved to approve the following Instruction item 1 with 6 in favor and 3 voting No – Mrs. Cooper, Ms. Findley, and Mr. Frank:

1. 2024-2025 School District Calendar

Approve the 2024-2025 school district calendar.

On motion by Mrs. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Hamilton, and after a discussion, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Instruction items 2 and 3:

**2. Allegheny Intermediate Unit Math & Science Collaborative (AIU MSC)
Letter of Agreement**

Approve 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 PAsmart Advancing Grant (STEM A.C.E.S.).**

3. Camp Allegheny Inc. – Group Contract

Approve 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

D. Legislation/Policy

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

1. Policies – Revised – First Reading

Approve 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
- No. 819 – Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response

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 Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Frank, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Personnel items 1 – 7:

1. Resignations

a. Professional

- (1) The resignation of 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, is accepted effective June 30, 2024.
- (2) The resignation of 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, is accepted effective June 30, 2024.
- (3) The resignation of 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, is accepted effective June 30, 2024.
- (4) The resignation of 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, is accepted effective June 30, 2024.
- (5) The resignation of 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, is accepted effective June 30, 2024.
- (6) The resignation of 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, is accepted effective June 30, 2024.
- (7) The resignation of 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, is accepted effective June 30, 2024.
- (8) The resignation of 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, is accepted effective June 30, 2024.
- (9) The resignation of 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, is accepted effective June 30, 2024.

b. Educational Support

- (1) The resignation of Susan L. Pesci, 10-month building secretary at Kerr Elementary School, due to retirement, is accepted effective June 14, 2024.

c. Supplemental Contracts – Athletic

- (1) The resignation of Rebecca Stefanyak, cheerleading, MS head (fall), due to personal reasons, is accepted effective February 8, 2024.
- (2) The resignation of Rebecca Stefanyak, cheerleading, MS head (winter), due to personal reasons, is accepted effective February 8, 2024.

2. Appointments

a. Professional

- (1) Erin K. Rebish is approved as a school nurse at Fox Chapel Area High School. This position is available due to the resignation of Jamie Glogowski.

Certification: Education Specialist I
Education: School Nurse Certification, Eastern University, 2020
M.Ed., Eastern University, 2020
B.S.N., Slippery Rock University, 2019
A.S.N., Pittsburgh Technical College, 2014
Experience: 2 years, Keystone Oaks School District
Effective: February 13, 2024
Salary: \$67,548 (prorated) based on Step 3, M+0
Fringe Benefits: As per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

b. Custodial/Maintenance

- (1) Karrie F. Daniels is approved 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 are set as per the CBA. This position is available due to an open position.

c. Educational Support

- (1) Kristin L. Correll is approved as a personal care assistant at O'Hara Elementary School, effective February 13, 2024. Salary is 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.

d. Supplemental Contract – Non-Athletic

- (1) The following non-athletic supplemental contract is ratified, 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 \$1,120.94

3. Leaves

a. Professional

- (1) Kelsey L. Cavaliere, elementary 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 April 18, 2024, with return scheduled for the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.

- (2) Gail J. Hetu, special education and mathematics teacher at Fox Chapel Area High School, is approved 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.
- (3) Erin E. Rowlands, science teacher at Dorseyville Middle School, is ratified for a medical sabbatical, effective January 22, 2024, with return scheduled for the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.
- (4) Mackenzie M. Seymour, art teacher at Dorseyville Middle School, is approved 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.

4. Leave Replacements

a. Professional

- (1) Shauna L. Ferris is ratified as a leave replacement art teacher at Dorseyville Middle School. This position is available due to the extension of childrearing/adoption leave of Mackenzie Seymour.

Certification: Instructional II
Education: B.A., Dickinson College, 2002
Experience: 7 years, Shaler Area School District
Effective: November 15, 2023, through the day after the last day of school for students for the 2023-2024 school year
Salary: \$64,602 (prorated) based on Step 8, B+0
Fringe Benefits: As per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

- (2) Emily G. Grychowski is ratified as a second-semester leave replacement science teacher at Dorseyville Middle School. This position is available due to the medical sabbatical of Erin Rowlands.

Certification: Instructional I
Education: B.S., Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 2020
Experience: 1 year, Erie School District
Effective: January 22, 2024, through the day after the last day of school for students for the 2023-2024 school year
Salary: \$58,723 (prorated) based on Step 2, B+0
Fringe Benefits: As per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

5. Summer Program – 2024

a. STEAM Camp

- (1) Stephanie S. Reilly is approved as the Summer STEAM Camp program facilitator at a rate of \$30.92 per hour with a maximum of 120 hours.

6. Corrections – Supplemental Contracts – Athletic

- a. Christopher Bandurski, previously approved as baseball, freshman head at the salary of \$4,005, is approved as baseball, HS JV 2nd asst. at the salary of \$2,670, effective February 13, 2024.
- b. David Kotts, previously approved as baseball, HS JV 2nd asst. at the salary of \$2,670, is approved as baseball, freshman head at the salary of \$4,005, effective February 13, 2024.

7. Volunteers – Athletic

- a. The following athletic volunteer is ratified, effective January 12, 2024:

Robert Siar Wrestling, HS

- b. The following athletic volunteers are approved, effective February 13, 2024:

Conor Ryan Lacrosse, Boys, HS
Ethan Wagner Baseball, MS

Personnel Information Item:

8. Tenure – Information

- a. 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

F. Operations/Cooperative Services

On motion by Mr. Goode and seconded by Mr. Frank, and after a discussion, it was resolved to approve the following Operations/Cooperative Services item 1 with 6 in favor and 3 voting No – Ms. Dadd, Mrs. Lynch, and Ms. Zych:

1. Hartwood Elementary School HVAC Project – Award of Bid

Approve 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.

On motion by Mr. Goode and seconded by Ms. Findley, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Operations/Cooperative Services items 2 and 3:

2. Kennywood – Online Ticket Agreement

Approve 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.**

3. Indiana University of Pennsylvania – IUP Field Experience Agreement

Approve 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

There were no comments.

FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

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

BOARD COMMENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

It was unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.



Kathleen Anuszek
Board Secretary