

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

MARCH 11, 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 vice president, Ronald Frank, at 7:02 p.m. on March 11, 2024, in the Gym at Fairview Elementary School.

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 (via telephone), Ms. Findley (left meeting at approximately 7:50 p.m. and returned at approximately 8 p.m.), Mr. Frank, Mr. Goode, 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

There were no guests.

FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

There was no report.

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 business education department at Fox Chapel Area High School.

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

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

• **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.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Frank asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the regular business meeting dated February 12, 2024. On motion by Ms. Zych and seconded by Mr. Hamilton, the minutes were approved as submitted with 8 in favor and 1 absent.

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. Goode, and after a discussion, it was resolved to approve the following Finance items with 8 in favor and 1 absent:

1. Disbursements (Fund 10) – February 2024

General fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$7,963,084.71 from February 1, 2024, through February 29, 2024, are approved.

2. Disbursements (Fund 31) – February 2024

Capital reserves fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$14,060.68 from February 1, 2024, through February 29, 2024, are approved.

3. Finance Report – January 2024

The finance report for January 2024 is acknowledged and filed for audit.

4. Budget Transfers

The budget transfers for 2023-2024 are approved.

5. Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU3) – 2024-2025 Program of Services Budget

The administration recommends that 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).

6. Real Estate Tax Collector – Borough of Sharpsburg

Approve 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

C. Instruction

On motion by Mrs. Cooper and seconded by Ms. Zych, it was resolved to approve the following Instruction items 1 – 8 with 8 in favor and 1 absent:

1. Updated Health and Safety Plan

Approve the updated Fox Chapel Area School District Health and Safety Plan.

2. K-12 Guidance Plan

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

**3. Allegheny Intermediate Unit
Notice of Adoption of Policies, Procedures, and Use of Funds**

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

**4. Allegheny Intermediate Unit
IDEA-Part B Use of Funds Agreement**

Approve 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.

5. LearnWell – Agreement

Ratify 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.**

6. The School at McGuire Memorial – Extended School Year (ESY) Addendum

Approve 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.**

7. The Watson Institute – WISCA-Sharpsburg – Letter of Agreement

Ratify 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 authorize the superintendent to execute the letter of agreement on behalf of the district. **This is a renewal of services.**

8. Stipulated Adjudications

Approve the stipulated adjudications as presented.

Instruction Information Item:

9. A.W. Beattie Career Center 2024-2025 School Calendar – Information

The A.W. Beattie Career Center 2024-2025 school calendar is available.

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 items:

1. Policies – Revised – Second Reading and Adoption

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

2. Policies – Revised – First Reading

Approve 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
- No. 810 – Transportation

3. Policy – New – First Reading

Approve the first reading of the following new policy:

- No. 254 – Educational Opportunity for Military Children

4. Policy – Deleted

Approve 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

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 Mr. Hamilton, and after a discussion, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Personnel items:

1. Resignations

a. Professional

- (1) The resignation of Heidi S. Pandolfi, music teacher for the elementary program, due to retirement, is accepted effective June 12, 2024.

b. Educational Support

- (1) The resignation of Cynthia A. Misencik, secretary to the director of special education and pupil services, due to retirement, is accepted effective July 2, 2024.

c. Custodial/Maintenance

- (1) The resignation of Erik A. Stefancic, 12-month, 8-hours per day maintenance employee for Fox Chapel Area School District, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective March 11, 2024.

d. Supplemental Contracts – Athletic

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

2. Appointments

a. Administration

- (1) Matthew J. Patterson, Ph.D., is approved as the executive director of secondary education and instruction. This position is available due to the retirement of Matthew J. Harris, Ed.D.

Certificate:	Superintendent PK-12
Education:	Ph.D., Gannon University, 2020 M.Ed., Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, 2004 B.S., Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, 1999
Experience:	8 years, West Jefferson School District 13 years, Corry Area School District
Effective:	To be determined
Salary:	\$178,000
Fringe Benefits:	As per Act 93 Agreement

b. Supplemental Contracts – Athletic

- (1) The following athletic supplemental contracts are ratified for the 2023-2024 school year, effective March 4, 2024:

Kelsey Lancon	Lacrosse, Girls, HS 2nd Asst.	\$3,969
Eleni M. McGrath	Lacrosse, Girls, HS 1st Asst.	\$3,969

- (2) The following athletic supplemental contract is approved for the 2024-2025 school year, effective March 12, 2024:

Brendon Urso	Football, MS Assistant	\$5,529
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c. Supplemental Contracts – Non-Athletic

- (1) The following non-athletic supplemental contract is ratified, effective November 15, 2023, through the day after the last day of school for students for the 2023-2024 school year:

Cheryl L. Eters	Mentor Teacher – Dorseyville Middle School	\$1,541.21
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- (2) The following non-athletic supplemental contract is ratified, effective February 13, 2024, through the day after the last day of school for students for the 2023-2024 school year:

Karen L. Meinert	Mentor Teacher – High School	\$944.80
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3. Leave

a. Professional

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

4. Change of Status

a. Administration

- (1) Katelyn R. Toth, program principal at O'Hara Elementary School, is approved as principal at Kerr Elementary School, effective date to be determined. Salary is set at \$124,000 per year 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.

5. Employment Agreement

- a. The following employment agreement is approved as presented:

School Psychologist, Eric M. Milke

6. Summer Program – 2024

a. STEAM Camp

- (1) The individuals listed below are approved as instructors for the STEAM Camp at Fairview Elementary School at a rate of \$1,350:

Adam Danielson
Isabella Donaldson
Katelyn Fanning
Martha Freese
Alyssa Gavron
Miluska Lauterbach
Tracey Planz
Jessica Queck
Jessica Resek
Stanley Strzempek
Ashley Thiebaud

- (2) Marie Chir is approved as an assistant teacher for the STEAM Camp at Fairview Elementary School at a rate of \$500.

7. Salary Crossovers

- a. The professional employees listed below are eligible to cross over on the salary scale for the 2023-2024 school term based on verification of additional credits earned. This change is effective as of March 1, 2024, in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement.

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Katelyn Fanning	B+15	B+24
Beth Ferber	B+15	B+24
Kelly Glus	M+30	M+45
Olivia McCall	M+15	M+30
Brandon Peifer	M+0	M+15
Hannah Roux	B+15	B+24
Emily Suchevidch	B+15	B+24

8. Volunteer – Athletic

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

Erik Ingram Lacrosse, Girls, HS

OPERATIONS/COOPERATIVE SERVICES

F. Operations/Cooperative Services

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

1. Care Solace – Renewal of Services

Approve 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

There were no comments.

FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

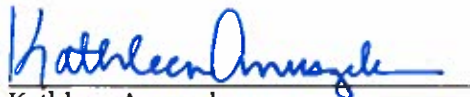
There was no report.

BOARD COMMENTS

There was one comment. Mr. Frank commented.

ADJOURNMENT

It was unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.



Kathleen Anuszek
Board Secretary