

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMBINED AGENDA STUDY SESSION
AND REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

APRIL 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 7:01 p.m. on April 8, 2024, in the LGI Room at Fox Chapel Area High School. Ms. Dadd announced that immediately prior to tonight's public meeting, members of the Board met in executive session to review information related to a confidential student matter. The Board also discussed with counsel information and strategy related to issues about which litigation or identifiable complaints are expected to be filed. A committee of the whole meeting was held immediately following this combined agenda study session and regular business meeting.

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

ROLL-CALL

The Board members present at roll call were Ms. Dadd, Ms. Findley, Mr. Frank, Mr. Hamilton, and Mrs. Lynch. Ms. Zych arrived at 7:03 p.m. Mrs. Cooper arrived at 7:05 p.m. Absent were Ms. Andrews and Mr. Goode. Also present were Dr. Reljac, Dr. McCommons, Mr. Giuffre, and Mrs. Anuszek. Other members of the public were present.

GUESTS

•Dorseyville Middle School eighth-graders **Emily Shaw** and **Divya Thirumala** were selected to perform with the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 Junior High Chorus. The chorus featured approximately 150 students from 51 schools from Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties. The festival was held at Seton Hill University on February 9, 2024, and culminated in a concert. The festival guest conductor was Dr. Mark Boyle, director of choral activities at Seton Hill University.

Both Emily and Divya are active in the DMS choral program, participating in the honor choir and serving the group as section leaders.

•The Fox Chapel Area High School boys varsity wrestling team won the WPIAL Class 3A Section 1 title. It is the first time the team has won the section title since 1971. The members of the team were seniors **Joshua Alexander, Owen Ellermeyer, Alexander Kaufmann, John Lynch, Benjamin Myers, and Stephen Provenzano**; juniors **Youssef Abdelsalam, Shane Browell, Luca Catone, Milo Chiu, Derrick Clements, Timothy Fire, Landon Funk, William Ghaznavi, D'Angelo Hamilton, Kyle Ong, Aidan Ortiz, Josiah Rivera, Caleb Shirk, Samuel Ummer, Jack Viti, and Michael Worsen**; sophomores **Elias Adams, Joseph Geller, Adam Haines, Andrew Kratsa, Daniel Noel, Skyler Strangio, and Adrian Valdez**; and freshmen **Rajesh Bhimireddy, Braxton Bielawski, Torrin Gniewkowski, Luke Montgomery, Colin Neff, Anthony Nguyen, and Oliver Wright**. The team's overall record was 15-2.

•The Fox Chapel Area High School girls varsity swimming and diving team won the WPIAL Class 3A Section 3 title. The team members were seniors **Anna Dering, Katherine Haas, Isabella Marcos, Nora Siri, Claudia "CJ" Smith, and Gloria Wen**; juniors **Jennifer Adamo, Ainsley Anderson, Rebecca Chang, Eleanor Dering, Noelle Dick, Regina Fitzsimmons, Rayna Huang, Grace Kovach, Devon McDonald, Sarah Pasquella, Madison Resek, and Margaret Rusche**; sophomore **Gianna Carrozza**; and freshmen **Lauren Bachman, Elizabeth Bonidy, Cameryn Brindza, Elizabeth Datt, Sarah Huang, Norah Kovach, Charlotte Rusche, and Josephine Stanczak**. This is the fifth consecutive year that the girls were undefeated (6-0) and won the section title.

Additionally, four student-athletes won gold medals at the WPIAL Class 3A swimming championships. Sarah Pasquella won first place in the 200 yard freestyle. The 400 yard freestyle relay team won WPIAL gold for the

third consecutive year. This year's team members were Josephine, Charlotte, Grace, and Sarah Pasquella. The WPIAL swimming championships were held February 29 and March 1, 2024, at the University of Pittsburgh.

The following swimmers qualified for the PIAA Class 3A swimming and diving championships, held March 13 and 14 at Bucknell University: Isabella (2 events), CJ, Grace (4 events), Sarah Pasquella (4 events), Margaret (2 events), Cameryn, Charlotte (4 events), and Josephine (3 events).

•The Fox Chapel Area High School boys varsity swimming and diving team won the WPIAL Class 3A Section 3 title for the fourth consecutive year and was undefeated in the section. The team members were seniors **Micah Cagley, Logan Dressman, Henry Koloc, and Oscar Ruff**; juniors **Caleb Adams, Christian Dantey, Jackson Hagler, Owen Howell, and Sangyon "Paul" Park**; sophomores **Arman Alborzi, Maxwell Bruno, and Alan Jiang**; and freshmen **Finnian Kress, Hugo Mickus, Georgy Pistsov, Desmond Ruff, and Daniel Wu**. This is the first time in Fox Chapel Area history that the boys team won the section title for four consecutive years. The team was 6-0 in its section.

Additionally, Owen won a gold medal in the 200 yard individual medley at the WPIAL Class 3A swimming championships, held February 29 and March 1, 2024, at the University of Pittsburgh.

The following swimmers qualified for the PIAA Class 3A swimming and diving championships, held March 13 and 14 at Bucknell University: Henry (3 events), Christian (4 events), Owen (4 events), and Arman (2 events). Jackson (diver) qualified for PIAAs for the third consecutive year.

•Three seniors on the Fox Chapel Area High School indoor track team qualified for the 2024 Pennsylvania Track and Field Coaches Association (PTFCA) indoor state championship meet. **Rowan Gwin** qualified in the mile and the 3000m, **Mason Miles** qualified in the shot put, and **Anna Troutman** qualified in the high jump. Additionally, Anna won first place in the high jump at the Tri-State Track Coaches Association (TSTCA) Indoor Championships. This was the third year Anna qualified for the state indoor competition and the second consecutive year she won first place in the high jump at the TSTCA meet. The regional meet was held February 17 at PennWest Edinboro, and the state meet was held February 25 at Penn State University (Main Campus).

•The Fox Chapel Area High School boys varsity basketball team qualified for the PIAA Class 5A team tournament. The team members were seniors **Jefferson Moorefield-Brown, Thomas Patterson, and William Siegel**; juniors **Matthew Begg, Caden Kaiser, Isaac Moser, and Asher White**; sophomores **Alejandro Betancourt-Jones, Anderson Dockey, Viktor Golalic, Nathan Johnson, Max Melocchi, Gino Pototo, John Rehak, and Samuel Troutman**; and freshmen **Grant Fenton, Elias George, and Joseph McGivney**.

FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Fox Chapel Area High School junior Arnim Kuchhal, president of the DESI Club; junior Rohit Velankar, from the DESI Club and the Fox Leadership Council multicultural planning committee; senior Chloe Kim, the leader of the Asian Cultural Club; and senior Solomon Amemasor, co-president of the Black Student Union, gave an update on the high school's upcoming multicultural week activities.

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 social-emotional learning and the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program.

Presenters included principal Dr. Paul Noro, third-grade teacher Kristie Pentrack, school counselor Sara Petro, and behavior specialist Stacy Trpcic from Kerr Elementary School. From O'Hara Elementary School, principal Dr. Kristy Batis, program principal Katelyn Toth, and music teacher Hannah Roux presented. Several students from both schools also helped with the presentation.

•**Textbooks for Review** – The textbooks listed below will be recommended for approval at the May 6, 2024, Board meeting. They are available for review until that time in the administrative offices.

•**Updated Copyright of Current Textbooks:**

Fox Chapel Area High School – Math

“The Practice of Statistics – 7th Edition” Daren S. Starnes and Josh Tabor; Publisher: Bedford, Freeman & Worth; Updated Copyright 2024; for AP Statistics Grades 10-12

Fox Chapel Area High School – Science

“Chemistry – 11th Edition” by Steven S. Zumdahl, Susan A. Zumdahl, and Donald J. DeCoste; Publisher: Cengage; Updated Copyright 2024; for AP Chemistry II Grades 10-12

Fox Chapel Area High School – Social Studies

“Economics for Today – 11th Edition” by Irvin B. Tucker; Publisher: Cengage; Updated Copyright 2023; for AP Economics Grades 11 and 12

Fox Chapel Area High School – World Languages

“Imagina, 5th Edition” by José A. Blanco; Publisher: Vista Higher Learning; Updated Copyright 2022; for Spanish 4 Grades 10-12

Dorseyville Middle School and Fox Chapel Area High School – World Languages

“Encuentros 1, Encuentros 2, Encuentros 3” by Rafaél de Cardenas Lopez; Publisher: Vista Higher Learning; Updated Copyright 2022; for Spanish 1, Spanish 2, and Spanish 3 Grades 7-12

Dorseyville Middle School – English Language Arts

“Intro Literature” by various authors; Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; Updated Copyright 2022; for Literacy Grades 6-8

Elementary Schools – English Language Learners

“Reach Higher (1-5) and Reach for the Stars (K)” by Nancy Frey, Lada Kratky, Nonie K. Lesaux, Sylvia Linan-Thompson, Deborah J. Short, and Jennifer D. Turner (1-5); and Lada Kratky (K); Publisher: National Geographic Learning; Updated Copyright 2020; for English Language Development – Elementary K-Grade 5

•**New Textbooks for Adoption:**

Fox Chapel Area High School – Social Studies

“The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography” by James M. Rubenstein; Publisher: Pearson; Copyright 2024; for AP Human Geography Grades 10-12

Dorseyville Middle School – World Languages

“Galería” by various authors; Publisher: Vista Higher Learning; Copyright 2025; for Spanish Literature and Culture Grades 6-8

Elementary Schools – English Language Arts

“S.P.I.R.E Specialized Program Individualizing Reading Excellence 4th Edition” by Sheila Clark-Edmands; Publisher: EPS Learning; Copyright 2019; for Tier 3 ELA Grades 2-5

Elementary Schools – Social Studies

“myWorld Interactive” by Dr. Linda B. Bennett and Dr. James B. Kracht; Publisher: SAVVAS; Copyright 2019; for Social Studies K-Grade 5

• **High School Students Accepted Into League of Innovative Students**

Five Fox Chapel Area High School students were accepted into the League of Innovative Students. The students are senior **Shriya Krishnamurthy**; sophomores **Laila Golla**, **Joseph Shin**, and **Niko Vavpetic**; and freshman **Nadre Digbohau**. The League of Innovative Students is part of the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools, an organization composed of school districts that promote innovation in education.

A total of 30 students from high schools from across the nation are participants in this year's League of Innovative Students and were selected by an application process. The aim of the program is to allow students to develop leadership, problem-solving, and storytelling skills. The students will participate in a design process project from January to June 2024, during which they will work with representatives from Digital Promise's Center for Inclusive Innovation, as well as with other students to design projects that will focus on innovation in education. The inclusive innovation model amplifies voices that have been underrepresented in education to solve education challenges in partnership with school districts.

The goal of the League of Innovative Schools is to create a school environment that achieves equitable outcomes for all students and is a national network of school districts that connects and supports the most forward-thinking leaders in education. By collaborating on shared priorities, members – including superintendents and district leaders – spearhead innovative learning and leadership practices to achieve equitable outcomes for every student.

• **High School Students Win Regional Scholastic Art Awards**

Ten Fox Chapel Area High School students won second-place and honorable mention awards for their entries in the Pittsburgh Region of the Scholastic Art Awards 2024.

The Fox Chapel Area High School Silver Key winners were seniors **Emma Kim** (2 Silver Keys), **Mikayla Korczynski** (2 Silver Keys), and **Gabriella Urso**; junior **Caleb Adams**; and sophomores **Raina Guzman** (2 Silver Keys), **Nora Kelley**, **Akshay Lath** (2 Silver Keys), and **Elyse Ritchie**.

The Fox Chapel Area High School Honorable Mention winners were seniors Emma Kim (2 Honorable Mentions) and Gabriella Urso (3 Honorable Mentions); juniors Caleb Adams and **Isabella Cheatham**; and sophomores **Claire Conti** (2 Honorable Mentions), Raina Guzman, and Akshay Lath (3 Honorable Mentions).

Students from approximately 45 schools from across the greater Pittsburgh area participated in the regional competition. The award winners were selected by a panel of distinguished judges that included artists, art educators, and art professionals.

The Fox Chapel Area students were honored at a special ceremony March 23 at Carnegie Mellon University's College of Fine Arts.

The Fox Chapel Area High School art teachers are **Joan Marangoni**, **Mary Jo Montgomery**, **Christine Smith**, **Sarah Stewart-Vasquez**, and **Amy Wickman**.

• **High School Wrestling Coaches Honored**

Two Fox Chapel Area High School wrestling coaches were honored by the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Association. Head coach **Michael Frank** was named the WPIAL Class 3A Section 1 coach of the year, and assistant coach **John Baxter** was named the assistant coach of the year.

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 regular business meeting dated March 11, 2024. 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

On motion by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Hamilton, and after a discussion, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Facilities/Transportation item:

1. Additional School Bus Drivers – 2023-2024 School Year

Ratify hiring the additional ABC Transit, Inc., drivers effective for the 2023-2024 school year. All required licensing, clearances, and all other essential employment requirements for school bus operators under the laws of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania have been verified.

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) – March 2024

General fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$11,536,328.33 from March 1, 2024, through March 31, 2024, are approved.

2. Disbursements (Fund 31) – March 2024

Capital reserves fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$49,145.54 from March 1, 2024, through March 31, 2024, are approved.

3. Finance Report – February 2024

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

4. Tax Collectors’ Depositories

The depositories listed below for real estate elected tax collectors are approved as recommended by the appropriate elected official. The Board of School Directors must approve the depositories for real estate elected tax collectors annually.

Aspinwall Borough	Dawn Eastley	Farmers National Bank
Blawnox Borough	Casey Cunningham	Dollar Bank
Indiana Township	Julie Leventry	Farmers National Bank

5. Deputy Tax Collectors

Pursuant to Section 22 of the Local Tax Collection Law, 72 P.S. § 5511.22, approve the appointment of the following deputy tax collectors:

Borough of Blawnox Township of Indiana	Kathleen Ulanowicz Granite Leventry
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6. Award of Bids – Athletic

The administration is authorized to award the following bids for the 2024-2025 school year:

Athletic Supplies Bids – Fall and Winter

BSN Sports, LLC P.O. Box 7726 Dallas, TX 75209	\$3,927.49
Century Sports, Inc. 115 E. McMurray Road McMurray, PA 15317	\$35,698.27
Natale Sporting Goods 209 Fifth Avenue McKeesport, PA 15132	\$6,955.54
Pyramid School Products 6510 North 54th Street Tampa, FL 33610	\$658.50

INSTRUCTION

C. Instruction

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

1. 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 26, 2024, and authorize the superintendent to execute the letter of agreement on behalf of the district. **This is a renewal of services.**

2. Pittsburgh Behavioral Services, Inc. – Clinical Support Tuition Service Agreement

Ratify the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Pittsburgh Behavioral Services, Inc. for services for one unnamed student for the 2023-2024 school year beginning March 15, 2024, and authorize the superintendent to execute the agreement on behalf of the district. **This is a new service.**

3. Stipulated Adjudication

Approve the stipulated adjudication as presented.

LEGISLATION/POLICY

D. Legislation/Policy

On motion by Mr. Frank and seconded by Mr. Hamilton, 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. 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

2. Policy – New – Second Reading and Adoption

Approve the second reading and adoption of the following new policy:

- No. 254 – Educational Opportunity for Military Children

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. Frank, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Personnel items:

1. Resignations

a. Professional

- (1) The resignation of Anne O. Goggin, music teacher at Dorseyville Middle School, due to retirement, is accepted effective June 12, 2024.

b. Custodial/Maintenance

- (1) The resignation of David F. Ulrich, 10-month, 8-hours per day custodian at Dorseyville Middle School, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective March 21, 2024.

c. Supplemental Contracts – Athletic

- (1) The resignation of Amber Jones, cheerleading, MS asst. (fall), due to personal reasons, is accepted effective April 9, 2024.
- (2) The resignation of Amber Jones, cheerleading, MS asst. (winter), due to personal reasons, is accepted effective April 9, 2024.

2. Appointments

a. Educational Support

- (1) Krystyn A. Seronka is approved as a personal care assistant at Hartwood Elementary School, effective August 20, 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 Heather Wike.
- (2) Autumn Williams is approved as a personal care assistant at Hartwood Elementary School, effective August 20, 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 resignation of Veronica Miers.

b. Supplemental Contracts – Athletic

- (1) The following athletic supplemental contracts are approved for the 2024-2025 school year, effective April 9, 2024:

Kellee M. Cribby	Field Hockey, HS Head	\$6,765
Amber Jones	Cheerleading, MS Head (Fall)	\$1,577
Amber Jones	Cheerleading, MS Head (Winter)	\$1,577
Eleni M. McGrath	Field Hockey, HS 1st Asst.	\$4,397
Taylor Trasatti	Cheerleading, MS Asst. (Fall)	\$1,025
Taylor Trasatti	Cheerleading, MS Asst. (Winter)	\$1,025

3. Employment Agreement

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

Technology Services Coordinator, Paula G. Zakovitch

4. Summer Programs – 2024

a. STEAM Camp

- (1) Erin K. Rebish is approved as a nurse for the STEAM Camp at Fairview Elementary School at a rate of \$1,350.

b. Elementary

- (1) Rebecca L. Stefanyak is approved as the Elementary Summer Learning Academy program facilitator at a rate of \$31.54 per hour with a maximum of 130 hours for preparation and instruction.

c. Middle School

- (1) Breane DeComo is approved as the Dorseyville Middle School Summer Learning Academy program facilitator at a rate of \$31.54 per hour with a maximum of 130 hours for preparation and instruction.
- (2) Joseph Eisel is approved as the Dorseyville Middle School Summer Learning Academy facilitator for engineering challenges at a rate of \$31.54 per hour with a maximum of 110 hours for preparation and instruction.

d. High School

- (1) Lisa R. Gibson is approved as the Western PA Learning Academy director at a rate of \$2,700 plus 15% of workshop registration (minimum enrollment required).
- (2) The individuals listed below are approved as Western PA Learning Academy specialty workshop facilitators (design and host). All workshop facilitators will receive 35% of the registration fees (minimum enrollment required).

Penny M. Capek
Lesley A. Cowles, Ed.D.
Lisa R. Gibson
Chad S. Morley

- (3) The following individual is approved as the transition program coordinator at a rate of \$1,250:

Lesley A. Cowles, Ed.D.

- (4) The following individuals are approved as summer high school faculty at a rate of \$1,900 per 1/2-credit course and \$3,800 per 1-credit course:

Lesley A. Cowles, Ed.D.
Timothy H. McLister
Meghan A. Meabon
Stephanie S. Reilly
Deborah A. Welty

- (5) The following individuals are approved as summer high school FCAO credit recovery faculty at a rate of \$1,900 (minimum enrollment required):

Mary E. Dixon
Lisa R. Gibson
Jennifer L. Klein
Heather M. Skillen

OPERATIONS/COOPERATIVE SERVICES

F. Operations/Cooperative Services

On motion by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Ms. Findley, and after a discussion, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Operations/Cooperative Services items:

1. Change Order – Dorseyville Middle School Window Project

Approve change order 001 at a total cost of \$67,500 for the Dorseyville Middle School window project. **This change order was reviewed and recommended by the Fox Chapel Area School Authority.**

2. Fox Chapel Killer Whales, Inc. – Agreement and Lease

Approve the agreement and lease between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the Fox Chapel Killer Whales, Inc., effective September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2029. **This is a renewal.**

3. United States Golf Association – Parking Lot Agreement

Approve the parking lot agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the United States Golf Association for the use of parking facilities at Fox Chapel Area High School and O’Hara Elementary School, at a fee of \$8,000, effective July 29, 2024, through August 4, 2024. **This is a new agreement.**

4. Donation – Fox Chapel Area High School Robotics Club

Accept the donation of material purchases and machining services for the Fox Chapel Area High School Robotics Club at a total value of \$24,270.16 from Aerotech, Inc.

5. Donation – The Stamy Music and Performing Arts Scholarship

Accept the donation of \$10,000 from Lloyd Stamy for scholarships to be awarded to Fox Chapel Area High School graduating seniors.

RESIGNATION OF SCHOOL DIRECTOR

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

G. Resignation of School Director

Accept, with regret, the resignation of Kimberly Andrews, School Director, Region III, due to personal reasons, effective immediately.

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

There was no report.

BOARD COMMENTS

There were four comments. Ms. Dadd, Mr. Frank, Mrs. Lynch, and Ms. Zych commented.

ADJOURNMENT

It was unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.



Kathleen Anuszek
Board Secretary