

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Combined Agenda Study Session
and Regular Business Meeting
August 12, 2024 – 7 p.m.
Fox Chapel Area High School LGI Room

This meeting may be recorded and/or broadcast.

Attached Pages

I. CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

III. GUESTS

•The Fox Chapel Area School District won 11 awards in the 2024 National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) Publications and Digital Media Excellence Awards contest.

The district received top Awards of Excellence for “Weekly Messages from the Superintendent” in the Newsletter category; for “Strategic Vision: A Framework of Collaboration and Community” in the Marketing Material category; for “FCASD 2022-2023 State of the Schools” in the Annual Report category; and for the article “O’Hara Students Crack the Case of Zero the Hero” (which appeared in the spring 2023 “IN Fox Chapel Area” magazine) in the Excellence in Writing category.

Fox Chapel Area won Awards of Merit for the articles “FCAHS & DMS Polar Plunge Teams Tops in State,” “Jared Boxes Bring Joy to Ill Children,” and “Unified Hackathon Bolsters Inclusivity” in the Excellence in Writing category. All three articles appeared in the spring 2023 issue of “IN Fox Chapel Area” magazine. The district also won an Award of Merit for its section of the spring 2023 “IN Fox Chapel Area” magazine.

The district received Honorable Mentions for the summer 2023 and winter 2023 issues of “IN Fox Chapel Area” magazine, and the district’s website.

More than 1,800 entries were judged in this year’s contest and were given awards of Excellence, Merit, or Honorable Mention. The awards recognize outstanding education publications, including annual reports, e-newsletters, magazines, videos, and websites, as well as excellence in writing. The entries were judged by experienced, award-winning professionals, and each was judged on its overall excellence and quality compared to other entries in the category. Winning entries were recognized during the Annual Meeting and Celebration of Achievement at the NSPRA 2024 National Seminar in July, and will be spotlighted in association member e-newsletters in the coming school year.

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

IV. FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

VI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approve the minutes of the regular business meeting dated June 10, 2024.
- * **Motion:** Moved by _____ and seconded by _____,
that the minutes of the regular business meeting dated June 10, 2024, are approved as written.

Roll Call Vote:

VIII. 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@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.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

- The superintendent is recommending that action be taken on the following items of business:

A. Facilities / Transportation (Mrs. Lynch)

1. School Bus Driver Approval – 2024-2025 School Year

- Approve the hiring of ABC Transit, Inc., drivers from the attached list, subject to verification of all required licensing, clearances, and all other essential employment requirements for school bus operators under the laws of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The administration shall complete the verification prior to the first day of school for the 2024-2025 school year.

- * **Motion:** Moved by _____ and seconded by _____,
that Facilities/Transportation item 1 is approved.

Roll Call Vote:

B. Finance (Mr. Hamilton)

1. Disbursements (Fund 10) – June 2024

- General fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$13,005,987.12 from June 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, are approved as attached.

2. Disbursements (Fund 31) – June 2024

- Capital reserves fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$28,691.82 from June 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, are approved as attached.

3. Disbursements (Fund 10) – July 2024

- General fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$11,618,591.47 from July 1, 2024, through July 31, 2024, are approved as attached.

4. Finance Report – May 2024

- The finance report for May 2024 is acknowledged and filed for audit as attached.

5. Finance Report – June 2024

- The finance report for June 2024 is acknowledged and filed for audit as attached.

6. Student Activity Financial Reports – Fourth Quarter 2023-2024

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

7. PowerSchool Group LLC – Agreement – Allvue Subscription

- Approve the agreement as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and PowerSchool Group LLC for the Allvue subscription, for the period August 13, 2024, through December 31, 2026, at an initial cost of \$50,564.22 for 18 months including implementation fees, and a recurring cost of \$23,490 per year. **This is a new service.**

- * **Motion:** Moved by _____ and seconded by _____
that Finance items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are approved.

Roll Call Vote:

C. Instruction (Mrs. Cooper)

1. Audubon Society of Western PA (K-4 Environmental Program) – Agreement

- Approve the agreement as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania to provide the kindergarten through grade four environmental educational program for the 2024-2025 school year at a cost of \$33,150. **This is a renewal of services.**

2. Audubon Society of Western PA (5th-Grade Environmental Program) – Agreement

- Approve the agreement as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania to provide the grade five environmental educational program for the 2024-2025 school year at a cost of \$82,850. **This is a renewal of services.**

3. Duquesne University – College in High School Letter of Agreement

- Approve the college in high school letter of agreement as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Duquesne University for the 2024-2025, 2025-2026, and 2026-2027 school years and authorize the administration to execute the agreement on behalf of the district. **This is a new partnership.**

4. Pressley Ridge Day School Autism – Addendum #7 to the Contractual Agreement

- Approve Addendum #7 to the contractual agreement approved August 14, 2017, between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Pressley Ridge for services to students for the 2024-2025 school year as attached. **This is a renewal of services.**

5. The Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children Outreach Services Contract Agreement

- Approve the outreach services contract agreement as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children for services to students for the 2024-2025 school year effective August 30, 2024, through August 29, 2025. **This is a renewal of services.**

6. The School at McGuire Memorial – Educational Services Agreement

- Approve the educational services agreement as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and The School at McGuire Memorial for the 2024-2025 school year beginning August 28, 2024, through June 30, 2025, and the 2025 Extended School Year (ESY) program beginning July 7 through July 18, 2025. **This is a renewal of services.**

7. MHY Family Services – Longmore Academy – Agreement

- Approve the agreement as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and MHY Family Services for services to students at Longmore Academy for the 2024-2025 school year. **This is a renewal of services.**

8. Step By Step Learning – Master Services Agreement

- Approve the agreement as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Step By Step Learning to provide Title I services to Christ the Divine Teacher Academy for eligible Title I students residing within the Fox Chapel Area School District for the 2024-2025 school year effective August 12, 2024, through June 30, 2025. **This is a renewal of services.**

9. Wesley Family Services – Agreement

- Ratify the agreement as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Wesley Family Services for child/adolescent Partial Hospital Program (PHP) services for the 2024-2025 school year, effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. **This is a renewal of services.**

10. The Watson Institute – Service Agreement

- Ratify the service agreement as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and The Watson Institute for training and consultation services effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. **This is a renewal of services.**

11. LearnWell – Agreement

- Ratify the agreement as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and LearnWell for tutoring services effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at a cost stated in Exhibit A. **This is a renewal of services.**

12. STAT Staffing Medical Services, Inc. – Staffing Agreement

Ratify the staffing agreement as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and STAT Staffing Medical Services, Inc. to provide nursing services to the district effective June 20, 2024. **This is a renewal of services.**

13. The Bradley Center – Agreement for Educational Services

- Ratify the agreement as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and The Bradley Center for educational services for students effective for the 2024-2025 school year. **This is a renewal of services.**

**14. Allegheny Intermediate Unit
IDEA-Section 619 – Pass Through Funds/Use of Funds Agreement**

- Ratify the sub-grant agreement as attached for the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)-Section 619 between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit #3 for the period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, and authorize the superintendent to execute the agreement on behalf of the district. **This is a renewal of services.**

**15. Pittsburgh Behavioral Services, Inc. DBA PGH ABA
Educational Placement Service Agreement**

- Approve the educational placement service agreement as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Pittsburgh Behavioral Services, Inc. DBA PGH ABA for special education services for the 2024-2025 school year. **This is a renewal of services.**

16. PHASE 4 Learning Center, Inc. – ACT 48 Program Agreement for Services

- Approve the agreement as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and PHASE 4 Learning Center, Inc. for alternative education services for students for the 2024-2025 school year. **This is a renewal of services.**

17. The Watson Institute – The Education Center-Sewickley – Letter of Agreement

- Approve the letter of agreement as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and The Watson Institute for students enrolled in The Education Center-Sewickley for the 2024-2025 school year beginning August 22, 2024, and authorize the superintendent to execute the letter of agreement on behalf of the district. **This is a renewal of services.**

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

- Approve the letter of agreement as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and The Watson Institute for students enrolled in The Watson Institute Social Center for Academic Achievement (WISCA-Sharpsburg) for the 2024-2025 school year beginning August 22, 2024, and authorize the superintendent to execute the letter of agreement on behalf of the district. **This is a renewal of services.**

19. Leanlab Education – Memorandum of Understanding

- Approve the memorandum of understanding as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Leanlab Education to join the American Group of Innovative Learning Environments (AGILE) Network and engage in a minimum of two co-design research projects over a period of time spanning two academic years. **This is a new partnership with Leanlab Education, there are no additional costs for the district, and the district will receive a grant of \$4,500 for its participation as a member.**

- * **Motion:** Moved by _____ and seconded by _____, that Instruction items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 are approved.

Roll Call Vote:

D. Legislation / Policy (Mr. Frank)

No action is requested.

E. Personnel (Ms. Zych)

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.

1. Resignations

a. Administration

- (1) The resignation of John J. McGee, Ph.D., program principal (M-Z) at Fox Chapel Area High School, due to retirement, is accepted effective March 25, 2025.

b. Custodial/Maintenance

- (1) The resignation of Donna J. Elliott, 10-month, 8 hours per day custodian at Fox Chapel Area High School, due to retirement, is accepted effective October 10, 2024.

c. Supplemental Contracts – Athletic

- (1) The resignation of Allison McGrath, basketball-girls, HS 1st asst., due to personal reasons, is accepted effective June 19, 2024.
- (2) The resignation of Deborah Welty, wrestling, girls HS 1st asst., due to personal reasons, is accepted effective June 29, 2024.

d. Supplemental Contract – Non-Athletic

- (1) The resignation of Cheryl L. Etters, art – MS department head, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective June 18, 2024.

2. Appointments

a. Administration

- (1) Kevin B. Smetak, M.Ed., is approved as the program principal at O'Hara Elementary School. This position is available due to the transfer of Katelyn Toth.

Certificate: Administrative II
Education: B.S., California University of PA, 1994
M.Ed., California University of PA, 2008
Experience: 12 1/2 Years, Freeport Area School District
13 1/2 Years, Yough School District
Effective: To be determined
Salary: \$115,000
Fringe Benefits: As per the Act 93 Agreement

b. Professional

- (1) Monica M. Gralewski is approved as a special education teacher at Hartwood Elementary School. This position is available due to the transfer of Heather Flynn.

Certification: Instructional I
Education: B.S., Slippery Rock University, 2023
Experience: Student Teaching, Fox Chapel Area School District
1/2 Year, Fox Chapel Area School District
Effective: August 14, 2024
Salary: \$58,893, based on Step 2, B+0
Fringe Benefits: As per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

- (2) Cole R. Scisciani is approved as a Spanish teacher at Fox Chapel Area High School. This position is available due to the resignation of Shannon Finley.

Certification: Instructional I
Education: B.A., Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 2018
B.S., Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 2018
MAT, University of Pittsburgh, 2022
Experience: 1 Year, Baldwin-Whitehall School District
Effective: August 14, 2024
Salary: \$67,193 based on Step 2, M+0
Fringe Benefits: As per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

- (3) Miranda M. Zarlino is approved as an elementary teacher at O’Hara Elementary School. This position is available due to increased enrollment.

Certification: Instructional I
 Education: B.S., Duquesne University, 2021
 Experience: 1 Year, Elizabeth Forward School District
 1 Year, Fox Chapel Area School District
 Effective: August 14, 2024
 Salary: \$64,868 based on Step 3, B+24
 Fringe Benefits: As per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

c. Custodial/Maintenance

- (1) Myla A. Chirico is approved as a 10-month, 8-hour per day custodian at Hartwood Elementary School for a probationary period, effective August 19, 2024, pursuant to the Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). The salary and fringe benefits are set as per the CBA. This position is available due to the retirement of John Malyszka.
- (2) David A. Ploskunak is approved as a 12-month, 8-hour per day maintenance employee for the Fox Chapel Area School District for a probationary period, effective August 14, 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 anticipated resignation.

d. Food Services

- (1) Sharon Tarasi is approved as a permanent, part-time (5 hours per day) food services employee at Fox Chapel Area High School. Hourly wage is set based on the wage scale for food services employees, General Food Worker, with no fringe benefits, effective August 15, 2024. This position is available due to the resignation of Pamela Dolan.

e. Supplemental Contracts – Athletic

- (1) The following athletic supplemental contracts are ratified, effective August 1, 2024:

David Busch	Golf-Girls, JV Head (50%)	\$1,221.00
Isabella Lagazzi Rogazy	Field Hockey, MS Asst.	\$2,466.00
Rory Marsico	Soccer, Boys, MS Asst.	\$4,087.00
Bruce Valinsky	Golf-Girls, JV Head (50%)	\$1,221.00

- (2) The following athletic supplemental contracts are approved, effective August 13, 2024:

Christopher Bandurski	Basketball-Boys, Freshman Asst.	\$3,559.00
John Baxter	Fitness Center Supervisor, HS (50%)	\$4,443.00
Gabriella Bonelli	Intramurals, Spring-Girls, Fairview (50%)	\$773.00
Amanda Kalin	Basketball-Girls, HS 1st Asst.	\$6,469.00
Julia Punttil	Intramurals, Spring-Girls, Fairview (50%)	\$773.00
Jason Rivera	Wrestling, Girls HS 1st Asst. (50%)	\$3,190.50
Mark Shemanski	Fitness Center Supervisor, HS (50%)	\$4,443.00
Bruce Valinsky	Basketball-Boys, Freshman Head	\$5,476.00
Deborah Welty	Wrestling, Girls HS 1st Asst. (50%)	\$3,190.50

f. Supplemental Contracts – Athletic – Spring Season 2024-2025 School Year

- (1) The athletic supplemental contracts for the spring season of the 2024-2025 school year are ratified / approved as attached.

g. Substitute Athletic Trainer

- (1) Erin Zedreck is approved as a substitute certified athletic trainer, effective August 13, 2024, at a rate of \$30 per hour.

3. Leaves

a. Professional

- (1) Gabriella E. Haberman, 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 October 31, 2024, with return scheduled for March 28, 2025.
- (2) Allan C. Quackenbush, physical education teacher at Dorseyville Middle School, is approved for a medical sabbatical, effective August 14, 2024, with return scheduled for the first day of the 2025-2026 school year.

4. Leave Replacements

a. Administration

- (1) Paul S. Noro, Ed.D., is approved as an intermittent leave replacement program principal for the Fox Chapel Area School District, effective August 14, 2024, at a rate of \$500 per day. If evening hours are required, the daily rate for that day will be \$600 per day. This position is available due to the needs of the district.

b. Professional

- (1) Anna N. Steen is approved as a leave replacement teacher at O'Hara Elementary School. This position is available due to increased enrollment.

Certification: Instructional I
Education: B.S., Duquesne University, 2022
Experience: Student Teaching, Shaler Area School District
Effective: August 14, 2024, through the day after the last day for students for the 2024-2025 school year
Salary: \$58,368 based on Step 1, B+0
Fringe Benefits: As per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

- (2) Natalia A. Steen is approved as a leave replacement school counselor at O'Hara Elementary School. This position is available due to the resignation of Emily Maropis.

Certification: Educational Specialist I
Education: B.A., Duquesne University, 2020
M.Ed., Duquesne University, 2022
Experience: 1 Year, Pine-Richland School District
Effective: August 14, 2024, through the day after the last day for students for the 2024-2025 school year
Salary: \$67,193 based on Step 2, M+0
Fringe Benefits: As per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

5. Change of Status

a. Educational Support

- (1) Melissa L. Zimmerman, pupil services secretary for the Fox Chapel Area School District, is approved as the 10-month building secretary at Kerr Elementary School, effective date to be determined. Salary is set based on the salary scale for 10-month secretaries, Step 4, with benefits as per the Fox Chapel Area Education Support Professionals Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. This position is available due to the retirement of Susan Pesci.

6. Professional Employee Assignments

- a. The professional employee assignments for the 2024-2025 school term are approved as attached.

7. Summer Program – 2024

a. Middle School

- (1) The following individuals are ratified as substitute instructors for the Dorseyville Middle School Summer Learning Academy at a rate of \$31.54 per hour:

Lynn D. Erdos
Douglas R. Kitay
Andrew J. Richards

8. Volunteer – Athletic

- a. The following athletic volunteer is approved for the 2024-2025 school year, effective August 13, 2024:

Kevin Carney Soccer, Boys, HS

* **Motion:** Moved by _____ and seconded by _____,
that Personnel items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are approved.

Roll Call Vote:

Personnel Information Item:

9. Tenure – Information

- a. The following employee is eligible for a Professional Employee’s Contract (tenure) effective August 13, 2024:

Shannon Finley

- b. The following employees are eligible for a Professional Employee’s Contract (tenure) effective August 16, 2024:

Jessica Gentilcore
Gabriella Haberman
Kirstein Sharrow
Emily Sucheovich

F. Operations / Cooperative Services (Mr. Goode)

1. Authorization to Advertise to Rebid – Hartwood Elementary School HVAC Project Electrical Construction Contract

- Authorize the advertisement to rebid the electrical construction contract for the Hartwood Elementary School HVAC project.

2. Safety Incentive Program

- Approve the Fox Chapel Area School District safety incentive program for the period October 1, 2024, through May 31, 2025, for district employees at an estimated cost of \$8,000 as attached.

- * **Motion:** Moved by _____ and seconded by _____, that Operations/Cooperative Services items 1 and 2 are approved.

Roll Call Vote:

XI. 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.

XII. FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

XIII. BOARD COMMENTS

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

- * **Motion:** Moved by _____ and seconded by _____, that the meeting is adjourned. Time: _____.

Voice Vote:

NOTE: Attachments cited within the agenda are available for the public on the district website. Anyone without access to the district website who wishes to review the attachments may do so by contacting the Board Secretary during regular business hours.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Information

•Dorseyville Middle School Named 2024 Schools of Distinction Recipient

Dorseyville Middle School in the Fox Chapel Area School District has been recognized among 17 schools nationwide as part of the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) 2024 Schools of Distinction. AMLE's Schools of Distinction program recognizes exemplary schools, while supporting them through a process of strategic vision setting to help foster ongoing growth and success.

Dorseyville Middle School, the first and only school in Pennsylvania to ever be named a School of Distinction, completed a rigorous review process that measured implementation of middle grades best practice and continuous improvement plans. After advancing from the initial application, the school community participated in a series of stakeholder interviews that included staff, students, and families.

"It is a privilege to recognize Dorseyville Middle School as an AMLE School of Distinction. They are truly worthy of this prestigious honor," said Stephanie Simpson, CEO of AMLE.

During the review process, several "Essential Attributes" were evaluated to ensure that the school provides an education for young adolescents that is responsive, challenging, empowering, equitable, and engaging. Specifically, the evaluation team mentioned young adolescents being the foundation of all decisions made at Dorseyville Middle School, that high expectations are cultivated for the entire school community, that the school facilitates students taking responsibility for their own learning and making positive contributions to the world around them, that the school provides socially just learning opportunities, and that the school atmosphere is motivating for all learners. Additionally, the school is also evaluated on the characteristics of culture and community; curriculum, instruction, and assessment; and leadership and organization.

Dorseyville Middle School Program Principal Dr. Laura Miller spearheaded the application process, which is designed and meant to be reflective of best middle level practices.

"I am so proud that Dorseyville Middle School is the first school in Pennsylvania to receive this recognition," Dr. Miller said. "The evaluation team found in the Dorseyville Middle School community what we see every day – the great work that our students, staff, and entire school community does to make Dorseyville Middle School a great place for students."

According to Fox Chapel Area School District Superintendent Dr. Mary Catherine Reljac, Dorseyville Middle School offers an exemplary overall program that addresses not just academics, but the whole child.

"Dorseyville Middle School is a joyful place where the entire school community works together to fulfill the district's strategic vision pillars of purpose, passion, care, and community," Dr. Reljac said. "We are very proud of their efforts and that others recognize the work that happens day in and day out in the school community."

AMLE recognizes schools that meet the Schools of Distinction criteria on an annual basis. Dorseyville Middle School will be recognized and present on their exemplary practices live at AMLE24: The 51st Annual Conference for Middle Level Education this November in Nashville.

The AMLE is an international membership organization that helps middle grades educators reach every student, grow professionally, and create great schools.

•FCASD Wins 2024 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence

The Fox Chapel Area School District, in conjunction with three community organizations, was awarded a 2024 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. The "Second-Graders Restoring Habitat at Salamander Park" was a joint project done in conjunction with students from Fox Chapel Area School District, the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, the Allegheny County Chapter of the Izaak

Walton League of America, and Fox Chapel Borough Parks Commission and Public Works Department.

As part of the project, second-graders from all four of the district's elementary schools (Fairview, Hartwood, Kerr, and O'Hara) restored habitat at Fox Chapel Borough's Salamander Park which brought the district together with nonprofit environmental groups. More than 300 students enhanced a local habitat by planting over 300 trees to improve the riparian habitat of Sycamore Run (a stream that borders Salamander Park). The partnership engaged students, teachers, nonprofit organizations, and community volunteers to plant more than 1,500 native trees.

"This year's Environmental Excellence honorees showcase the innovative ways we can protect our environment and shape a more sustainable future here in Pennsylvania," said DEP Interim Acting Secretary Jessica Shirley. "Together we will spur the next generation of environmental stewards and these projects represent our ability to work together to preserve Pennsylvania's natural resources."

Applications were evaluated for their degree of environmental protection, innovation, partnership, economic impact, consideration of climate change, sustainability, and environmental justice, as well as outcomes achieved.

The awards, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), honored 22 projects statewide with the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence.

• High School Students and Graduates Named AP Scholars

A total of 181 current Fox Chapel Area High School students and 2024 graduates were named Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars by the College Board for demonstrating college-level achievement on the AP examinations taken in May 2024. The College Board recognizes three levels of achievement based on the number of courses and exams.

—The following graduates/students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction award by earning an average score of 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams: 2024 graduates **Jacob Anthikad, Annalese Bartolacci, Dylan Berman, Micah Cagley, Jack Cannon, Jeremiah Cessna, Joshua Correnti, Amelia Costello, Grady Cullen, Nicholas Cusano, Eliza Davis, Logan Dressman, David Feder, Gabriel Felman, Adam Ferris, Madeline Fontenot, Emmett Gillespie, Lucas Gravina, Katherine Haas, Julia Hernaez, Anna Iasella, Isaac Jacobs, Darren Jayaratnam, Madelyn Jones, Whitney Jones, Alexander Kaufmann, Clara Kelley, Chloe Kim, Emma Kim, Henry Koloc, Kathleen Krebs, Shriya Krishnamurthy, Massimo Lagazzi, Lucy Larsen, Harry Littwin, Rebecca Lokshanov, Jacob Milgrub, Rose Mullan, Benjamin Myers, Thomas Patterson, Lakshanya Rajaganapathi, Oscar Ruff, Michael Shin, Nora Siri, Madeleine Stone, Adhitya Thirumala, Kieu My Tong, Emily Torbert, Gabriella Urso, Andrew Wagner, Gloria Wen, Abraham White, Isabella White, Dylan Work, and Bridget Yun;** and 2024-2025 seniors **Murugan Ayyanar, David Black, Milo Chiu, Elena Curran, Anna Delale O'Connor, Noelle Dick, Reed Echnat, Kai Edwards, Brooke Fenton, Benjamin Fiedler, Gabrielle Generett, Gabriella Hample, Rayna Huang, Etash Jhanji, Patton Johnson, Alex Kim, Arnim Kuchhal, Peter Mascilli, Devon McDonald, Noah Miller, Wyatt Muller, Salome Navas Grijalva, Zhana Neumann, Kyle Ong, Sangyon Park, Hannah Parker, Hyunoh Ro, Varad Sant, Rohit Velankar, JinLiang Zhang, and Yuqi Zhou.**

—The following graduates/students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor award by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams: 2024 graduates **Lincoln Baldwin, Isabella Barbour, Molly Ben, Maria Costantino, Camryn Eisner, Sage Good, Mikayla Korczynski, Jenna Lazaro, Connor Mazzoni, Rachel Milcheck, Ryan Napolitan, Can Pekkan, Anneliese Pham, Miguel Quercia Marcano, Gavin Rosswog, Claudia Smith, and Emily Staud;** and 2024-2025 seniors **Omar Al-Bataineh, Ainsley Anderson, Rebecca Chang, Malik Choset, Ava Condron, Eleanor Dering, Maya DiPasquale, Olivia Dugan, Moonyoung Hwang, Anna Kitner, Jonah Kline, Charles Larsen, Weidi Li, Swati Mylarappa, Aidan Ortz, Rachel Pegher, Ava Persichetti, Francesco Pistella, Varnujah Rengaramanujam Kanagaraj, Josiah Rivera, Addison Rossi, Caroline Slember, Paige Solomon, Sophie Thorne, Luke Tsai, Samuel Ummer, Colette Walter, Mya Wilson, Caterina Wu, Timothy Ye, and Altai Yumak.**

—The following graduates/students qualified for the AP Scholar award by receiving scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams: 2024 graduates **Ella Bingler, Mireia Burkhardt, Mira Busch, Anna Dering, Jack Filter, Porter Hill, Caroline Hinz, Aiden Hirsch, Owen Levy, Kristopher Pizzella, Sophia Rike, Micah Shelley, Sarah Slember, and Parv Tahiliani**; 2024-2025 seniors **Katherine Banyas, Nicholas Clump, Tyler Goldstein, Natalie Hanlon, Alaina Hershey, Owen Howell, Madeleine Jones, Nicole Kang, Grace Kovach, Even Krieg, Joshua Lowe, Nathan Mackey, Alina Minturn, Stella Minturn, Anna Mohn, Pierce Osterholm, Vanessa Perez Milano, Melisa Pietz, Margaret Rusche, Keegan Scanlon, Jane Stone, Gianna Tavorario, Owen Zaremby, and Luca Zgurzynski**; and 2024-2025 juniors **Sophia Feng, Priscila Hayetian, Zinta Jacob, Ulyana Kubini, Simon Littwin, Max Melocchi, Joshua Shah, Lorenzo Smiraglio, and Anais Wang**.

Advanced Placement exams are graded on a 5-point scale, with 5 being the highest. Most of the nation's four-year colleges and universities award credit and/or advanced placement for qualifying exam scores. Every year, AP examinations are offered in a wide variety of subject areas, each consisting of multiple choice and free-response (essay or problem-solving) questions.

• Graduate Named National Winner in America's Field Trip Contest

Fox Chapel Area High School 2024 graduate **Benjamin Myers** was named a first-place national winner in the America's Field Trip contest. The competition is a new, nationwide scholastic contest and thousands of students from across the country submitted inspiring entries responding to the prompt, "What Does America Mean to You?". Entries included artwork, videos, and essays.

The entries were judged by current and former educators who selected 150 students as first- and second-place winners from 44 states and territories. There were three age-related categories, and Benjamin, who submitted an essay, was one of 25 (only two were from Pennsylvania) to be named a first-place winner in the high school category which included grades 9-12. Each first-place winner and one guest will have the opportunity to take part in a special field trip exploring some of America's iconic landmarks, historical sites, and cultural treasures across the country, with free travel and lodging.

According to an email from Rosie Rios, the chair of America250, "We are immensely proud of all the students who participated in the first-ever America's Field Trip competition. The submissions reflected diverse perspectives and an inspiring array of visions for our nation's future."

The America's Field Trip contest is a program of America250, the official nonpartisan entity charged by Congress with planning the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Funding for the competition was provided by The Bank of New York (BNY) Mellon Foundation.

• Students Place in Regional Math Competition

Five Fox Chapel Area School District students placed in the 2024 regional CalcuSolve tournament. Individually, Dorseyville Middle School 2023-2024 sixth-grader **Brian Xu** tied for second place and Fairview Elementary School 2023-2024 fifth-grader **Elena Brown** was awarded third place in the competition. Additionally, the Fairview Elementary School team of 2023-2024 fifth-graders **Elena, Dante DiNardo, and Prisha Jhanji**, and 2023-2024 fourth-grader **Daniel Wu** won second place in the team competition.

A total of 60 teams formed by 214 students participated in the contest from across Allegheny County and surrounding areas. The tournament was held virtually on May 15 and was sponsored by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit.

CalcuSolve is a competition that tests students' problem-solving skills related to mathematics. Students compete as part of a team, as well as individually.

• High School Graduate Named Western Pennsylvania Positive Athlete

Fox Chapel Area High School 2024 Graduate **Colin Lazzara** was named the 2024 Western Pennsylvania Boys Alternative Sport Positive Athlete for his participation in Unified Bocce. The awards, issued by

the Western Pennsylvania Positive Athlete organization, are based on a student-athlete's character; positive attitude; and ability to lead, encourage, and respect everyone around them.

Colin played soccer and earned many honors and awards throughout his four years on the Foxes varsity team. Even before he reached the high school, Colin helped one of the special education teachers at Dorseyville Middle School by teaching some of her students how to play soccer.

After that experience, Colin knew he wanted to get involved with Best Buddies at the high school. Best Buddies is a program that connects people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities through friendships, jobs, sports, and leadership.

Colin joined the group as a freshman and then, when Foxes varsity soccer concluded that season, he sought something different to do during the winter. That's when Best Buddies co-sponsor and high school transition facilitator, Dr. **Stacie Dojonovic**, encouraged him to join the Unified Sports program, which is affiliated with Special Olympics.

There are two Unified Sports teams at the high school, bocce and track & field, and Colin competed in both. He remained with both teams through his senior year and was named captain of the bocce team in his final year.

• **2024 Graduate Named to All-American Girls Lacrosse Team**

2024 graduate **Sydney Schutzman** was named to the All-American Girls Lacrosse Team. She is one of 42 students from across the state and one of only eight from Western Pennsylvania to be selected for the team. According to USA Lacrosse, an All-American is a player who exhibits superior skills and techniques and possesses exceptional game sense and knowledge. Additionally, a USA All-American is one of the best players in the United States, while also embodying excellent sportsmanship. The players are selected for the team by voting through coaches.

• **2024 Graduate Named to All-WPIAL Girls Lacrosse Team**

Fox Chapel Area High School 2024 graduate **Sydney Schutzman** was named to the 2024 All-WPIAL Class 3A Girls Lacrosse Team. A total of 14 players from Class 3A were chosen for the team.

• **Seven Named to All-Section Girls Lacrosse Teams**

Two 2024 graduates and five students were named to WPIAL Class 3A Section 2 girls lacrosse teams. 2024 graduate **Sydney Schutzman**, 2023-2024 junior **Megan Delaney**, and 2023-2024 sophomores **Caroline Grimsley** and **Caroline Leland** were named to the first team; 2023-2024 junior **Kennedy Murton** and 2023-2024 sophomore **Zehra Ozkaya** were named to the second team; and 2024 graduate **Lila Valkanas** received an honorable mention to the team.

• **Four Named to Big 56 All-Section Softball Teams**

One 2024 Fox Chapel Area High School graduate and three students were named to Western Pennsylvania Big 56 5A softball all-section teams. 2024 graduate **Mia Dunleavy** was named to the first team, 2023-2024 freshman **Jillian Haigh** was named to the second team, and 2023-2024 sophomores **Summer Burkhart** and **Ava Walmsley** received honorable mentions to the team.

• **Graduate and Student Named to Valley News Dispatch All-Star Teams**

Fox Chapel Area High School graduate and a student were named to Valley News Dispatch all-star softball teams. 2024 graduate **Mia Dunleavy** was named to the first team and freshmen **Jillian Haigh** was named to the second team. The teams were featured in the Sunday, June 23, Valley News Dispatch.

• **Graduate Selected for Special Softball Team**

2024 Fox Chapel Area High School graduate **Mia Dunleavy** was chosen to participate in the inaugural 2024 Western PA Senior Softball All-Star Game. Mia was selected to play third base. The black team played the gold team June 18 at Plum in a game that featured the WPIAL’s top graduating players.

• **Seven Named to Big 56 All-Section Baseball Teams**

Four 2024 graduates and three students were named to Western Pennsylvania Big 56 5A baseball all-section teams. 2023-2024 juniors **Antonio LeDonne** and **Jeremy Haigh** were named to the first team; 2024 graduates **Benjamin DeMotte**, **Troy Susnak**, and **Christian Wilkinson** were named to the second team; and 2024 graduate **Mitchell Epstein** and 2023-2024 sophomore **Blake Krushinski** received honorable mentions to the team.

• **Two Students Named to Valley News Dispatch All-Star Baseball Teams**

Two Fox Chapel Area High School juniors were named to Valley News Dispatch all-star teams. **Jeremy Haigh** was named to the first team and **Antonio LeDonne** was named to the second team. The students were featured in the Sunday, June 23, 2024, Valley News Dispatch.

• **Graduate Top-Scorer in Roundball Classic Game**

Fox Chapel Area High School 2024 graduate **Jefferson Moorefield-Brown** was the top-scorer and was named the MVP for the WPIAL Class 5A silver team as part of the Roundball Classic basketball games. The top senior players from the WPIAL, City League, and District 10 were chosen to participate in the all-star games. The boys Class 5A games were played May 25 at North Allegheny High School.

B. Fox Chapel Area School Board Upcoming Meetings

September 9, 2024

7 p.m.	Combined Agenda Study Session and Regular Business Meeting	High School	LGI Room
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October 7, 2024

7 p.m.	Agenda Study Session	High School	LGI Room
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October 14, 2024

7 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	High School	LGI Room
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November 4, 2024

7 p.m.	Agenda Study Session	High School	LGI Room
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November 11, 2024

7 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Kerr Elementary	Gym
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December 3, 2024 (Tuesday)

7 p.m.	Reorganization Meeting & Combined Agenda Study Session and Regular Business Meeting	High School	LGI Room
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