

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Agenda Study Session  
October 7, 2024 – 7 p.m.  
Fox Chapel Area High School LGI Room

Regular Business Meeting  
October 14, 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

•Seven Fox Chapel Area High School seniors have been designated as National Merit Semifinalists and 23 have been named Commended Students in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program. The Semifinalists from Fox Chapel Area High School are **David Black, Anna Delale-O'Connor, Benjamin Fiedler, Rayna Huang, Arnim Kuchhal, Zhana Neumann, and Rohit Velankar**. The Commended Students from Fox Chapel Area High School are **Omar Al-Bataineh, Murugan Ayyanar, Noelle Dick, Maya DiPasquale, Alaina Hershey, Owen Howell, Moonyoung Hwang, Etash Jhanji, Patton Johnson, Alex Kim, Evan Krieg, Nathan Mackey, Devon McDonald, Noah Miller, Pierce Osterholm, Rachel Pegher, Hyunoh Ro, Caleb Shirk, David Sorisio, Mya Wilson, Caterina Wu, JinLiang Zhang, and Yuqi Zhou**.

All of these students were selected based on their 2023 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) scores. Each year, more than 1.3 million juniors complete the PSAT/NMSQT and are automatically entered in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Approximately 16,000 advance to become Semifinalists and about 34,000 are Commended. The Semifinalists represent less than one percent of the nation's high school seniors and the Commended Students scored in the top 5%. A Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT or ACT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test. Semifinalists must also participate in school and community activities, demonstrate leadership abilities, and receive other awards and honors. The Commended Students are recognized for their exceptional academic promise.

The Semifinalists now have the opportunity to advance to the Finalist level and compete for some 6,870 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$26 million to be offered in the spring of 2025.

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 combined agenda study session and regular business meeting dated September 9, 2024.
- \* **Motion:** Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, that the minutes of the combined agenda study session and regular business meeting dated September 9, 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. Additional School Bus Drivers – 2024-2025 School Year

- Ratify hiring the additional ABC Transit, Inc., drivers from the attached list effective for the 2024-2025 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.

2. H.F. Lenz Co. – Agreement  
Fox Chapel Area High School Electrical Design Project

- Approve the agreement as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and H.F. Lenz Co. for services related to the Fox Chapel Area High School electrical design project at a cost of \$9,500. **This is a new agreement.**

3. H.F. Lenz Co. – Agreement  
Fox Chapel Area High School Structural Investigation and Drilling Project

- Approve the agreement as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and H.F. Lenz Co. for services related to the Fox Chapel Area High School structural investigation and drilling project at a cost of \$5,450. **This is a new agreement.**

4. H.F. Lenz Co. – Agreement  
Dorseyville Middle School HVAC Design for E-Sport Lab Project

- Approve the agreement as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and H.F. Lenz Co. for engineering services related to the Dorseyville Middle School HVAC Design for E-Sport Lab project at a cost of \$2,750. **This is a new agreement.**

- \* **Motion:** Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, that Facilities / Transportation items 1, 2, 3, and 4 are approved.

Roll Call Vote:

**B. Finance** (*Mr. Hamilton*)

**1. Disbursements (Fund 10) – September 2024**

- General fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$12,507,322.80 from September 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024, are approved as attached.

**2. Disbursements (Fund 31) – September 2024**

- Capital reserves fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$12,984 from September 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024, are approved as attached.

**3. Finance Report – August 2024**

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

**4. Budget Transfers**

- The budget transfers for 2024-2025 are approved as attached.

\* **Motion:** Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_,  
that Finance items 1, 2, 3, and 4 are approved.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**C. Instruction** (*Mrs. Cooper*)

No action is requested.

**D. Legislation / Policy** (*Mr. Frank*)

**1. Policies – Revised – First Reading**

- Approve the first reading of the following revised policies as attached:

- No. 218 – Student Discipline
- No. 218.1 – Weapons
- No. 222 – Tobacco and Vaping Products
- No. 227 – Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia
- No. 249 – Bullying/Cyberbullying
- No. 323 – Tobacco and Vaping Products
- No. 351 – Controlled Substance Abuse
- No. 707 – Use of School Facilities
- No. 801 – Public Records
- No. 805 – Emergency Preparedness and Response
- No. 805.1 – Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies
- No. 806 – Child Abuse
- No. 903 – Public Comment in Board Meetings
- No. 904 – Public Attendance at School Events

\* **Motion:** Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_,  
that Legislation/Policy item 1 is approved.

**Roll Call Vote:**

E. Personnel (Ms. Zych)

F. Operations / Cooperative Services (Mr. Goode)

1. Fox Chapel Area School District Comprehensive Emergency Management (CEM) Plan

- Approve the district’s Comprehensive Emergency Management (CEM) Plan. This multi-hazard plan replaces the basic emergency plan, and is in compliance with state and federal emergency guidelines under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). This plan must be approved annually.

2. Dagostino Electronic Services, Inc. – Agreement

- Ratify the agreement as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Dagostino Electronic Services, Inc. for annual preventative maintenance, extended coverage hours, priority response, and routine system upgrades, effective September 6, 2024, at an annual cost of \$13,440, and authorize the superintendent to execute the agreement on behalf of the district. **This is a new agreement.**

3. Printing/Copying Management Services Request for Proposal

- Authorize the issuance of a Request for Proposal for printing/copying management services. **The district is issuing a Request for Proposal to consider services, quality, and costs of copier/print vendors and manufacturers. The document will be issued to a number of selected vendors and manufacturers, will be posted on the district website, and will be advertised.**

4. Donation – Guyasuta Garden Club

- Accept the donation of \$500 from the Guyasuta Garden Club to be used for the new courtyard at Dorseyville Middle School.

5. Donation – JAM #bethekindkid

- Accept the donation of \$450 from JAM #bethekindkid to be used toward Project Kindness (\$200) and to establish a JAM Packed Closet (\$250) at Hartwood Elementary School.

\* **Motion:** Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, that Operations / Cooperative Services items 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 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. Enrollment and Fire Drills

### B. Information

#### •DMS Named 2024 National Blue Ribbon School

Dorseyville Middle School has been named a 2024 National Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education. United States Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona today recognized 356 schools as the 2024 cohort of National Blue Ribbon Schools. This prestigious recognition highlights schools that excel in academic performance and/or make significant strides in closing achievement gaps among different student groups.

Dorseyville was recognized as an “Exemplary High Performing School.” Exemplary High Performing Schools are among the top performers in their state as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests. The department recognizes all schools based on student performance data, including assessment results, student subgroup performance, and graduation rates. A total of 13 schools in Pennsylvania are being recognized for 2024, and only two are middle schools.

“The National Blue Ribbon Schools Award is a testament to the exceptional achievements of students and educators at each of these schools,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. “The 2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools are raising the bar for our nation’s students, serving as models for effective teaching and intentional collaboration in their schools and communities. As we celebrate their achievements, let us look to these schools for inspiration as we champion education as the foundation of a brighter future for every child.”

Each nominated school submits a comprehensive application detailing its school culture, programs, assessments, instructional practices, professional development, leadership, family, and community involvement.

“We are incredibly honored to be recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School. This achievement reflects the hard work, dedication, and commitment of our students, staff, and community to academic excellence and creating a nurturing environment for all learners,” said Dr. Laura Miller, program principal at Dorseyville Middle School, who completed the comprehensive application for the school.

National Blue Ribbon Schools are led by leaders who articulate a clear vision of instructional excellence and uphold high standards. They showcase effective teaching methods and offer robust professional development for their staff. Data-driven instruction is a hallmark, and there is a concerted effort to ensure every student succeeds. Collaboration among families, communities, and educators is a key component of their success.

Up to 420 schools may be nominated each year. The department invites nominations for the National Blue Ribbon Schools award from the top education official in all states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education. Private schools are nominated by the Council for American Private Education.

This is the second time Dorseyville Middle School was named a National Blue Ribbon School. The first time was in 1994-1996. Additionally, over the years, all of the Fox Chapel Area School District schools have been named National Blue Ribbon Schools (beginning in 1991-1992), with Fox Chapel Area High School and Fairview Elementary School also being named Blue Ribbon Schools twice.

#### •Student Named Among Top 300 in National Science Competition

Dorseyville Middle School eighth-grader **Rishabh Krishnamurthy** was named one of the Top 300 Junior Innovators in the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge (Thermo Fisher JIC) for the second consecutive year. Thermo Fisher JIC is the nation’s premier science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) competition for middle school students. The Thermo Fisher JIC, a program of Society for Science, seeks to inspire young scientists, engineers, and innovators to solve the grand challenges of the future.

The Top 300 Junior Innovators (including 15 from Pennsylvania) were selected from 1,862 entrants from 48 states, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands who applied to compete in the Thermo Fisher JIC. Students who are named in the top 10% of their local science fair were eligible to enter the contest. Rishabh was chosen based on his project “Can Crowdsourced Weather Monitoring Work,” for which he was awarded a first place in the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair in April 2024.

“The next generation of scientists and engineers emerging from middle schools today is remarkable,” said Maya Ajmera, president and CEO, Society for Science and executive publisher, Science News. “Their projects tackle real-world problems with creativity and rigor beyond their years. I congratulate each and every one of the Top 300 Junior Innovators and wish them the best of luck in their scientific and engineering careers.”

“The Top 300 projects are an extraordinary reflection of what matters most to these students and their dedication to improving lives through the use of STEM,” said Dr. Karen Nelson, chief scientific officer, Thermo Fisher Scientific. “Congratulations to the entire class of 2024 Junior Innovators – your example strengthens our ambition to make STEM education equitable for all youth.”

Each of the Top 300 Junior Innovators received a \$125 award from Department of Defense (DoD) STEM, as well as a special prize package.

**• FCAHS Students Win 2024 Teen Media Award**

Fox Chapel Area High School juniors **Akshay Lath** and **Rodrigo Silva** were named winners in Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh’s 2024 Ralph Munn Creative Writing and Teen Media Awards. Akshay and Rodrigo were awarded second place in the short film category for their submission, “The Hill District: A History of Jazz.”

“The sheer talent showcased in this year’s entries is truly inspiring,” said Simon Rafferty, library services supervisor – STEAM Learning. “We are so grateful that these brave young artists chose to share their work with us.”

Kizuwanda Raines, also of STEAM Learning, praised this year’s entrants saying, “These teens are so inspiring and have motivated me to try my hand at something!”

The contest, sponsored by the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, was open to all high school students in grades 9-12 across Allegheny County. More than 300 submissions were received in the categories of poetry, short prose, cover art design, short film, music, photography, 3D art, 2D art, and fashion, and a total of 28 first-place, second-place, and honorable mention winners were named in the categories.

The winning entries in poetry, prose, and works of art were on display at the main library in Oakland. The entries of the winners and others are also published in an anthology which is distributed to all public libraries in Allegheny County. This year, 43 teens had their poetry and prose published.

All of the winners were recognized for their creative content at a reception during the library’s end-of-summer extravaganza.

**C. Fox Chapel Area School Board Upcoming Meetings**

October 8, 2024

6 p.m.	Governance Committee Meeting	Administrative Offices	Staff Development Room
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October 14, 2024

7 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	High School	LGI Room
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October 15, 2024

6 p.m.	Academic Committee Meeting	Administrative Offices	Staff Development Room
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*Agenda Study Session –10/7/24*

October 22, 2024

6 p.m.	Projects and Planning Committee Meeting	Administrative Offices	Staff Development 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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November 12, 2024

6 p.m.	Governance Committee Meeting	Administrative Offices	Staff Development Room
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November 19, 2024

6 p.m.	Academic Committee Meeting	Administrative Offices	Staff Development Room
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November 26, 2024

6 p.m.	Projects and Planning Committee Meeting	Administrative Offices	Staff Development Room
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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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January 7, 2025

6 p.m.	Governance Committee Meeting	Administrative Offices	Staff Development Room
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January 14, 2025

6 p.m.	Academic Committee Meeting	Administrative Offices	Staff Development Room
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January 21, 2025

6 p.m.	Projects and Planning Committee Meeting	Administrative Offices	Staff Development Room
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February 4, 2025

6 p.m.	Governance Committee Meeting	Administrative Offices	Staff Development Room
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February 11, 2025

6 p.m.	Academic Committee Meeting	Administrative Offices	Staff Development Room
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February 18, 2025

6 p.m.	Projects and Planning Committee Meeting	Administrative Offices	Staff Development Room
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*Agenda Study Session –10/7/24*

March 11, 2025

6 p.m.	Governance Committee Meeting	Administrative Offices	Staff Development Room
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March 18, 2025

6 p.m.	Projects and Planning Committee Meeting	Administrative Offices	Staff Development Room
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April 28, 2025

6 p.m.	Academic Committee Meeting	Administrative Offices	Staff Development Room
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