

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMBINED AGENDA STUDY SESSION  
AND REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

SEPTEMBER 9, 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 7:04 p.m. on September 9, 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 discuss district business that if discussed in public would violate a lawful privilege or lead to the disclosure of confidential information; an employment matter; information or strategy related to a collective bargaining agreement; and matters related to school safety that if conducted in public would be reasonably likely to impair its effectiveness.

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

**ROLL-CALL**

The Board members present at roll call were Mrs. Cooper, Ms. Dadd, Ms. Findley, Mr. Frank, Mr. Goode, Mr. Hamilton, Dr. Haselkorn, 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**

Kellen Bleier, vice president, and Nathan Mackey, treasurer, gave an update on FLC activities and a leadership retreat that was held in August.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**•PSBA's Honor Roll of School Board Service Program**

Six Fox Chapel Area School Board members have earned certificates of appreciation as part of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association's (PSBA) Honor Roll of School Board Service program. The program celebrates school board directors for long-term service and recognizes their dedication to their local districts and communities.

The following Fox Chapel Area School Board members are being honored for five years of service: **Amy Cooper, Marybeth Dadd, Ronald Frank, Adam Goode, Eric Hamilton, and Vanessa Lynch.**

**•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 three significant recognitions recently earned by Dorseyville Middle School.

Dorseyville Middle School program principal, Dr. Laura Miller, highlighted the recognitions. Dorseyville was recognized as a PA School to Watch in the spring of 2024, as well as an AMLE School of Distinction and an Apple Distinguished School in August. Dr. Miller introduced some members of the team who were integral in helping to complete the applications and bring these recognitions to fruition.

**•DMS Designated an Apple Distinguished School**

Dorseyville Middle School in the Fox Chapel Area School District has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for the 2024–2027 program term. Schools apply and are selected for this distinction based on their commitment to continuous innovation in education and using Apple products to inspire, imagine, and impact teaching and learning.

Apple Distinguished Schools are centers of leadership and educational excellence, with a clear vision for how technology-rich environments support learning goals. In Apple Distinguished Schools, forward-thinking leaders and their communities work to inspire, imagine, and impact teaching and learning, and they have documented results of academic accomplishments.

Approximately 900 schools in 37 countries have been named Apple Distinguished Schools since the inception of the program. A total of 24 of those schools are in Pennsylvania. Schools all over the world are using iPad and Mac to transform learning. As teachers incorporate technology into their lessons, they empower students to lead, learn, and thrive, to discover new opportunities, and to make their world a better place.

Dorseyville Middle School’s Program Principal, Dr. Laura Miller, along with the Dorseyville Middle School technology committee, completed the application upon receiving a nomination from Apple.

“The recognition as an Apple Distinguished School is a testament to our commitment to creating innovative learning environments where technology empowers students to excel,” said Dr. Miller. “This distinction reflects the dedication of our teachers, students, and community in embracing forward-thinking approaches to education. We are proud of our recognition as an Apple Distinguished School.”

According to Fox Chapel Area Superintendent Dr. Mary Catherine Reljac, the recognition from Apple is just one more way that the Dorseyville Middle School community works together to educate the whole student.

“Dorseyville Middle School is an inspiring learning environment where students are empowered to lead, to learn, to imagine, and to help others, and who use technology in meaningful ways to amplify their efforts,” Dr. Reljac said. “The school’s culture of continuous innovation, with a clear vision for learning and teaching, exemplifies the district’s Strategic Vision Pillars of purpose, passion, care, and community. We are so proud of their efforts as we celebrate this recognition.”

**•District Named One of Best Communities for Music Education**

The Fox Chapel Area School District has been named among the 2024 Best Communities for Music Education. This is the 13th year that the district has received this designation. Fox Chapel Area is one of 139 in the state of Pennsylvania and one of 975 school districts in the nation chosen for this honor. It recognizes districts that demonstrate outstanding music achievement and that provide an exceptionally high commitment and access to all students to music education.

The districts were selected through a program sponsored by the NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Foundation which recognizes and celebrates outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community leaders who have made music education part of a well-rounded education for all students.

To qualify for the Best Communities for Music Education designation, Fox Chapel Area music teachers responded to a detailed survey with questions pertaining to funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, and community music-making programs.

The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit that celebrates and promotes the intrinsic value of music education.

• **High School Teacher Named Global Educator**

Fox Chapel Area High School world language teacher **Kelly Barone** has been named a Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association (PSMLA) Global Educator.

According to an email from Dr. Jan Hostler Stewart from the PSMLA Global Scholars Program, the honor reflects the culture, environment, and priorities that the Fox Chapel Area School District has established to encourage and recognize insight and forward-thinking in preparing students for success in today's world.

"Kelly has provided the opportunity for and mentored her students to consciously select courses and activities to become PSMLA Global Scholars Graduates for at least two consecutive years. Her dedication and commitment to her students, her school, and this program are inspiring and commendable," Dr. Hostler Stewart said. "Today's world presents unprecedented global challenges about which instantaneous communication provides a superabundance of information. Thanks to Kelly, the PSMLA Global Scholars in the Fox Chapel Area School District may be more well-equipped to process, understand, and disseminate this knowledge and use it as the basis for developing wider perspectives which will be beneficial as they move forward in life."

This is the second time Ms. Barone, a Spanish teacher, has been named a Global Educator by the PSMLA. Her certification as a Global Educator is valid for two years.

**High School Student Places in National FBLA Competition**

Fox Chapel Area High School 2023-2024 junior **Kai Edwards** placed at the 2024 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) National Leadership Conference. Kai won seventh place in Entrepreneurship, and this was his second consecutive year to place at nationals.

The FBLA National Leadership Conference was held in Orlando, Florida, June 29-July 2. More than 15,000 students from high schools across the United States, Canada, and China participated in various business, technology, and presentation events at the competition.

The Fox Chapel Area High School FBLA sponsor is business education teacher **Christina Congalton**.

• **High School Team Named State Finalist in STEM Competition**

A team of Fox Chapel Area High School students was a state finalist and named among the top 20 teams in the 10th annual Pennsylvania Governor's STEM Competition. The team members were 2023-2024 juniors **Rayna Huang** and **Etash Jhanji** and 2023-2024 sophomores **Ulyana Kubini**, **Joanna Li**, and **Joseph Shin**. The theme of the competition this year was "Creating a Commonwealth with Universal Design in Mind." The Fox Chapel Area team developed a product called LocknProtect, a modern-day pill protector they created to keep opioid medications locked away from children and teens.

Facilitated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Governor's STEM Competition challenged and engaged 75 teams of high school students from around the state to work together to research, design, and present a device or project that could help improve the lives of Pennsylvanians and fulfill real-world needs. The projects were then judged by STEM industry experts.

"STEM education prepares today's learners for tomorrow's high-wage, in-demand careers, and the Governor's STEM Competition takes hands-on learning to the next level," said Secretary of Education Dr. Khalid N. Mumin. "By engaging in STEM activities that directly impact the world around them, participants are not only learning, but are also creating solutions to benefit their whole community."

The Fox Chapel Area High School students' advisor was gifted support facilitator **Lisa Gibson**.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

There was no report.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Dadd asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the combined agenda study session and regular business meeting dated August 12, 2024. On motion by Ms. Zych 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**

There was no business.

### FINANCE

#### **B. Finance**

On motion by Mr. Hamilton and seconded by Mr. Frank, and after a discussion, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Finance items:

##### **1. Disbursements (Fund 10) – August 2024**

General fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$7,144,266.89 from August 1, 2024, through August 31, 2024, are approved.

##### **2. Finance Report – July 2024**

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

##### **3. CSM Consulting, Inc. – Contract for E-Rate Compliance Services – Agreement**

Approve the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and CSM Consulting, Inc. for E-Rate consulting services effective September 10, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at a cost of \$3,000, plus an amount equal to 3.5% of category two applications submitted during the term of the agreement. **This is a renewal of services.**

### INSTRUCTION

#### **C. Instruction**

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

##### **1. Southwood Children’s Behavioral Healthcare – Agreement**

Ratify the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Southwood Children’s Behavioral Healthcare for services for students for the 2024-2025 school year effective August 20, 2024, through June 6, 2025. **This is a renewal of services.**

**2. Allegheny Adult & Pediatric Therapy, LLC – Agreement**

Ratify the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Allegheny Adult & Pediatric Therapy, LLC for staff professional development, classroom planning, observation, and direct consultation services effective August 19, 2024, through June 30, 2025. **This is a new agreement.**

**3. Lubetsky Consulting, LLC – Service Agreement**

Approve the service agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Lubetsky Consulting, LLC for staff professional development, observation, and consultation services effective September 10, 2024, through June 30, 2025. **This is a renewal of services.**

**4. PA Student Teacher Support Program – Participation Agreement**

Approve the participation agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the PA Student Teacher Support Program to be eligible for disbursements for the 2024-2025 award year to support student teachers, and authorize the administration to execute the agreement on behalf of the district. **This is a new agreement.**

**5. Dr. Lhisa R. Almashy – Professional Development**

Approve the professional development proposal from Dr. Lhisa R. Almashy for the Fox Chapel Area School District for professional development services during the 2024-2025 school year at a cost not to exceed \$10,000. **This is a renewal of services.**

**6. Updated Health and Safety Plan**

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

**7. Title IIA Funds**

Authorize the superintendent or designee to review the requests of Shady Side Academy Senior School, Shady Side Academy Middle School, Shady Side Academy Country Day School, Christ the Divine Teacher Catholic Academy, and Blessed Trinity Academy to determine the utilization and implementation of funds, adhering to all Title IIA regulations and guidelines, and to approve and manage the expenditure of the Title IIA non-public funding allocation of each private school.

**LEGISLATION/POLICY**

**D. Legislation/Policy**

There was no business.

## **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 Ms. Findley, and after a discussion, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Personnel items:

#### **1. Resignations**

##### **a. Educational Support**

- (1) The resignation of Cameryn E. Herevia, personal care assistant at Dorseyville Middle School, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective September 8, 2024.

##### **b. Food Services**

- (1) The resignation of Kathryn M. Coban, food services employee at Kerr Elementary School, due to retirement, is accepted effective August 21, 2024.
- (2) The resignation of Sharon Tarasi, food services employee at Fox Chapel Area High School, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective September 3, 2024.

##### **c. Supplemental Contracts – Athletic**

- (1) The resignation of Trevor Hartless, wrestling, HS 2nd asst., due to personal reasons, is accepted effective September 10, 2024.
- (2) The resignation of Vernon Yenick, swimming, HS diving head, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective August 30, 2024.

#### **2. Appointments**

##### **a. Educational Support**

- (1) Sydney C. Boss is approved as the pupil services secretary for the Fox Chapel Area School District, effective September 23, 2024. Salary is set based on the salary scale for 12-month secretaries, Step 3, with benefits as per the Fox Chapel Area Education Support Professionals Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. This position is available due to the transfer of Melissa Zimmerman.

##### **b. Custodial/Maintenance**

- (1) Benjamin T. Hilton is approved as a 12-month, 8-hour per day custodian at Fox Chapel Area High School for a probationary period, effective September 10, 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 resignation of John Morrison.

##### **c. Food Services**

- (1) Dana Carson 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 date to be determined, pending the fulfillment of pre-employment requirements. This position is available due to the resignation of Sharon Tarasi.

**d. Supplemental Contract – Athletic**

- (1) The following athletic supplemental contract is approved effective September 10, 2024:

Trevor Hartless	Wrestling, HS 1st Asst.	\$6,381
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**e. Supplemental Contracts – Non-Athletic – 2024-2025 School Year**

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

**3. Leave Replacements**

**a. Professional**

- (1) Matthew W. Murslack is ratified as a one-year leave replacement physical education teacher at Dorseyville Middle School. This position is available due to the medical sabbatical of Allan Quackenbush.

Certification: Instructional I  
Education: B.S., Slippery Rock University, 2020  
Experience: Student Teaching, North Allegheny 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) Mira M. Steen is ratified as a one-year leave replacement teacher at Kerr Elementary School. This position is available due to increased enrollment.

Certification: Instructional I  
Education: B.S., Duquesne University, 2022  
Experience: 1 year, Fox Chapel Area School District  
Effective: August 19, 2024, through the day after the last day for students for the 2024-2025 school year  
Salary: \$58,893 based on Step 2, B+0  
Fringe Benefits: As per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

**4. Changes of Status**

**a. Educational Support**

- (1) Kim M. Bendis, personal care assistant at O'Hara Elementary School, is ratified as an instructional assistant at Fox Chapel Area High School, effective August 20, 2024. Salary is set based on the salary scale for instructional assistants, Step 3, with benefits as per the Fox Chapel Area Education Support Professionals Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. This position is available due to the resignation of Erik Ingram.
- (2) Nicole R. Curcio, personal care assistant at Fairview Elementary School, is ratified as an instructional assistant at Fairview Elementary School, effective August 20, 2024. Salary is set based on the salary scale for instructional assistants, Step 3, with benefits as per the Fox Chapel Area Education Support Professionals Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. This position is available due to increased student need.
- (3) Cherie D. Henry, personal care assistant at Fox Chapel Area High School, is ratified as an instructional assistant at Fox Chapel Area High School, effective August 20, 2024. Salary is set based on the salary scale for instructional assistants, Step 3, with benefits as per the Fox Chapel Area Education Support Professionals Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. This position is available due to the retirement of Linda Angelo.

**5. Salary Crossovers**

- a. Ratify the crossovers on the salary scale for the professional employees listed below for the 2024-2025 school term based on verification of additional credits earned. This change is effective as of September 1, 2024, in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement.

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Clutter, Tera	M+15	M+30
Fanning, Katelyn	B+24	M+0
Glies, Megan	M+0	M+15
Krepps, Kaylee	B+0	B+24
Locaitis, Julie	M+0	M+15
McCall, Olivia	M+30	M+45
Planz, Tracey	M+0	M+15
Roux, Hannah	B+24	M+0
Rumble, Evan	B+0	B+24
Schlupe, Mary Lu	B+0	M+0
Suchevich, Emily	B+24	M+0
Wharton, Erin	M+0	M+15

**6. Termination**

- a. The termination between employee “X” and the Fox Chapel Area School District, effective August 20, 2024, is approved.

**7. Salary Correction – Professional**

- a. Miranda M. Zarlino is ratified for a salary correction to \$67,718, effective August 14, 2024. This correction reflects her degree on the salary schedule from Step 3, B+24 to Step 3, M+0.

**OPERATIONS/COOPERATIVE SERVICES**

**F. Operations/Cooperative Services**

On motion by Mr. Goode and seconded by Ms. Findley, and after a discussion, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Operations/ Cooperative Services items 1 – 4:

**1. IN Community Magazines, Inc. – Agreement**

Approve the two-year agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and IN Community Magazines, Inc. for the fall 2024-2025, winter 2024-2025, spring 2025-2026, and summer 2025-2026 issues at a cost of \$6,000 for the fall 2024 issue, and a cost of \$7,000 per each remaining quarterly issue effective September 10, 2024. **This is a renewal of services.**

**2. Choral Program Accompanist – Agreement**

Approve the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Benjamin Bliss for choral program accompanist services at a total cost of \$3,000 effective September 10, 2024, through June 30, 2025. **This is a renewal of services.**

**3. Lehigh University – Student Teaching Agreement**

Approve the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Lehigh University for the participation of one student in the Student Teaching Field Experience effective for the duration of the student’s experience. **This is a new agreement and there is no cost to the district.**



**4. Care Solace – Amendment to Add Services to Service Agreement**

Ratify the amendment to add additional mental health services to the current service agreement with Care Solace, effective September 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at a cost of \$1,667 for the first year, and \$2,000 for additional terms. **This will be funded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) School Safety Grant.**

**Operations/Cooperative Services Information Items:**

**5. Plancon Part J – Project Accounting Based on Final Costs – Information High School/District Administration Office Alterations Project**

Acknowledge that the materials for Plancon Part J, Project Accounting Based on Final Costs for the high school/district administration office alterations project, have been reviewed and approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

**6. Plancon Part J – Project Accounting Based on Final Costs – Information Dorseyville Middle School Alterations Project**

Acknowledge that the materials for Plancon Part J, Project Accounting Based on Final Costs for the Dorseyville Middle School alterations project, have been reviewed and approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

**7. Plancon Part J – Project Accounting Based on Final Costs – Information O’Hara Elementary School Alterations Project**

Acknowledge that the materials for Plancon Part J, Project Accounting Based on Final Costs for the O’Hara Elementary School alterations project, have been reviewed and approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

**8. Plancon Part J – Project Accounting Based on Final Costs – Information Kerr Elementary School New Construction Project**

Acknowledge that the materials for Plancon Part J, Project Accounting Based on Final Costs for the Kerr Elementary School new construction project, have been reviewed and approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

**PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (PSBA) 2025 OFFICER ELECTIONS**

**G. Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) 2025 Officer Elections**

On motion by Mr. Frank and seconded by Mr. Goode, and after a discussion, it was resolved to approve the following PSBA 2025 Officer Elections item with 8 in favor and 1 opposed, Ms. Zych voting No, as attached:

**1. Slate of Candidates**

Approve the following slate of candidates for the PSBA 2025 officer elections, and authorize the board secretary to electronically cast the vote on behalf of the Board of School Directors:

**a. PSBA Leadership Positions:**

- 2025 President-Elect (one-year term)  
\*Sabrina Backer, Franklin Area School District
- 2025 Vice President (one-year term)  
\*Matt Vannoy, Sharon City School District

- 2025-2026 Western Zone Representative (two-year term)  
\*Kristy Bolte, Northwestern School District

\*Indicates a PSBA endorsed candidate.

**b. PSBA Insurance Trustees:**

- Trustee (term ends December 31, 2027, three-year term)  
Nathan G. Mains  
Richard Frerichs  
William S. LaCoff

**SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no comments.

**FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE**

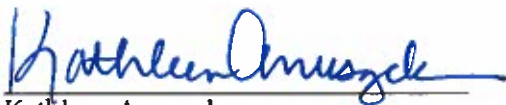
Kristen Bost, Fox Chapel Educators Association president, gave her report.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m.



Kathleen Anuszek  
Board Secretary

## **Voting receipt - 2025 PSBA Officer Election**

Receipt code: **QX2N**

Time of vote: **2024-09-09 20:25:18 America/New\_York**

IP address: **192.124.34.30**

### **PSBA Officer Elections**

#### **Voting Procedure**

President-Elect: **Sabrina Backer\***

Vice President: **Matt Vannoy\***

Western Zone Representative: **Kristy Bolte\***

### **PSBA Insurance Trust Trustees**

#### **Trustee (term ends Dec. 31, 2027)**

Seat 1: **Nathan G. Mains**

Seat 2: **Richard Frerichs**

Seat 3: **William S. LaCoff**

### **School Board Secretaries Forum**

Forum Steering Committee (term ends Dec. 31, 2026): **Mary Dougherty**  
**Betsy Gates**