

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

OCTOBER 14, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The regular business meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fox Chapel Area School District was called to order by vice president, Ronald Frank, at 7:08 p.m. on October 14, 2024, in the LGI room at Fox Chapel Area High School. Mr. Frank announced that immediately prior to tonight’s public meeting, members of the Board met in executive session to discuss confidential student matters that if discussed in public would lead to the disclosure of information protected by law.

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 (via telephone), Mr. Frank, Mr. Goode, Mr. Hamilton, Dr. Haselkorn, Mrs. Lynch (via telephone), and Ms. Zych. Absent was Ms. Findley. 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

Representing the National Honor Society, Luca Zgurzynski shared information about the National Honor Society’s signature event – the Boo Bash.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

•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.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

There was no report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Frank asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the combined agenda study session and regular business meeting dated September 9, 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

On motion by Mr. Hamilton and seconded by Mr. Goode, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Facilities/Transportation items:

1. Additional School Bus Drivers – 2024-2025 School Year

Ratify hiring the additional ABC Transit, Inc., drivers 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 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 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 Esports Lab Project**

Approve the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and H.F. Lenz Co. for engineering services related to the Dorseyville Middle School HVAC design for the esports lab project at a cost of \$2,750. **This is a new agreement.**

FINANCE

B. Finance

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

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.

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.

3. Finance Report – August 2024

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

4. Budget Transfers

The budget transfers for 2024-2025 are approved.

5. PowerSchool Group LLC – Agreement – eFinancePlus Upgrade

Approve the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and PowerSchool Group LLC for the eFinancePlus standard upgrade pack and custom configuration development, for the period October 15, 2024, through October 14, 2025, at a cost of \$13,920. **This is a necessary upgrade for our current software.**

INSTRUCTION

C. Instruction

On motion by Mrs. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Hamilton, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Instruction item:

1. Settlement

Approve settlement of claim by parents of student as presented.

LEGISLATION/POLICY

D. Legislation/Policy

On motion by Mr. Goode and seconded by Mr. Hamilton, and after a discussion, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Legislation/Policy item:

1. Policies – Revised – First Reading

Approve the first reading of the following revised policies:

- No. 218 – Student Discipline
- No. 218.1 – Weapons
- 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. 904 – Public Attendance at School Events

PERSONNEL

E. Personnel

Candidates for employment under this section are approved subject to verification of the results of physical and drug screening examinations, required clearances, and all other essential employment requirements under Policy and Administrative Regulations 304-AR and 304-AR-4.

On motion by Ms. Zych and seconded by Mr. Hamilton, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Personnel items:

1. Resignations

a. Supplemental Contract – Athletic

- (1) The resignation of Zachary A. Price, intramurals, MS activity sponsor 12, MS ski club (50%), due to personal reasons, is accepted effective September 10, 2024.

b. Supplemental Contract – Non-Athletic

- (1) The resignation of Brianne L. Claus, overnight camp counselor, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective October 2, 2024.

2. Appointments

a. Educational Support

- (1) Trinity R. Washington is ratified as a personal care assistant at Dorseyville Middle School, effective September 23, 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 Cameryn Herevia.

b. Custodial/Maintenance

- (1) Eric V. Johnson is approved as a 10-month, 8-hour per day custodian at Dorseyville Middle School for a probationary period, effective October 15, 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 David Ulrich.

c. Supplemental Contracts – Athletic

- (1) The following athletic supplemental contracts are approved, effective October 15, 2024:

Edward C. Farrell	Wrestling, HS 2nd Asst.	\$5,890
Todd Hillman	Swimming, HS Diving Head	\$3,722
Larry Troutman	Softball, HS Head	\$6,714

d. Supplemental Contracts – Non-Athletic

- (1) The following non-athletic supplemental contracts are ratified, effective for the 2024-2025 school year:

Kelly Barone	Mentor Teacher – HS	\$2,349.00
Joshua Bryan-Branker	Band Director – Kerr / Fairview	\$2,289.00
Mairi Cooper	Orchestra Director – HS	\$2,161.00
Kaila Derry	Mentor Teacher – HS	\$2,349.00
Anne Englert	High School Attire Coordinator	\$6,258.00
Evan Hertrick	Mentor Teacher (50%) – FV	\$1,174.50
Amy Jakubek	Overnight Camp Counselor	\$1,576.00
Maureen Johnson	Bus Monitor #6 Elementary – O’Hara (50%)	\$ 771.00
Amy Montgomery	Mentor Teacher – HS	\$1,174.50
Hannah Roux	Bus Monitor #4 Elementary – O’Hara	\$1,542.00
Karli Spangler	Band Director – Hartwood/O’Hara	\$2,289.00
Amy Wickman	Mentor Teacher – HS	\$1,174.50
Miranda Zarlino	Bus Monitor #6 Elementary – O’Hara (50%)	\$ 771.00

3. Leaves

a. Professional

- (1) Emily C. Hinojosa, reading support teacher at Fairview Elementary School, is approved for childrearing/adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective November 14, 2024, with return scheduled for April 7, 2025.

- (2) Jacqueline J. Kissinger, school counselor at Hartwood Elementary School, is approved for childrearing/adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective April 7, 2025, with return scheduled for the clerical day before the last nine weeks of the 2025-2026 school year.
- (3) Gina M. Sacriponte, 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 November 4, 2024, with return scheduled for March 28, 2025.

4. Change of Status

a. Educational Support

- (1) Heidi A. Celender, 12-month building secretary at Fairview Elementary School, is approved as the secretary to the executive directors of elementary and secondary education and instruction, effective date to be determined. There is no change in salary or benefits. This position is available due to the retirement of Sharon Long.

5. Student Worker – Athletic

- a. Michael Didomenico is ratified as a student athletic worker at a rate of \$7.25 per hour, effective for the 2024-2025 school year.

6. Volunteer – Athletic

- a. The following athletic volunteer is approved, effective October 15, 2024:

Lucas Malmberg Wrestling, HS

7. Corrections

a. Supplemental Contracts – Non-Athletic

- (1) The following non-athletic supplemental contracts were previously ratified/approved in error, effective for the 2024-2025 school year:

Kelly Coffield	Mentor Teacher – HS
Anna Hopper	Mentor Teacher – HS
Debra Polesiak	Mentor Teacher – HS
Emily Spurdute	Mentor Teacher – HS

- (2) Candace Erb, previously approved as Mentor Teacher – FV (100%) at a salary of \$2,349, is ratified as Mentor Teacher – FV (50%) at a salary of \$1,174.50 for the 2024-2025 school year.
- (3) Tracey Planz, previously approved as Bus Monitor #1 Elementary – O’Hara (50%) at a salary of \$771, is ratified as Bus Monitor #1 Elementary – O’Hara (100%) at a salary of \$1,542 for the 2024-2025 school year.
- (4) Jessica Resek, previously approved as Bus Monitor #1 Elementary – O’Hara (50%) at a salary of \$771, is ratified as Bus Monitor #5 Elementary – O’Hara (100%) at a salary of \$1,542 for the 2024-2025 school year.

OPERATIONS/COOPERATIVE SERVICES

F. Operations/Cooperative Services

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

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 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.

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

There was no report.

BOARD COMMENTS

There were four comments. Ms. Zych, Mrs. Cooper, Dr. Haselkorn, and Mr. Frank commented.

ADJOURNMENT

It was unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.



Kathleen Anuszek
Board Secretary