

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Combined Agenda Study Session
and Regular Business Meeting
January 13, 2025 – 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

• **Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) School Director Recognition Month** – Kerr Elementary School students

IV. FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Page 7

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

• **Presentation of the District Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024** – Peter J. Vancheri, CPA, Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood LLP

VI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approve the minutes of the reorganization meeting and combined agenda study session and regular business meeting dated December 3, 2024.

* **Motion:** Moved by _____ and seconded by _____, that the minutes of the reorganization meeting and combined agenda study session and regular business meeting dated December 3, 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. First Student, Inc. – Transportation Contract

- Ratify the contract as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and First Student, Inc. for high school transportation services for the period October 27, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at a cost of \$329.75 per day. **This is a new contract.**

**2. H.F. Lenz Co. – Agreement
Fox Chapel Area High School
Domestic Water Line and Service Replacement 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 domestic water line and service replacement project at a cost of \$19,600. **This is a new agreement.**

3. Builder’s Risk Insurance Coverage – Hartwood Elementary School HVAC Project

- Approve the purchase of Builder’s Risk insurance for the Hartwood Elementary School HVAC project from StarNet Insurance Company for the period March 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, at a rate of \$6,282. **This is new insurance coverage.**

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

Roll Call Vote:

B. Finance (Mr. Hamilton)

1. Disbursements (Fund 10) – November 2024

- General fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$7,567,421.34 from November 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024, are approved as attached.

2. Disbursements (Fund 31) – November 2024

- Capital reserves fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$16,717.39 from November 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024, are approved as attached.

3. Disbursements (Fund 10) – December 2024

- General fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$11,340,463.70 from December 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, are approved as attached.

4. Finance Report – November 2024

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

5. Budget Transfers

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

6. 2023-2024 Audit Report

- Approve the audit report submitted by Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood LLP for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. **This report is available for the public on the district website.**

7. Election Not to Increase the Tax Rate Above the Index – Resolution 2025-1

- Approve Resolution 2025-1 as attached electing not to increase the tax rate above the index in the 2025-2026 General Fund Operating Budget.

* **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. Stipulated Adjudications

- Approve the stipulated adjudications as presented.

* **Motion:** Moved by _____ and seconded by _____,
that Instruction item 1 is approved.

Roll Call Vote:

D. Legislation / Policy (Mr. Frank)

1. Policies – Revised – Second Reading and Adoption

- Approve the second reading and adoption of the following revised policies as attached:

No. 113.1 – Discipline of Students with Disabilities
No. 202 – Eligibility of Nonresident Students
No. 227 – Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia
No. 236.1 – Threat Assessment
No. 254 – Educational Opportunity for Military Children
No. 701 – Facilities Planning
No. 703 – Sanitary Management
No. 704 – Maintenance
No. 805.2 – School Security Personnel
No. 903 – Public Comment in Board Meetings

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

Roll Call Vote:

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. Food Services

- (1) The resignation of Tonya L. Rodey, food services employee at Kerr Elementary School, due to retirement, is accepted effective March 3, 2025.

b. Supplemental Contracts – Athletic

- (1) The resignation of Adam M. Bisnowaty, football, HS 6th asst. (50%), due to personal reasons, is accepted effective January 2, 2025.

- (2) The resignation of Matthew L. Kamenicky, baseball, MS head, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective December 4, 2024.
- (3) The resignation of Patrick Loughran, baseball, HS 2nd asst., due to personal reasons, is accepted effective December 1, 2024.
- (4) The resignation of Todd E. Massack, football, HS 1st asst., due to personal reasons, is accepted effective December 8, 2024.

c. Supplemental Contracts – Non-Athletic

- (1) The resignation of Christopher S. Studebaker, English/language arts – MS department head, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective June 12, 2025.

2. Appointments

a. Administration

- (1) Nicole R. Smith, Ed.D., is approved as the program principal (M-Z) at Fox Chapel Area High School. This position is available due to the retirement of John McGee, Ph.D.

Certificate:	Administrative II
Education:	B.A., Pennsylvania State University, 2003 M.Ed., Duquesne University, 2004 Ed.D., Point Park University, 2022
Experience:	20 years, Northgate School District
Effective:	To be determined
Salary:	\$132,000 (prorated)
Fringe Benefits:	As per the Act 93 Agreement

b. Supplemental Contract – Non-Athletic

- (1) The following non-athletic supplemental contract is approved, effective January 20, 2025:

Breane DeComo	Class Sponsor 6th Grade (50%) – Leave Replacement	\$832.00
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3. Leaves

a. Professional

- (1) Joshua D. Duso, family and consumer sciences teacher at Dorseyville Middle School, is approved for a medical sabbatical, effective January 17, 2025, with return scheduled for the first day of the 2025-2026 school year.
- (2) Season A. Gigliotti, computer science teacher at Dorseyville Middle School, is approved for a medical sabbatical, effective January 20, 2025, with return scheduled for the first day of the 2025-2026 school year.

b. Custodial/Maintenance

- (1) Joseph Wysocki, 12-month, 8 hours per day maintenance employee for the Fox Chapel Area School District, is ratified for a medical sabbatical, effective January 6, 2025, with return scheduled for May 12, 2025.

4. Collective Bargaining Agreement – Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ

- a. The collective bargaining agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ is approved, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030, as presented.

5. Extra Innings

a. Substitute Teachers

- (1) The following individuals are approved as Extra Innings substitute teachers for the 2024-2025 school year at a rate of \$31.54 per hour:

Fairview Elementary
Marla Brashear
Sarah Jones

6. Volunteer

a. Athletic

- (1) The following athletic volunteer is approved, effective January 14, 2025:

Anne Starz Softball, MS

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

Roll Call Vote:

F. Operations / Cooperative Services (*Mr. Goode*)

1. Precision HR Solutions, Inc. – Addendum

- Approve the addendum as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Precision HR Solutions, Inc., for the substitute cafeteria workers’ rate for the period January 14, 2025, through June 30, 2025. **This addendum is pursuant to the agreement that was approved April 11, 2023.**

2. Student Teaching Affiliation Agreement

- Approve the following student teaching affiliation agreement as attached:

Point Park University

3. Donation – JAM #bethekindkid

- Accept the donation of \$500 from JAM #bethekindkid to be used toward Project Kindness (\$200) and to purchase supplies (\$300) at Kerr Elementary School.

- * **Motion:** Moved by _____ and seconded by _____, that Operations / Cooperative Services items 1, 2, and 3 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. Proposed 2025-2026 School Calendar

The proposed 2025-2026 school calendar is attached for review and available for the public on the district website. A final recommendation will be made to the Board of School Directors as part of the February 10, 2025, regular business meeting agenda.

C. Information

•FCASD Telethon for Backpack for Hunger Raises \$90,228!

Fox Chapel Area School District students held their 35th annual telethon December 20, 2024, and raised \$90,228. This year's total brings the money raised by Fox Chapel Area students and staff to more than \$1,278,496 over the last 35 years for various local and regional charities.

The telethon raised money for the local organization Backpack for Hunger and involved students from all six schools in the Fox Chapel Area School District (Fairview, Hartwood, Kerr, and O'Hara elementaries; Dorseyville Middle School; and Fox Chapel Area High School). Student, teacher, parent, and community representatives participated in the telethon benefitting Backpack for Hunger by making donations during the event. The public may still make donations through <https://backpackforhunger.org/donate/>.

The telethon was broadcast beginning December 20 on the Swift Fox Media YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/@SwiftFoxMedia, and anyone can watch the telethon any time via the Swift Fox Media YouTube channel.

The telethon was coordinated by the Fox Chapel Area High School Fox Leadership Council and the video production students of the high school who plan and produce the event.

Backpack for Hunger is a local volunteer organization that provides weekend food for students in the Fox Chapel Area School District. The group provides children with nourishing food over the weekends via bags of food that are sent home with them every Friday. Additionally, the group also provides food bags to district children during the summer months through various programs which service the district. Since its inception in 2015, the group has distributed more than 85,000 bags of food.

•Student Awarded AP International Diploma

Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Hannah Parker** was awarded an Advanced Placement International Diploma (APID). The APID is a globally recognized certificate awarded to students who display exceptional achievement across a variety of disciplines. The award is available to international students attending secondary schools outside the United States and to U.S. high school students applying to universities outside the country. The APID certifies outstanding academic excellence with a global perspective. Students receiving an APID must score a 3 or higher on 5 or more AP exams.

•Students Place Fifth in Regional FBLA Competition

Seven Fox Chapel Area High School students placed fifth in the 2024 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Regional Leadership Conference. Winners were juniors **Atia DiGioia** and **Sean Regan**; sophomores **Lauren Bachman** and **Lia Pizzella**; and freshmen **Paige Capek**, **Maren Shelkey-Bray**, **Frank Siegel**.

The FBLA Regional Leadership Conference was held in December 2024. Approximately 450 students from eight high schools participated in the virtual competition.

•**High School Students Place at Hampton Speech & Debate Tournament**

Four Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the annual Hampton Talbot Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament. The team of juniors **Maya Agarwal** and **Prachi Behal** won fourth place in Parliamentary Debate, junior **Priscila Hayetian** was awarded fifth place in Informative Speaking, and junior **Dylan Paserba** won fifth place in Humorous Interpretation.

The tournament was held November 23, 2024, at Hampton High School. Approximately 260 students from 19 Western Pennsylvania public and private high schools participated in the competition.

•**FCAHS Student Places at UVA Model UN Conference**

A Fox Chapel Area High School student won an award at the 44th Annual University of Virginia High School Model UN (VAMUN) Conference. Senior **Emanuel DiNatale** won an Honorable Mention (equivalent to third place).

A total of 970 students from 47 public, private, and charter high schools from nine states and Washington, D.C., participated in the VAMUN Conference. The event was held November 15-17, 2024, at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

The purpose of the Model UN conferences is to enable students to role-play and simulate the countries in the United Nations. As a part of the conferences, students debate and try to solve global problems from the perspectives of other countries.

•**Elementary Students Place in Regional Math Competition**

Six Fox Chapel Area School District elementary school students recently placed in the 2024 grades 5-6 CalcuSolve competition. Individually, Fairview Elementary School fifth-graders **Daniel Wu** and **Samuel Barritt**, and Kerr Elementary School fifth-grader **Stephen Lei**, all tied for second place. Additionally, the Fairview Elementary School team of fifth-graders **Finnegan Frank**, **Eleanor Hoff**, **James Minor**, and Daniel Wu were among the top teams by winning third place.

More than 350 students from nearly 30 school districts participated in the contest from across Allegheny County and surrounding areas. The tournament, held virtually November 6, 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.

•**Girls Soccer Player Named to TribLive HSSN Team**

Fox Chapel Area High School sophomore **Emily McKee** was named to the TribLive High School Sports Network (HSSN) girls soccer all-star team. Emily joined 15 members chosen from teams from around the WPIAL.

•**Girls Soccer Players Named to Valley News Dispatch Teams**

Four Fox Chapel Area High School girls soccer players were named to the Valley News Dispatch 2024 Alle-Kiski Valley girls soccer teams. Senior **Alyssa Quackenbush** and sophomore **Emily McKee** were named to the first team, senior **Madeline Grimsley** was named to the second team, and senior **Maya DiPasquale** received an honorable mention to the team.

•**Girls Soccer Players Chosen for All-Star Game**

Two members of the Fox Chapel Area High School girls varsity soccer team were selected to play in a 2024 Western Pennsylvania High School Girls Soccer Coaches Association all-star game. **Maya DiPasquale** and **Alyssa Quackenbush** were among 49 senior girls selected for the teams. The games were played at Cool Springs in Bethel Park on November 30.

•**Boys Soccer Player Named to TribLive HSSN Team**

Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Milo Chiu** was named to the TribLive High School Sports Network (HSSN) boys soccer all-star team. Milo joined 15 members chosen from teams from around the WPIAL.

•**Boys Soccer Players Named to Valley News Dispatch Teams**

Four Fox Chapel Area High School boys soccer players were named to the Valley News Dispatch 2024 Alle-Kiski Valley soccer teams, and one received player of the year honors. Senior **Milo Chiu** was named the Valley News Dispatch boys soccer player of the year. Additionally, seniors **Kellan Bleier** and **Carson Krushansky** were named to the first team, and senior **Aidan Stein** and junior **Brady Matthews** were named to the second team.

•**Seniors Chosen for All-Star Volleyball Team**

Fox Chapel Area High School seniors **Claire Feczko** and **Vanessa Perez Milano** were selected to participate in the third annual We Serve First All-Star Classic sponsored by the We Serve First Foundation. The event included 40 of the top senior girls volleyball players from 20 schools throughout the Alle-Kiski Valley and surrounding communities. The matches were held December 7, 2024, at Kiski Area High School.

The We Serve First Foundation was established in 2015 by the late Ellen Toy, a longtime high school and club volleyball coach in Western Pennsylvania. The group provides scholarships for high school volleyball players that enable them to participate on club volleyball teams and in volleyball camps.

D. Fox Chapel Area School Board Upcoming Meetings

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 3, 2025

7 p.m.	Agenda Study Session	High School	LGI Room
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February 4, 2025

6 p.m.	Governance Committee Meeting	Administrative Offices	Staff Development Room
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February 10, 2025

7 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Hartwood Elementary	Gym
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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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*Combined Agenda Study Session
and Regular Business Meeting – 1/13/25*

March 3, 2025

7 p.m.	Agenda Study Session	High School	LGI Room
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March 10, 2025

7 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Fairview Elementary	Gym
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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 14, 2025

7 p.m.	Combined Agenda Study Session and Regular Business Meeting	High School	LGI Room
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April 28, 2025

6 p.m.	Academic Committee Meeting	Administrative Offices	Staff Development Room
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May 5, 2025

7 p.m.	Combined Agenda Study Session and Regular Business Meeting	Dorseyville MS	Auditorium
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June 2, 2025

7 p.m.	Agenda Study Session	O'Hara Elementary	Auditorium
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June 9, 2025

7 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	High School	LGI Room
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August 11, 2025

7 p.m.	Combined Agenda Study Session and Regular Business Meeting	High School	LGI Room
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September 8, 2025

7 p.m.	Combined Agenda Study Session and Regular Business Meeting	High School	LGI Room
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October 6, 2025

7 p.m.	Agenda Study Session	A.W. Beattie Career Center	Student Conference Center
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October 13, 2025

7 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	High School	LGI Room
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*Combined Agenda Study Session
and Regular Business Meeting – 1/13/25*

November 3, 2025

7 p.m.	Agenda Study Session	High School	LGI Room
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November 10, 2025

7 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Kerr Elementary	Gym
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December 2, 2025 (Tuesday)

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