

January 13, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER** — The Board of School Directors of the Fox Chapel Area School District held its combined agenda study session and regular business meeting at Fox Chapel Area High School January 13, 2025. President Marybeth Dadd called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Also in attendance were Vice President Ronald P. Frank; Treasurer Eric G. Hamilton; Assistant Secretary Vanessa K. Lynch; Amy B. Cooper; Adam G. Goode; Jessica Haselkorn, Ph.D.; and Ariel Zych.

#### GUESTS

• **Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) School Director Recognition Month** – Kerr Elementary School students — Kerr Elementary School Principal **Katelyn Toth** introduced several students who honored the School Board members for PSBA’s School Director Recognition Month. The students were fifth-graders **Kalissa Acquaro, Bella Gao, Zoe Hedayati, Emilia Kuhns, Joey Sanchez, and Kara Schneider**, and are all members of the Kerr Student Change Committee.

**FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE** — Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Kai Edwards**, president of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), talked about the club that includes students from the high school and middle school. Participating students continue to win regional, state, and national awards each year.

#### SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

• **A Lens on Learning** — Each month, we focus on student work in our schools to highlight lessons, growth, and successes of all kinds. This month, Dorseyville Middle School Program Principal Dr. **Laura Miller** talked about the school’s Afternoon of Service event. Student representatives from the school’s student council and leadership groups, eighth-graders **Holden Link** and **Brooke Nalevanko**, and seventh-graders **Rosario Echeverria Conte** and **Ronin Roup**, also shared their experiences with the special project.

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

**Enrollment and Fire Drills** — The Board received the enrollment and fire drills report.

**Proposed 2025-2026 School Calendar** — The proposed 2025-2026 school calendar is available for review 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.

#### 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](http://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.

**Fox Chapel Area School Board Upcoming Meetings**

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

January 21, 2025 – 6 p.m. – Projects and Planning Committee Mtg. – Admin. Offices Staff Development Room

February 3, 2025 – 7 p.m. – Agenda Study Session – High School LGI Room

February 4, 2025 – 6 p.m. – Governance Committee Meeting – Administrative Offices Staff Development Room

February 10, 2025 – 7 p.m. – Regular Business Meeting – Hartwood Elementary Gym

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

February 18, 2025 – 6 p.m. – Projects and Planning Committee Mtg. – Admin. Offices Staff Development Room

March 3, 2025 – 7 p.m. – Agenda Study Session – High School LGI Room

March 10, 2025 – 7 p.m. – Regular Business Meeting – Fairview Elementary Gym

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

March 18, 2025 – 6 p.m. – Projects and Planning Committee – Administrative Offices Staff Development Room

April 14, 2025 – 7 p.m. – Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Business Mtg. – High School LGI Room

April 28, 2025 – 6 p.m. – Academic Committee Meeting – Administrative Offices Staff Development Room

May 5, 2025 – 7 p.m. – Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Business Mtg. – Dorseyville MS Auditorium

June 2, 2025 – 7 p.m. – Agenda Study Session – O'Hara Elementary Auditorium

June 9, 2025 – 7 p.m. – Regular Business Meeting – High School LGI Room

August 11, 2025 – 7 p.m. – Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Business Mtg. – High School LGI Room

September 8, 2025 – 7 p.m. – Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Business Mtg. – High School LGI Rm.

October 6, 2025 – 7 p.m. – Agenda Study Session – A.W. Beattie Career Center Student Conference Center

October 13, 2025 – 7 p.m. – Regular Business Meeting – High School LGI Room

November 3, 2025 – 7 p.m. – Agenda Study Session – High School LGI Room

November 10, 2025 – 7 p.m. – Regular Business Meeting – Kerr Elementary Gym

December 2, 2025 (Tuesday) – 7 p.m. – Reorg. Mtg. & Comb. Agenda Study Sess. & Reg. Bus. Mtg. – HS LGI Rm.

## SOLICITOR'S REPORT

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** — Approved the minutes of the reorganization meeting and combined agenda study session and regular business meeting dated December 3, 2024.

**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.

## OLD BUSINESS

**NEW BUSINESS** — Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, the Board took action on the following items of business:

### Facilities/Transportation

**First Student, Inc. – Transportation Contract** — Ratified the contract 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.**

**H.F. Lenz Co. – Agreement – Fox Chapel Area High School Domestic Water Line and Service Replacement Project** — Approved the agreement 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.**

**Builder's Risk Insurance Coverage – Hartwood Elementary School HVAC Project** — Approved 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.**

### Finance

**Disbursements (Fund 10) – November 2024** — The general fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$7,567,421.34 from November 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024, were approved.

**Disbursements (Fund 31) – November 2024** — The capital reserves fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$16,717.39 from November 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024, were approved.

**Disbursements (Fund 10) – December 2024** — The general fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$11,340,463.70 from December 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, were approved.

**Finance Report – November 2024** — The finance report for November 2024 was acknowledged and filed for audit.

**Budget Transfers** — Several budget transfers for 2024-2025 were approved.

**2023-2024 Audit Report** — Approved 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.**

**Election Not to Increase the Tax Rate Above the Index – Resolution 2025-1** — Approved Resolution 2025-1 electing not to increase the tax rate above the index in the 2025-2026 General Fund Operating Budget.

### Instruction

**Stipulated Adjudications** — Approved the stipulated adjudications as presented.

## Legislation/Policy

**Policies – Revised – Second Reading and Adoption** — Approved the second reading and adoption of the following revised policies: 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, and No. 903 – Public Comment in Board Meetings.

## Personnel

*Candidates for employment under this section were 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.*

## Resignations

**Food Services** — Accepted the following food services resignation:

- **Tonya L. Rodey**, food services employee at Kerr Elementary School, due to retirement, effective March 3, 2025.

**Supplemental Contracts – Athletic** — Accepted the following athletic supplemental contract resignations:

- **Adam M. Bisnowaty**, football, HS 6th assistant (50%), due to personal reasons, effective January 2, 2025.
- **Matthew L. Kamenicky**, baseball, MS head, due to personal reasons, effective December 4, 2024.
- **Patrick Loughran**, baseball, HS 2nd assistant, due to personal reasons, effective December 1, 2024.
- **Todd E. Massack**, football, HS 1st assistant, due to personal reasons, effective December 8, 2024.

**Supplemental Contracts – Non-Athletic** — Accepted the following non-athletic supplemental contract resignation:

- **Christopher S. Studebaker**, English/language arts – MS department head, due to personal reasons, effective June 12, 2025.

## Appointments

**Administration** — Approved the following administrative appointment:

- **Nicole R. Smith**, Ed.D., as the program principal (M-Z) at Fox Chapel Area High School effective date to be determined. Salary was set (prorated), with fringe benefits as per the Act 93 agreement. This position is available due to the retirement of **John McGee**, Ph.D.

**Supplemental Contract – Non-Athletic** — The following non-athletic supplemental contract was approved, effective January 20, 2025: **Breane DeComo** – Class Sponsor 6th Grade (50%) – Leave Replacement.

## Leaves

**Professional** — Approved the following professional leaves:

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

**Custodial/Maintenance** — Ratified the following custodial leave:

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

## Collective Bargaining Agreement

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

## Extra Innings

**Substitute Teachers** — The following individuals were approved as Extra Innings substitute teachers for the 2024-2025 school year at an hourly rate: **Fairview Elementary – Marla Brashear and Sarah Jones.**

**Volunteer**

**Athletic** — The following athletic volunteer was approved, effective January 14, 2025: **Anne Starz** – Softball, MS.

**Operations/Cooperative Services – Precision HR Solutions, Inc. – Addendum** — Approved the addendum 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.**

**Student Teaching Affiliation Agreement** — Approved the following student teaching affiliation agreement: Point Park University.

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

**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.

**FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE**

**BOARD COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT** — The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

*The Fox Chapel Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, and/or any other basis prohibited by law, and prohibits discrimination, including harassment, in any employment practice, education program, or activity that it operates. Retaliation against anyone who, in good faith, makes a report of harassment or discrimination, files a complaint of harassment or discrimination, serves as a witness, or participates in an investigation or grievance process is also a violation of the Fox Chapel Area School District’s nondiscrimination policy and is prohibited.*

*To report information about conduct that may constitute discrimination under Title IX, Section 504, or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please refer to the district’s nondiscrimination policy and grievance procedures at [www.fcasd.edu/about-us/need-to-know-disclosures/compliance-statement](http://www.fcasd.edu/about-us/need-to-know-disclosures/compliance-statement).*

*The Fox Chapel Area School District has designated individuals to coordinate efforts to comply with and carry out its nondiscrimination responsibilities. Questions regarding the Fox Chapel Area School District’s commitment to nondiscrimination, as well as related laws, regulations, and district policies, may be referred to the following employees:*

- Title IX:* David P. McCommons, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent  
(412/967-2456) [David\\_McCommons@fcasd.edu](mailto:David_McCommons@fcasd.edu)
- Section 504 and ADA:* Timothy A. Mahoney, Ed.D., Director of Special Education and Pupil Services  
(412/967-2435) [Timothy\\_Mahoney@fcasd.edu](mailto:Timothy_Mahoney@fcasd.edu)
- Address:* Fox Chapel Area School District, 611 Field Club Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238