

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMBINED AGENDA STUDY SESSION  
AND REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

JANUARY 13, 2025

**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 January 13, 2025, in the LGI Room at Fox Chapel Area High School. Immediately prior to tonight's meeting, members of the Board met in executive session to discuss several items. First, the Board discussed information or strategy related to a collective bargaining agreement. The Board also reviewed confidential student matters that, if discussed in public, would lead to the disclosure of information protected by law. The Board also discussed and reviewed matters related to school safety that if conducted in public would be reasonably likely to impair the effectiveness of the safety or security measure or jeopardize the security of a resource, infrastructure, or facility. Finally, the Board discussed information or strategy in connection with matters or issues about which identifiable complaints may be made.

**ROLL-CALL**

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

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

**FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) president, Kai Edwards, gave a report, highlighting the high school and middle school FBLA clubs.

**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.

Tonight's presentation focused on the Afternoon of Service event at Dorseyville Middle School.

Middle school program principal, Dr. Laura Miller, introduced student representatives from the school's student council and leadership groups who shared their experiences with this 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

• **Proposed 2025-2026 School Calendar**

The proposed 2025-2026 school calendar is 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. The Board discussed the proposed calendar.

• **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.

**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 reorganization meeting or the combined agenda study session and regular business meeting dated December 3, 2024. On motion by Mr. Frank and seconded by Ms. Zych, 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 Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Hamilton, and after a discussion, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Facilities/Transportation items:

**1. First Student, Inc. – Transportation Contract**

Ratify 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.**

**2. H.F. Lenz Co. – Agreement  
Fox Chapel Area High School  
Domestic Water Line and Service Replacement 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 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.**

**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) – 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.

**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.

**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.

**4. Finance Report – November 2024**

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

**5. Budget Transfers**

The budget transfers for 2024-2025 are approved.

**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 electing not to increase the tax rate above the index in the 2025-2026 General Fund Operating Budget.

## **INSTRUCTION**

### **C. Instruction**

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

#### **1. Stipulated Adjudications**

Approve the stipulated adjudications as presented.

## **LEGISLATION/POLICY**

### **D. Legislation/Policy**

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

#### **1. Policies – Revised – Second Reading and Adoption**

Approve 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
- No. 903 – Public Comment in Board Meetings

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

#### **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

**OPERATIONS/COOPERATIVE SERVICES**

**F. Operations/Cooperative Services**

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

**1. Precision HR Solutions, Inc. – Addendum**

Approve 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.**

**2. Student Teaching Affiliation Agreement**

Approve the following student teaching affiliation agreement:

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.

**SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no comments.

**FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE**

Jeremy Bennett, Fox Chapel Educators Association president-elect, gave his report.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

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



**ADJOURNMENT**

It was unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.



Kathleen Anuszek  
Board Secretary