

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Combined Agenda Study Session  
and Regular Business Meeting

April 14, 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

•Three O'Hara Elementary School students were chosen to participate in the 2025 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 Elementary Sing Fest. The students are fifth-graders **Addison Coyle, Lucas Liao, and Sarah Mobley**.

Approximately 120 students from Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties participated in the PMEA District 1 East Elementary Sing Fest which was held February 21 at Plum Senior High School. The festival was led by guest conductor Dr. Mark Boyle from Seton Hill University, where he is the director of choral and vocal activities.

•The Fox Chapel Area High School boys varsity swimming and diving team won the WPIAL Class 3A Section 3 title for the fifth consecutive year and was undefeated (6-0) in the section. The team members were seniors **Christian Dantey, Jackson Hagler, Owen Howell, and Sangyon "Paul" Park**; juniors **Arman Alborzi and Alan Jiang**; sophomores **Finnian Kress, Hugo Mickus, Georgy Pistsov, and Desmond Ruff**; and freshmen **Nathan Agens, Samuel Asher, Nicholas Bell, Christian Birkner, Henry Harrison, William Henderson, Owen Nguyen, Gavin Patterson, Davide Pullara, and Samuel Resek**. This is the first time in Fox Chapel Area history that the boys team won the section title for five consecutive years.

Additionally, Owen Howell won a gold medal for the second consecutive year in the 200 yard individual medley at the WPIAL Class 3A swimming championships, held February 27 and 28, 2025, at the University of Pittsburgh.

The following boys swimmers qualified for the PIAA Class 3A swimming and diving championships, held March 14 and 15 at Bucknell University: Christian (4 events), Owen Howell (4 events), Paul, Arman (2 events), and Nathan (2 events). Jackson (diver) qualified for PIAAs for the fourth consecutive year.

•Several members of the Fox Chapel Area High School girls varsity swimming and diving team won gold medals at the WPIAL Class 3A swimming championships and qualified for the PIAA championships. At the WPIAL swimming championships, senior **Sarah Pasquella** won a gold medal in the 200 yard freestyle. The 200 yard freestyle relay and the 400 yard freestyle relay teams of Sarah, senior **Grace Kovach**, and sophomores **Josephine Stanczak and Charlotte Rusche** also won gold medals at the WPIAL championships. The WPIAL championships were held February 27 and 28 at the University of Pittsburgh.

The following girls swimmers qualified for the PIAA Class 3A swimming and diving championships, held March 14 and 15 at Bucknell University: seniors Grace (4 events), Sarah (4 events), and **Margaret Rusche** (3 events); sophomores **Cameryn Brindza, Elizabeth Datt**, Charlotte (4 events), and Josephine (3 events); and freshman **Tuuli Airik**. At the state championships, Sarah won a gold medal in the 200 yard freestyle.

•Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Michael Worsen** qualified for the PIAA Class 3A individual wrestling championships. The matches were held March 6-8, 2025, at the GIANT Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

•The Fox Chapel Hockey Club team won the regular season championship of the Varsity Class AA Division of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL). The team members were seniors **Dominic Casile, Liam Foley, Robert “Trip” Goehring, Tyler Goldstein, Parker Haberman, Pierce Osterholm, Augustin Passerello-Carnevali, and Liam Wiseman**; juniors **Antonio Cardinali, Miles Carey, Xing Carlough, Aiden Elwood, Spencer Goehring, Nikolaj Vavpetic, and Grant Watson**; sophomores **Ian Berdik, Tucker Cullen, Hayden Ferra, Keita Komatsu, and Cavan Patrick**; and freshmen **Parker Hanley and Crosby Wukotich**. The team’s overall record was 18-4-1.

**IV. FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Page 10*

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

**VI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

**VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Approve the minutes of the regular business meeting dated March 10, 2025.

\* **Motion:** Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, that the minutes of the regular business meeting dated March 10, 2025, 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*)

No action is requested.

**B. Finance** (*Mr. Hamilton*)

**1. Disbursements (Fund 10) – March 2025**

- General fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$11,738,928.60 from March 1, 2025, through March 31, 2025, are approved as attached.

**2. Disbursements (Fund 31) – March 2025**

- Capital reserves fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$54,542.17 from March 1, 2025, through March 31, 2025, are approved as attached.

**3. Finance Report – February 2025**

- The finance report for February 2025 is acknowledged and filed for audit as attached.

**4. Tax Collectors’ Depositories**

- Approve the depositories listed below for elected real estate tax collectors as recommended by the appropriate elected official. **The Board of School Directors must approve the depositories for elected real estate tax collectors annually.**

Aspinwall Borough	Dawn Eastley	Farmers National Bank
Blawnox Borough	Casey Cunningham	Dollar Bank
Indiana Township	Julie Leventry	Farmers National Bank

**5. Deputy Tax Collectors**

- Approve the appointment of the deputy tax collectors listed below pursuant to Section 22 of the Local Tax Collection Law, 72 P.S. § 5511.22.

Blawnox Borough	Kathleen Ulanowicz
Indiana Township	Granite Leventry

**6. Award of Bids – Athletic**

- The administration is authorized to award the following bids for the 2025-2026 school year:

Athletic Supplies Bids – Fall and Winter

BSN Sports, LLC 14460 Varsity Brands Way Farmers Branch, TX 75244	\$ 778.20
Century Sports, Inc. 115 E McMurray Road McMurray, PA 15317	\$31,355.82
Natale Sporting Goods 112 Lincoln Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15209	\$11,503.34
Pyramid School Products 6510 North 54th Street Tampa, FL 33610	\$ 884.96
Swimmers Network 4417 State Route 30 Latrobe, PA 15650	\$ 6,319.40

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

**C. Instruction (Mrs. Cooper)**

**1. Fox Chapel Area School District K-12 Special Education Plan**

- Approve the Fox Chapel Area School District K-12 Special Education Plan as attached for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028.

**2. MHY Family Services – Addendum for ESY 2024-2025**

- Approve the addendum as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and MHY Family Services for ESY 2024-2025 for the period June 9, 2025, through July 11, 2025. **This addendum is pursuant to the agreement that was approved August 12, 2024.**

**3. Global Wordsmiths – Language Services Agreement**

- Ratify the agreement as attached between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Global Wordsmiths to provide language interpretation services and language translation services at a cost as listed in the fee schedule for the period April 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. **This is a renewal of services.**

**4. Stipulated Adjudication**

- Approve the stipulated adjudication as presented.

\* **Motion:** Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
that Instruction items 1, 2, 3, and 4 are 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. 610 – Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation  
No. 611 – Purchases Budgeted  
No. 626 – Federal Fiscal Compliance (procurement attachment only)  
No. 800.1 – Electronic Signatures/Records  
No. 802 – School Organization  
No. 803 – School Calendar  
No. 804 – School Day  
No. 807 – Opening Exercises/Moment of Silence/Flag Displays  
No. 810.1 – School Bus Drivers and School Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers  
No. 810.3 – School Vehicle Drivers  
No. 811 – Bonding  
No. 812 – Property Insurance  
No. 813 – Other Insurance  
No. 814 – Copyright Material  
No. 816 – Use of Livestream Video on School District Property  
No. 818 – Contracted Services Personnel  
No. 822 – Automated External Defibrillator (AED)/Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)  
No. 824 – Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries

**2. Policies – Revised – First Reading**

- Approve the first reading of the following revised policies as attached:

No. 222 – Tobacco and Vaping Products  
No. 709 – Building Security/Surveillance  
No. 808 – Food Services  
No. 808.1 – Free/Reduced Price Meals and Free Milk  
No. 810.2 – Transportation – Video/Audio Recording  
No. 827 – Conflict of Interest  
No. 828 – Fraud  
No. 901 – Public Relations Objectives  
No. 902 – Publications Program

- No. 906 – Public Complaint Procedures
- No. 908 – Relations with Parents/Guardians
- No. 909 – Municipal Government Relations
- No. 910 – Community Engagement
- No. 912 – Relations with Educational Institutions

### 3. Policy – New – First Reading

- Approve the first reading of the following new policy as attached:

No. 815.2 – Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Education

- \* **Motion:** Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_,  
that Legislation / Policy items 1, 2, and 3 are 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. Educational Support

- (1) The resignation of Mary Helen Ryan, library/ media clerk at Fox Chapel Area High School, due to retirement, is accepted effective June 16, 2025.
- (2) The resignation of Michelle C. Wilhere, secretary to the director of athletics at the Fox Chapel Area School District, due to retirement, is accepted effective July 8, 2025.

##### b. Custodial/Maintenance

- (1) The resignation of Amy S. Butler, 10-month, 8 hours per day custodian at Fox Chapel Area High School, due to retirement, is accepted effective March 24, 2025.

##### c. Food Services

- (1) The resignation of Carrie A. Mellett, food services employee at Kerr Elementary School, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective April 14, 2025.

##### d. Supplemental Contracts – Athletic

- (1) The resignation of Adam Santoro, wrestling, MS head, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective April 7, 2025.
- (2) The resignation of Scott E. Vensel, wrestling, MS asst., due to personal reasons, is accepted effective April 8, 2025.

##### e. Supplemental Contracts – Non-Athletic

- (1) The resignation of Stephanie A. Abriatis, special education – elementary department head, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective June 12, 2025.
- (2) The resignation of Stephanie A. Abriatis, Kerr overnight camp counselor, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective June 12, 2025.

- (3) The resignation of Katherine A. Frederick, grade level 3 chairperson (50%), due to personal reasons, is accepted effective June 12, 2025.
- (4) The resignation of Christopher Studebaker, middle school student activities treasurer (50%), due to personal reasons, is accepted effective March 12, 2025.
- (5) The resignation of Jodi L. Travaglia, physical education – elementary department head, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective June 12, 2025.
- (6) The resignation of Jodi L. Travaglia, Hartwood safety patrol sponsor (50%), due to personal reasons, is accepted effective June 12, 2025.

## 2. Appointments

### a. Educational Support

- (1) Christine M. Harper is approved as a 12-month building secretary at O'Hara Elementary School, effective April 15, 2025. 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 Sandy Shank.

### b. Food Services

- (1) Michele L. Kondas is approved as a permanent, part-time (5.75 hours per day) food services employee in the Fox Chapel Area High School cafeteria. Hourly wage is set based on the wage scale for food services employees, General Food Worker – 2, with no fringe benefits, effective April 15, 2025. This position is available due to the retirement of Tonya Rodey.

## 3. Leaves

### a. Professional

- (1) Tiffany M. Hess, elementary teacher at Kerr Elementary School, is approved for an educational sabbatical, effective August 13, 2025, with return scheduled for the first day of the 2026-2027 school year.
- (2) Melissa M. Oberst, math teacher at Fox Chapel Area High School, is approved for an educational sabbatical, effective August 13, 2025, with return scheduled for January 19, 2026.

## 4. Changes of Status

### a. Educational Support

- (1) Sandra R. Shank, 12-month building secretary at O'Hara Elementary School, is approved as the 12-month building secretary at Kerr Elementary School, effective date to be determined. There is no change in salary or benefits. This position is available due to the transfer of Amber Jahoda.

### b. Supplemental Contract – Non-Athletic

- (1) Catherine P. Gillner, middle school student activities treasurer (50%) is ratified as middle school student activities treasurer (100%), effective March 12, 2025, at a rate of \$4,866 (prorated). This position is available due to the resignation of Christopher Studebaker.

**5. Employment Agreements**

- a. The following employment agreements are approved as presented:

Behavior Specialist, Ava M. Kilgore  
Information Management Specialist and Testing Facilitator, Brenda L. Panza

**6. Homebound Instruction**

**a. Teacher**

- (1) Lesley A. Cowles, Ed.D., is ratified as a homebound instruction teacher for the 2024-2025 school year, effective March 18, 2025, at a rate of \$31.54 per hour.

**7. Summer Programs – 2025**

**a. STEAM Camp**

- (1) The individuals listed below are approved as instructors for the STEAM Camp at Fairview Elementary School at a rate of \$1,350.

Michelle Beck  
Marie Chir  
Isabella Donaldson  
Kaitlyn Ellsworth  
Kara Finkel  
Martha Freese  
Alyssa Gavron  
Grace Lim-Clark  
Jean Nitowski  
Tracy Planz  
Sara Podvasnik  
Evan Rumble

- (2) Jennifer S. Jones is approved as a nurse for the STEAM Camp at Fairview Elementary School at a rate of \$1,350.

**b. Middle School**

- (1) Todd Ashbaugh is approved as the Dorseyville Middle School Summer Learning Academy program facilitator at a rate of \$32.17 per hour with a maximum of 135 hours for preparation and program facilitation.
- (2) The individuals listed below are approved as instructors for the Dorseyville Middle School Summer Learning Academy at a rate of \$32.17 per hour with a maximum of 95 hours for preparation and instruction.

Richard DeMedio  
Craig Farrell  
Kevin Grecek  
Emily Grychowski  
Alexis Hurlbut  
Emily Janosko

- (3) Ethan Wagner is approved as an instructor for the Dorseyville Middle School Summer Learning Academy at a rate of \$32.17 per hour with a maximum of 15 hours for preparation and instruction.



- 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. Information

#### •FCAHS and DMS Polar Plunge Team Raises \$44,807

A group of Fox Chapel Area High School and Dorseyville Middle School students recently raised the most money in Pennsylvania for the 2025 Cool Schools Polar Plunge. The Fox Chapel Area team raised \$44,807 to support the Fox Chapel Area School District Special Olympics Unified Sports teams and Unified Sports teams across Pennsylvania. The teams promote inclusion through competitive experiences. This is the third consecutive year that the Fox Chapel Area team raised the most money out of all the school teams in Pennsylvania. Over the past three years, the Fox Chapel Area Polar Plunge team raised \$122,007.

Donations can still be made to Fox Chapel Area's team at <https://give.specialolympicspa.org/team/619749>. Additionally, once again, the Kramer Family matched a portion of every donation given to Fox Chapel Area's team.

Approximately 130 Fox Chapel Area High School and Dorseyville Middle School students participated in the Pittsburgh Cool Schools Polar Plunge on February 21 at Acrisure Stadium.

#### •High School Seniors Named 2025 National Merit Finalists

Seven Fox Chapel Area High School seniors have been designated as National Merit Finalists in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program. The Finalists from Fox Chapel Area High School are **David Black, Anna Delale-O'Connor, Benjamin Fiedler, Rayna Huang, Arnim Kuchhal, Zhana Neumann, and Rohit Velankar.**

These Fox Chapel Area High School students were named Semifinalists in September 2024 and have met all the requirements to advance to Finalist standing in the competition for National Merit Scholarships. The students are selected as Finalists based on their Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) scores and other factors, including SAT and/or ACT scores, a student essay, a school recommendation, and having an outstanding academic record throughout high school.

Each year college-bound 11th-grade students complete the PSAT/NMSQT. All the students who take this test are automatically enrolled in the National Merit Scholarship Program and approximately 15,000 advance to become Finalists. The Finalists represent less than one percent of the nation's high school seniors and compete for some 6,870 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$26 million that will be offered this spring.

#### •High School Students' Artwork Selected for Youth Art Month Virtual Exhibit

Five Fox Chapel Area High School students had artwork chosen for the 2025 Youth Art Month (YAM) Exhibit. The students are juniors **Ava deBruyn, Raina Guzman, Nora Kelley, and Mira Owens**, and freshman **Lily Rice**. Each of the students submitted pieces in the painting and drawing category.

Youth Art Month is sponsored by the Council for Art Education and is a celebration of the visual arts. It encourages support for quality school art programs and provides a medium for recognizing skills developed through visual arts experiences. The artwork of more than 300 students from throughout Pennsylvania are exhibited in the virtual show and were celebrated as part of a virtual artists reception and awards ceremony March 14.

The artwork can be viewed at <https://sites.google.com/paea.org/yamexhibit2025/home>.

The Fox Chapel Area High School students are under the instruction of art teacher **Joan Marangoni**.

• **Students Place at Freshman-Sophomore Speech and Debate Tournament**

Three Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the annual Freshman-Sophomore Speech and Debate Tournament. Freshman **Divya Thirumala** won third place in Dramatic Interpretation and the team of freshmen **Alyssia Gaucin** and **Amelia Tedesco** won third place in News Broadcasting.

The Freshman-Sophomore Speech and Debate Tournament was held March 15, 2025, and was hosted by Seton LaSalle Catholic High School. Approximately 115 students from 11 public and private high schools from Western Pennsylvania competed at the event.

• **Students First Alternates for National Speech and Debate Tournament**

Two Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the Catholic Forensic League Grand National qualifying tournament. The team of sophomores **Noelle Furon** and **Elaine Huang** won seventh place in Public Forum Debate, and are first alternates to the national tournament. The competition will be held in Chicago Memorial Day weekend.

The Pittsburgh Diocesan national qualifying speech and debate tournament was held March 1, 2025, at Fox Chapel Area High School. A total of 187 students from 13 public and private high schools from the Pittsburgh area participated in the tournament.

• **Students Qualify as Alternates for State Speech and Debate Tournament**

Five Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the Pennsylvania High School Speech League (PHSSL) District 16 state championship qualifying tournament and will serve as alternates for the state competition. Junior **Zehra Ozkaya** won third place in Prose Reading, junior **Atia DiGioia** was awarded third place in Poetry Reading, freshman **Divya Thirumala** won third place in Dramatic Interpretation, and the team of junior **Priscila Hayetian** and freshman **Amelia Tedesco** won third place in Policy Debate. The state tournament was held March 21 and 22, 2025, at Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania – Bloomsburg.

The state qualifying tournament hosted students representing seven public and private high schools in the eastern portion of the North Hills region, as well as the city of Pittsburgh. It was held at Pine-Richland High School February 22.

• **Boys Basketball Players Named to Big 56 Teams**

Three Fox Chapel Area High School boys basketball players have been named to Big 56 all-section basketball teams. Senior **Caden Kaiser** was named to the Class 6A Section 1 first team, and senior **Asher White** and junior **John Rehak** were named to the second team.

C. **Fox Chapel Area School Board Upcoming Meetings**

April 14, 2025

A Committee of the Whole Meeting will be held immediately following the 7 p.m. Combined Agenda Study Session and Regular Business Meeting to discuss the preliminary budget for 2025-2026.

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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*Combined Agenda Study Session  
and Regular Business Meeting – 4/14/25*

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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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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