

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMBINED AGENDA STUDY SESSION
AND REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

APRIL 14, 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 p.m. on April 14, 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 review a confidential student matter that, if discussed in public, would lead to the disclosure of information protected by law. The Board also discussed with counsel information or strategy in connection with pending litigation matters and issues about which identifiable complaints may be made. Matters related to school safety, that if conducted in public would be reasonably likely to impair the effectiveness of the safety or security measure, were also discussed. A committee of the whole meeting was held immediately following the combined agenda study session and regular business meeting.

ROLL-CALL

The Board members present at roll call were Mrs. Cooper, Ms. Dadd, Ms. Findley, Mr. Frank, Mr. Goode, Mr. Hamilton, Dr. Haselkorn, Mrs. Lynch, and Ms. Zych. Also present were Dr. Reljac, Dr. McCommons, Mr. Giuffre, and Mrs. Anuszek. Other members of the public were present.

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 Sangyong "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.

FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Seniors Lily Massaro, lead of the student engagement team, and Kellan Bleier, Fox Leadership Council vice president, reported on some of this year's activities.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Reljac thanked the district staff and students for all of their hard work that went into the 2025 League of Innovative Schools Spring Convening school visits.

- **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 one of the district's elementary QUEST experiences.

QUESTS are a part of the new elementary social studies adoption, and the QUEST showcased this evening was the fourth-grade wax museum. Katelyn Toth, Kerr Elementary School principal, introduced teachers and students who shared their experiences.

- **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 Fournon** 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.

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 regular business meeting dated March 10, 2025. On motion by Mr. Frank and seconded by Mr. Hamilton, the minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was one comment.

1. Susan Hance, district resident, commented on special needs of students and the special education plan.

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

There was no business.

FINANCE

B. Finance

On motion by Mr. Hamilton and seconded by Ms. Findley, and after a discussion, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Finance items:

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.

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.

3. Finance Report – February 2025

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

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

INSTRUCTION

C. Instruction

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

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

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

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

Approve the addendum 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 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.

LEGISLATION/POLICY

D. Legislation/Policy

Mr. Frank made a motion to approve Legislation/Policy items 1 – 3. There was a discussion. Ms. Zych requested that the agenda be amended so that Policy No. 222 would be considered separately. Mrs. Lynch seconded the motion. There was a discussion. It was resolved that the agenda be amended so that Policy No. 222 would be considered separately with 8 in favor and 1 opposed, Mr. Frank voting No.

Mr. Frank amended his motion to approve Legislation/Policy items 1 – 3, and consider Policy No. 222 separately. Ms. Zych seconded the motion. There was a discussion. It was unanimously resolved to approve items 1 – 3, excluding Policy No. 222.

Mr. Frank made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy No. 222. Mr. Goode seconded the motion. There was a discussion. It was resolved to approve the first reading of Policy No. 222 with 8 in favor and 1 opposed, Ms. Zych voting No.

1. Policies – Revised – Second Reading and Adoption

Approve the second reading and adoption of the following revised policies:

- 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:

- 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:

- No. 815.2 – Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Education

PERSONNEL

E. Personnel

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

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

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. Inter-State Studio – School Portrait Agreement – Elementaries and Middle School

Approve to extend the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Inter-State Studio to furnish individual portraits and provide other photography services to the district for students in pre-kindergarten through grade 8 for the 2025-2026 school year with the option to extend for the 2026-2027 school year, pursuant to the agreement that was approved June 10, 2024. **This is a renewal of services, the terms remain the same, and there is no cost to the district.**

3. Inter-State Studio – School Portrait Agreement – Fox Chapel Area High School

Approve to extend the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Inter-State Studio to furnish individual portraits and provide other photography services to the high school for the 2025-2026 school year with the option to extend for the 2026-2027 school year, pursuant to the agreement that was approved June 10, 2024. **This is a renewal of services, the terms remain the same, and there is no cost to the district.**

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were four comments.

1. Dr. Grant Gibb, district resident, commented on Board follow up on curriculum efficiency.

There was a discussion regarding whether to allow a non-district resident to make a public comment. Ms. Zych made a motion to waive the Board rules regarding public comment and allow Jill McConnell, non-district resident, to make a public comment regarding the Cooper-Siegel Community Library, on the grounds that she is functionally a member of this community and provides a direct service to this community within the boundaries of the Fox Chapel Area School District. Mrs. Lynch seconded the motion. There was a discussion. It was unanimously resolved to allow Jill McConnell to make a public comment.

2. Jill McConnell, executive director for Cooper-Siegel Community Library, commented on ways the Cooper-Siegel Community Library supports students in the community.
3. Dave Bennett, district resident and treasurer of the Community Library Association Board of Trustees, commented on district funding for the Cooper-Siegel Community Library.
4. Heidi Brayer, district resident and member of the Community Library Association Board of Trustees, commented on district funding for the Cooper-Siegel Community Library.

There were Board discussions regarding support for the Cooper-Siegel Library and the adoption of district curriculum.

FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

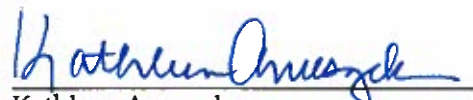
There was no report.

BOARD COMMENTS

There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

It was unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m.



Kathleen Anuszek
Board Secretary