

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMBINED AGENDA STUDY SESSION  
AND REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

MAY 5, 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 7:03 p.m. on May 5, 2025, in the Auditorium at Dorseyville Middle School. On April 28, 2025, the academic committee of the Board met in executive session to discuss a personnel matter and reviewed agency business that, if discussed in public, could lead to the disclosure of confidential or protected information. Immediately prior to tonight's public meeting, members of the Board met in executive session to discuss several matters. The Board reviewed a confidential student matter that, if discussed in public, would lead to the disclosure of information protected by law. The Board also discussed a personnel matter and reviewed agency business that, if discussed in public, could lead to the disclosure of confidential or protected information. The Board also discussed with counsel information or strategy in connection to pending tax litigation matters and issues about which identifiable complaints may be made.

**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**

•**25-Year Pins** – The following employees were recognized for 25 years of service to the district:  
Hartwood Elementary School – **Meredith Brown, Karina Grande, and Jodi Travaglia;**  
Kerr Elementary School – **Mary Ellen Dolansky, Jacqueline Koziatek, and Christina Thompson;**  
O'Hara Elementary School – **Dana Ferrari;**  
Dorseyville Middle School – **Timothy Derbish, Lynn Erdos, Alessandra Maletta, Kristin Pollick, Christy Rupert, Melissa Swift, and Ginger Wilson;** and  
Fox Chapel Area High School – **Kimberly Hollern, Amy Montgomery, and Deborah Welty.**

•Fox Chapel Area High School junior **Mariana Ramirez** was named one of two winners of the 2025 Luminari Award. As a 2025 Luminari Award Scholar, Mariana will receive a scholarship worth more than \$1,200 to attend Luminari's "I Want to be an Ambassador!" camp June 10-18 in Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C. The camp will welcome 20 students, two from the Pittsburgh area, and will allow participants to engage with diplomats, visit embassies, and tackle real-world challenges – all while learning innovative strategies to foster mutual respect and collaboration.

Luminari Award Scholars are selected based on an annual essay competition that challenges teens in grades 7-11 to explore what diplomacy means to them. This year's essay competition highlighted the importance diplomacy plays in our daily lives, and, according to Luminari, the winners truly embody this spirit.

"Every successful interaction, whether in government or daily life, starts with diplomacy," said Hilda Pang Fu, Luminari president and founder. "Our campers learn vital skills like effective communication and problem-solving, empowering them to bring positive change to their families, schools, and communities."

Mariana's essay reflected on navigating cultural differences with empathy and understanding. "This program will give me the opportunity to gain new skills, expand my knowledge, and show that immigrants can succeed," shared Mariana. As a Colombian immigrant, she passionately described her journey to challenge stereotypes and inspire others to pursue their dreams. Mariana plans to use these

lessons to grow as a leader and pursue a career in nursing. With a deep appreciation for diverse perspectives, she hopes to use diplomacy to build connections, foster mutual respect, and honor her parents' sacrifices.

Mariana is already making a positive impact at Fox Chapel Area High School, according to her teachers.

"Mariana approaches every challenge with perseverance, supports her peers with genuine compassion, and consistently puts in the effort to achieve her best," said English as a Second Language teacher Kathy Rombach. "Her dedication and positive attitude make her a joy to teach and an inspiration to those around her."

Science teacher Jennell Wolfe said, "Mari's genuine desire to learn, confidence, and leadership qualities have earned her this well-deserved award. Her dedication and resilience throughout high school have truly set her apart."

"Mariana is a dedicated student who consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic and a positive attitude," said math teacher Gail Hetu. "Her commitment goes beyond simply completing assignments – she shows a genuine drive to understand the concepts behind the math. Her determination and thoughtful approach to learning make her a standout in the classroom."

"The future of diplomacy starts here," said Debbie Casini Klein, I Want to be an Ambassador! director. "These teens are not just learning skills; they are becoming ambassadors of respect and change."

Luminari is a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit organization founded in 2009 to foster activities that broaden minds, inspire innovations, and promote community engagement.

- Four Dorseyville Middle School students placed in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Calcusolve competition. A team of DMS students placed first: eighth-graders **Rishabh Krishnamurthy** and **Linden Trac**, and seventh-graders **Shengfeng Fei** and **Brian Xu**. In the individual portion of the contest, all four of these students also won first-place awards by earning perfect scores of 35.

Calcusolve is a competition that tests students' problem-solving skills related to mathematics. Students compete as part of a team, as well as individually. The tournament was sponsored by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and was held in December 2024.

- Two Dorseyville Middle School students were named MathCON 2025 finalists. Seventh-graders **Shengfeng Fei** and **Brian Xu** each earned 285/300 points in the online test in March and ranked in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile. Both secured a spot in the MathCON Finals that will be held May 10 at the McCormick Place Convention Center in Chicago where they will compete with North America's brightest mathletes.

Shengfeng and Brian were two of 628 finalists from across the United States and Canada, chosen from more than 31,000 students, to compete in the finals of this prestigious academic competition. They were selected based on their scores on the online math assessment.

"MathCON isn't just a competition – it's an opportunity for students to discover their potential in STEM," said Nik Hallberg, program director of MathCON. "By making math engaging and accessible, we're empowering the next generation of problem solvers, innovators, and leaders who will shape the future."

MathCON, North America's premier math competition, challenges students in grades 4-12 with advanced problem-solving tasks that foster critical thinking, mathematical reasoning, and real-world applications. The group's vision is to build a collaborative mathematics community for students and educators in order to support, advocate, and influence STEM education in the United States to pave the way for the 21st century generation of problem-solvers.

- A Dorseyville Middle School student earned a high score in the annual Pennsylvania Math League (PAML) Contest. Seventh grader **Brian Xu** attained a perfect score and earned first place in both the state and local (encompassing the greater Pittsburgh area) competitions.

The annual PAML Contest is a mathematics competition offered to students in grades 4-12. The students have a limited amount of time to answer 35 high-level math questions. The purpose of the competition is to give students the opportunity to challenge themselves and build problem-solving skills.

•Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Gabriella Hample** has been named a member of the 37th class of the Coca-Cola Scholars Program. Gabriella is one of only 150 high school students from across the nation to be selected as a Coca-Cola Scholar this year. According to the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, Gabriella is one of “150 exceptional students leading positive change across the country.” She is also “a game changer – a force for positive change in your community and for good in the world. You inspire us and we are truly honored to welcome you to the Coca-Cola Scholar community.”

Prior to being named a Scholar, Gabriella was both a Regional Finalist and a Semifinalist for the award. The scholars were chosen from more than 105,000 applicants and are selected based on their academic excellence, leadership, and service demonstrated in school and community activities. Each scholar receives a \$20,000 college scholarship.

Gabriella was invited to attend the all-expenses paid Scholars Weekend April 3-6, 2025, in Atlanta, where she was honored at the Coca-Cola Scholars Banquet. The weekend also included a leadership development program, a visit to the World of Coca-Cola museum, networking opportunities, and a group community service project.

A joint effort of Coca-Cola Bottlers across the country and The Coca-Cola Company, the Coca-Cola Scholars Program is the largest corporate-sponsored, achievement-based scholarship program in the United States. With the addition of the 2025 class, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation will have provided more 7,050 Coke Scholars nationwide with over \$87 million in scholarships since the program’s inception.

•An A.W. Beattie Career Center and Fox Chapel Area High School senior placed at the SkillsUSA Pennsylvania competition. **Gretchen Shelestak** won a third-place bronze medal. Gretchen competed in the cosmetology category and is enrolled in Beattie’s cosmetology program.

Gretchen qualified for the state contest after placing first at the SkillsUSA Pennsylvania District 8 competition that was held February 17, 2025, at the Parkway West Career & Technology Center. The state contest was held April 2-4, 2025, in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

•Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Luca Poli** and junior **Laila Golla** were named 2024-2025 High School All-American Strength and Conditioning Athletes of the Year by the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA). The honor recognizes high school athletes whose accomplishments reflect their dedication to strength and conditioning. The athletes are also recognized for their academic accomplishments, as well as their integrity as student-athletes and for being role models for their peers. Luca was recognized for football, but also participates on the Unified Bocce and Track teams. Laila was recognized as a multi-sport athlete and she participates on the girls tennis and crew teams.

Luca and Laila were nominated by Fox Chapel Area High School social studies teacher and interscholastic strength and conditioning head coach **Brandon Peifer**. According to Peifer, Luca and Laila are both team leaders who are well-respected by others.

“Luca embodies all the qualities that we look for in our student-athletes. Over the years, he has won numerous awards for football, and his dedication to physical preparation throughout his high school career has been exceptional,” Peifer said. “In addition to being a scholar-athlete, Laila has a strong passion for community service. She also has a commitment to public health and she serves as a Youth Advisory Council Member for the Pennsylvania Department of Health and she contributes to youth-centered health policies at Penn State University.”

Founded in 1978, the NSCA is a nonprofit association dedicated to advancing the strength and conditioning and related sport science professions around the world. The NSCA exists to empower a community of professionals to maximize their impact through disseminating evidence-based knowledge and its practical application by offering industry-leading certifications, research journals, career

development services, networking opportunities, and continuing education. The NSCA community is composed of more than 60,000 members and certified professionals throughout the world.

•Fox Chapel Area High School junior **Karsten Buchert** was named a national winner in the Congressional Essay Contest for high school students run by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America (NSCDA). Karsten is one of approximately 50 winners from across the nation and one of only three from Pennsylvania. The essay topic was “Explain whether existing defamation and libel laws are or are not sufficient to prohibit baseless AI generated and distributed content.”

As a national winner, Karsten will receive a full scholarship to attend the highly interactive and civics-focused Workshop Foundation’s 49th Congressional Seminar in Washington, D.C. There, Karsten will join other winning students from across the United States in a model congress activity, and will also meet leaders from both the federal government and private sectors. Additionally, the national winners will tour the White House, congressional offices, historical landmarks, and museums. The seminar will be held June 23-27, 2025.

Founded in 1891, the NSCDA is committed to the exploration and interpretation of this country’s complex history. Across 43 states and the District of Columbia, the NSCDA’s members are stewards of history, women of action in their communities, and champions of the nation’s ongoing story. The society headquarters are located in Washington, D.C.

•Fox Chapel Area High School junior **Ori Goldin** was named the first-place winner of both the state and Allegheny County American Legion Essay Contest. The essay topic was “Why is the 1st Amendment Important in America?”. Essays were judged on proper English structure, accuracy, the extent of the information, and originality.

As the state first-place winner, Ori has won \$3,500, along with a trip to the PA American Legion Convention in July 2025 where he will read his winning essay to the assembled delegates. Ori was also invited to the American Legion Allegheny County & the American Legion Auxiliary Allegheny County Council 2025 Youth Achievement Awards dinner held at SNPJ Lodge 106 April 13 in Imperial, where he received a medal and a certificate.

Since the inception of the department of Pennsylvania state essay contest in 1935, the American Legion has awarded more than \$500,000 in scholarships, while local American Legion posts, counties, districts, and sections have also offered awards and prizes to their respective best essay winners as well. The contest is open to students in grades 9-12 from across the state of Pennsylvania.

•Fox Chapel Area High School junior **Ulyana Kubini** was named a 2025 Carson Scholar, and junior **Joanna Li** had her status as a Carson Scholar renewed and was named a Recognized Carson Scholar. Both students were invited to attend the Carson Scholars Fund’s Annual Pittsburgh Awards Banquet April 6 at Acrisure Stadium where they were honored for their accomplishments.

Thousands of students from across the nation are nominated each year by educators based on their high academic achievement and their commitment to their communities through community service. This year, 579 students from across the nation, and 79 from Pennsylvania, were named 2025 Carson Scholars. Additionally, 931 students (136 from Pennsylvania) had their Carson Scholar status renewed.

Each year the fund awards \$1,000 college scholarships and the coveted honor of being named a Carson Scholar to a select group of high-achieving students in grades 4-11 who not only demonstrate exceptional academic achievement, maintaining at least a 3.75 GPA, but also display strong humanitarian qualities. The students also receive an Olympic-sized medal.

To date, the Carson Scholars Fund has awarded more than 12,100 scholarships to students. The Carson Scholars Fund was started by Dr. Ben Carson and his wife, Candy, and is dedicated to impacting the nation in a positive way by cultivating future leaders who are academically talented and socially conscious. The fund is a nonprofit public charity based in Maryland.

- A Fox Chapel Area High School student won an award at the inaugural Gettysburg College Model United Nations (UN) Conference. Senior **Benjamin Fiedler** was named the Best Delegate (equivalent to first place).

Approximately 110 students representing eight public and private high schools from across Pennsylvania competed at the Gettysburg College Model UN Conference held October 11-13, 2024, at Gettysburg College.

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.

- A Fox Chapel Area High School student won an award at the 44th Annual University of Virginia High School Model UN (VAMUN) Conference. Junior **Ori Goldin** was awarded the Best Delegate (equivalent to first 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.

- A Fox Chapel Area High School student won an award at the 12th annual American University Model UN Conference. Senior **Benjamin Fiedler** won the Best Delegate award, equivalent to first place.

Approximately 850 students representing 53 secondary schools from nine states and four other countries participated in the American University Model UN Conference. The event was held January 31-February 2, 2025, at American University in Washington, D.C.

- A Fox Chapel Area High School junior placed at the annual Westminster College High School Model United Nations (UN) Conference. **Ori Goldin** won the Outstanding Delegate Award (equivalent to first place) in the Contemporary Security Council.

A total of 250 students from 20 public and private high schools from Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio, and Northern West Virginia participated in the Westminster College High School Model UN Conference. The competition was held April 9, 2025, at Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania.

- Two Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the annual M&M Lake Erie Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament. The team of juniors **Joanna Li** and **Zachary Rubin** won first place in Policy Debate.

The tournament, sponsored by Mercyhurst Preparatory School and McDowell High School, was held November 9, 2024, on the campus of Penn State Behrend in Erie, Pennsylvania. A total of 138 students from 8 public and private high schools from Western Pennsylvania participated in the event.

- Eight Fox Chapel Area High School students placed in the Pennsylvania High School Speech League (PHSSL) District 16 state championship qualifying tournament. First-place awards went to the team of juniors **Prachi Behal** and **Maya Agarwal** in Parliamentary Debate, the team of juniors **Joanna Li** and **Zachary Rubin** in Policy Debate, and junior **Sabina Mantella** in Informative Speaking. Second-place awards were given to freshman **Otilie Happold** in Persuasive Speaking and to the team of junior **Steven Li** and sophomore **Elaine Huang** in Parliamentary Debate. All eight of these students qualified to participate in the PHSSL State Championship Tournament. 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.

- Two Fox Chapel Area High School students qualified for the National Catholic Forensic League Grand National Tournament. The team of juniors **Joanna Li** and **Zachary Rubin** won second place overall in Policy Debate and qualified for 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.

- Five Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected by audition to perform with the 2024 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 Honors Band. The students are senior **Marina Dunham** (bassoon); juniors **Elliott Broyles** (trombone), **Jack Murray-Krezan** (percussion), and **Joshua Shah** (flute); and sophomore **Nadre Digbohau** (clarinet). The band was comprised of 120 of the best student-musicians from Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

The PMEA District 1 Honors Band concert was held November 24 at North Hills Middle School and was conducted by Dr. Tonya Mitchell-Spradlin, director of wind band studies and assistant professor of music at Penn State University.

- Fox Chapel Area High School seniors **Lindsay Gould** (alto saxophone) and **Patton Johnson** (drum set) were selected by audition to perform with the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 Honors Jazz Ensemble. District 1 encompasses school districts from Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties.

The PMEA District 1 Honors Jazz Ensemble performed at Franklin Regional High School December 14, 2024, under the direction of Dr. Matthew Pivec, the director of jazz studies at Butler University in Indianapolis.

- Twenty-two Fox Chapel Area School District students were selected by audition to perform with the 2025 Allegheny Valley honors bands. Seventh-twelfth grade student-musicians from the Avonworth, Fox Chapel Area, Hampton, North Allegheny, Northgate, North Hills, Pine-Richland, Riverview, and Shaler Area school districts auditioned for the groups, and a total of 204 were selected (101 for the senior high band and 103 for the junior high band).

The students chosen from Fox Chapel Area are Fox Chapel Area High School seniors **Marina Dunham** (bassoon) and **Lindsay Gould** (alto saxophone); juniors **Elliott Broyles** (trombone), **Jack Murray-Krezan** (percussion), and **Joshua Shah** (flute); sophomores **Nadre Digbohau** (clarinet) and **Evelyn Owens** (clarinet); and freshmen **Annabel Berkowitz** (bassoon), **Paulomi Goel** (trombone), **Steven Hu** (tenor saxophone), **Claire Lesnik** (trumpet), **Mary Clare Owens** (clarinet), and **Kanyapat Wesaratchakit** (clarinet). The students chosen from Dorseyville Middle School are eighth-graders **Isaac Chan** (trumpet), **Rebecca Dorneich** (flute), **Celestial Hou** (piccolo), **Holden Link** (trombone), **Delaney Liu** (flute), and **Zoey Liu** (flute); and seventh-graders **Shengfeng Fei** (clarinet), **Lucy Hanlon** (clarinet), and **Christine Meskel** (tuba).

The Allegheny Valley Honors Band Festival was held at Pine-Richland High School January 17 and culminated with a public concert. The conductors were renowned international composer Robert Sheldon and the director of the Penn State University Marching Blue Band, Gregory Drane.

- Seven Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected to perform with the 2025 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Senior District 1 Band East. The students are seniors **Malik Choset** (trumpet), **Marina Dunham** (bassoon), and **Lindsay Gould** (alto saxophone); juniors **Elliott Broyles** (trombone), **Jack Murray-Krezan** (percussion), and **Joshua Shah** (flute); and sophomore **Nadre Digbohau** (clarinet). The band was comprised of 130 of the best student-musicians from 31 high schools from Allegheny, Fayette, and Westmoreland counties.

The PMEA District 1 Band East concert was held January 24 at Laurel Highlands High School. The guest conductor was Christopher Nichter, the director of bands at the University of Cincinnati.

- Four Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected by audition to perform with the 2025 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Region I Band. The students are senior **Marina Dunham** (bassoon) and juniors **Elliott Broyles** (trombone), **Jack Murray-Kreza** (percussion), and **Joshua Shah** (flute). The band included 150 of the best student-musicians from 60 high schools from throughout Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Mercer, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

The PMEA Region I Band concert was held March 8 at Ambridge Area High School and was conducted by retired Colonel Michael J. Colburn, the 27th director of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band.

- Eight Fox Chapel Area High School students were chosen to participate in the 2024 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 Honors String Orchestra Festival. The students are senior **Anna Delale-O'Connor** (violin); juniors **Xing Carlough** (viola), **Michael Costello** (bass), **Charles Hahl** (cello), and **Eloise Johnson** (violin); sophomores **Hayden Trac** (violin) and **Leonidas Vandapel** (cello); and freshman **Henry Sun** (violin).

Approximately 250 students from across the greater Pittsburgh area auditioned for the PMEA District 1 Honors String Orchestra and only 90 were chosen to participate. The students rehearsed November 15 and 16 and the festival culminated with a concert on November 16 at Upper St. Clair High School. The orchestra was conducted by Dr. Timothy Dixon, professor of music at Messiah University.

- Nine Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected to perform with the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 Senior High Orchestra. The orchestra was comprised of a select group of student-musicians from Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties. The students chosen are seniors **Anna Delale-O'Connor** (violin) and **Marina Dunham** (bassoon); juniors **Elliott Broyles** (trombone), **Michael Costello** (bass), **Charles Hahl** (cello), **Jack Murray-Kreza** (percussion), and **Joshua Shah** (flute); and sophomores **Aislynn Senn** (harp) and **Leonidas Vandapel** (cello).

A total of 150 students were selected for the District 1 Senior High Orchestra Festival which was held at Bethel Park High School January 9-11, 2025. A concert was held January 11 and the guest conductor was Dr. Christopher M. Cicconi, the director of bands and professor of wind conducting at James Madison University.

- Eight Fox Chapel Area High School students were chosen by audition to perform with the 2025 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Western Region Orchestra. The orchestra was comprised of the best musicians from the western half of Pennsylvania. The students are seniors **Anna Delale-O'Connor** (violin) and **Marina Dunham** (bassoon); juniors **Elliott Broyles** (trombone), **Michael Costello** (bass), **Charles Hahl** (cello), **Jack Murray-Kreza** (percussion), and **Joshua Shah** (flute); and sophomore **Aislynn Senn** (harp).

Approximately 160 students were selected from the western half of Pennsylvania for the Western Region Orchestra. The festival was held February 20-22, and culminated with a concert at Richland High School in Johnstown. The festival was conducted by Chris Thomas, a composer renowned for his contributions to film, television, theme parks, and video games.

- Ten Fox Chapel Area High School students participated in the second annual Allegheny County Chorus Festival: seniors **Madeleine Jones** and **Alaina OKunewick**; juniors **Alana Calig**, **Lincoln Rowley**, **Benjamin Shuttleworth**, and **Robert Svenson**; and sophomores **Cascie Banachoski**, **Maisie Hays**, **Sofia Melani**, and **Emily Wright**.

Approximately 200 students were selected by their directors to perform with the chorus. The festival was held October 15, 2024, at Gateway High School, and the students were directed by four area choir directors.

- Four Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected to perform with the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 Choir. The students are seniors **Alaina OKunewick** and **Mya Wilson**, junior **Robert Svenson**, and sophomore **Evangeline Sereno**.

The PMEA District 1 Choir featured students from Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties and the festival was held at Mount Lebanon High School February 6 and 7, 2025. It culminated in a concert directed by Dr. Amy Voorhees, the director of choral activities at Susquehanna University.

- Three Fox Chapel Area High School students were chosen for Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Region I Choir. The students are seniors **Alaina OKunewick** and **Mya Wilson**, and sophomore **Evangeline Sereno**.

The choral group included approximately 160 of the best singers from school districts throughout Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Mercer, Washington, and Westmoreland counties. The Region I Chorus Festival was held March 19-21, 2025, at Waynesburg University. The group was conducted by Daniel Singer, music director of the Mendelssohn choir of Pittsburgh. The festival culminated in a concert March 21.

- Eight Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected by audition to perform with Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) All-State Ensembles. The students chosen for the PMEA All-State Chorus are seniors **Alaina OKunewick** and **Mya Wilson**. The students selected for the PMEA All-State Orchestra are senior **Marina Dunham** (bassoon) and juniors **Elliott Broyles** (trombone), **Michael Costello** (bass), **Charles Hahl** (cello), **Jack Murray-Krezan** (percussion), and **Joshua Shah** (flute). The PMEA All-State Ensembles bring together the top student-musicians from across Pennsylvania.

This year's PMEA All-State Festival was held at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in the Poconos, in conjunction with the PMEA Annual In-Service Conference April 9-12, 2025. The Fox Chapel Area High School students performed with their prospective groups April 11 (orchestra) and April 12 (chorus).

- Dorseyville Middle School eighth-graders **Avery Graham** and **Giselle Silva** were selected to perform with the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 Junior High Chorus. The chorus featured more than 140 students from over 50 schools from Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties. The festival was held at Keystone Oaks High School February 28, 2025, and culminated with a concert. The festival guest conductor was Victor C. Johnson, an acclaimed choral conductor and composer from Dallas.

Both Avery and Giselle are active in the DMS choral program, participating in the DMS concert choir and serving as officers in the DMS honor choir. They have also participated in the DMS musicals for the past three years.

- A Dorseyville Middle School student was selected by committee to perform with the 2025 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 Junior High Orchestra. The student is eighth-grader **Emma Nguansiri** (viola). The orchestra included more than 80 of the most talented seventh-, eighth-, and ninth-grade orchestra students from throughout Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

The PMEA District 1 Junior High Orchestra Festival was held April 25 and 26 at Gateway High School, and culminated with a concert April 26.

### **FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Kellan Bleier, Fox Leadership Council vice president and senior, reported on some of the activities being held at the high school for the soon-to-be graduates.

## **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 Fox Chapel Area High School library.

Dr. Michelle Young, high school program principal, introduced Dr. Laura Ward, high school librarian. Dr. Ward spoke about the library and the recent honors it has received. She introduced students, described as “library enthusiasts,” who shared their experiences about the programs that the library offers.

### • **Textbooks and Resource Materials for Review**

The textbooks and resource materials listed below will be recommended for approval at the June 9, 2025, Board meeting. They are available for review until that time in the administrative offices.

#### **Updated Copyright of Current Textbooks:**

##### **Fox Chapel Area High School – Social Studies**

“US History Interactive; Reconstruction to the Present” by E.J. Lapsansky-Werner, P.B. Levy, R. Roberts, and A. Taylor; Publisher: Savvas Learning Company; Updated Copyright 2024; for United States History II and United States History II Accelerated Grade 9

##### **Dorseyville Middle School – Math**

“Connected Math Project 4” by E. Defanis Phillips, G. Lappan, J.T. Fey, S.N. Friel, Y. Slanger-Grant, and A.J. Edson; Publisher: Lab-Aids, Inc.; Updated Copyright 2025; for Pre-Algebra 6 Grade 6 and Pre-Algebra 7 Grade 7

#### **Resource Materials:**

##### **Elementary Schools – Science**

OpenSciEd resource materials for science, kindergarten-grade 5, at all elementary schools

• **2025-2026 Proposed Final General Fund Operating Budget Summary** – Kimberly Pawlishak, Business Manager, and Mary Catherine Reljac, Ed.D., Superintendent

There was a Board discussion regarding the budget.

### • **DMS Students Score High in PA Math League Contest**

Several Dorseyville Middle School students earned high scores in the annual Pennsylvania Math League (PAML) Contest. The students are seventh-grader **Shengfeng Fei** who placed second in the state and local (encompassing the Pittsburgh area) contests, eighth-grader **Rishabh Krishnamurthy** who earned fourth place locally and 17th in the state, and sixth-grader **Ellie Huh** who placed third in the local competition. Eighth-graders **Ario Homayoun**, **Zoe Liu**, and **Linden Trac** all placed in the top 30 in the state.

Additionally, the Dorseyville Middle School eighth-grade team placed second locally and fifth in the state, the seventh-grade team placed third locally and 12th in the state, and the sixth-grade team placed second locally and 15th in the state.

The annual PAML Contest is a mathematics competition offered to students in grades 4-12. The students have a limited amount of time to answer 35 high-level math questions. The purpose of the competition is to give students the opportunity to challenge themselves and build problem-solving skills.

• **Student Chosen for Cager Classic**

Fox Chapel Area High School senior basketball player **Bella Urso** was selected to play on the Cager Classic west team. The games bring together the top senior girls and boys basketball players from the A-K Valley and beyond. The 28th Cager Classic games were played April 5, 2025, at Highlands High School.

• **Students Selected for Pittsburgh Post-Gazette All-Section Girls Basketball Teams**

Two Fox Chapel Area High School girls basketball players were selected for a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette all-section team. Senior **Natalia Schaffer** and junior **Lyla Jablon** were named to the WPIAL Class 5A Section 1 team. The players were selected by the section coaches, and coaches were not permitted to vote for their own players.

• **Players Chosen for Valley News Dispatch All-Star Girls Basketball Teams**

Three Fox Chapel Area High School girls basketball players were named to Valley News Dispatch all-star teams. Senior **Natalia Schaffer** was named to the first team, junior **Lyla Jablon** was named to the second team, and senior **Bella Urso** was named to the third team.

• **Student Selected for Pittsburgh Post-Gazette All-Section Boys Basketball Team**

Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Caden Kaiser** was named to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette all-section boys basketball team. Caden was named to the WPIAL Class 6A Section 1 team. The players were selected by the section coaches, and coaches were not permitted to vote for their own players.

• **Players Chosen for Valley News Dispatch All-Star Boys Basketball Teams**

Two Fox Chapel Area High School boys basketball seniors were named to Valley News Dispatch all-star teams. **Caden Kaiser** was named to the first team and **Asher White** was named to the second team.

• **Wrestlers Chosen as Valley News Dispatch All-Stars**

Five Fox Chapel Area High School boys wrestlers were named to Valley News Dispatch all-star teams. Senior **Michael Worsen** was named to the first team, and seniors **Youssef Abdelsalam**, **Landon Funk**, **D'Angelo Hamilton**, and **Jack Viti** were named to the second team.

• **Ice Hockey Player Named to Post-Gazette Stellar 6**

Fox Chapel Area High School senior ice hockey player **Dominic Casile** was named to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Stellar 6. Dominic finished the regular season with 32 goals, led Class 2A in goals, and was second in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL).

**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 combined agenda study session and regular business meeting dated April 14, 2025. On motion by Mr. Frank and seconded by Mr. Hamilton, 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 Dr. Haselkorn, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Facilities/Transportation items:

**1. Acceptance of Bid and Award of Plumbing Construction Contract  
High School Domestic Water Line and Service Replacement Project**

Accept the bid and approve to award a contract to the bidder listed below on the high school domestic water line and service replacement project, conditioned upon the contractor completing their post-bid award documents.

To Vrabel Plumbing Company, LLC, for the Plumbing Construction Contract, with a Base Bid amount of \$258,200 and accepting the Alternate Bid in the amount of \$800, for a total contract award of \$259,000.

**2. McKinley Architecture and Engineering Inc. – Agreement  
High School Tennis Court Renovations  
and Athletic Field Sports Lighting Replacement Projects**

Approve the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and McKinley Architecture and Engineering Inc. for architectural and engineering services related to the high school tennis court renovations and athletic field sports lighting replacement projects at a cost of \$73,300. **This is a new agreement.**

### FINANCE

#### **B. Finance**

On motion by Mr. Hamilton and seconded by Ms. Findley, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Finance items 1 – 5:

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

General fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$7,464,244.87 from April 1, 2025, through April 30, 2025, are approved.

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

Capital reserves fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$524,159.45 from April 1, 2025, through April 30, 2025, are approved.

**3. Finance Report – March 2025**

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

**4. Budget Transfers**

The budget transfers for 2024-2025 are approved.

**5. Student Activity Financial Reports**

The third quarter 2024-2025 middle school and high school student activity financial reports are acknowledged and filed for audit.

On motion by Mr. Hamilton and seconded by Mr. Frank, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Finance item 6:

**6. 2025-2026 Proposed Final General Fund Operating Budget**

The superintendent, with the advice of and upon the recommendations of the administration and with advisement from the Resource Planning Advisory, has prepared for presentation to the School Board the Proposed Final General Fund Operating Budget for 2025-2026.

Therefore, be it resolved, to adopt the 2025-2026 Proposed Final General Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$123,187,421 as attached with a real estate tax increase of 2.3% (0.4948 mills) and a continuation of all other taxes without change.

**Finance Information Item:**

**7. 2025-2026 Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium Rates – Information**

The Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium approved rates below are effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. The Performance Blue PPO and EPO rate increase is 5.7%, the United Concordia Elite Prime increase is 3%, and the Davis Vision rate increase is 3%.

<u>Monthly Coverage</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Parent/Child</u>	<u>Parent/Children</u>	<u>Employee/Spouse</u>	<u>Family</u>
Performance Blue PPO	\$928.94	\$2,082.70	\$2,290.96	\$2,523.51	\$2,623.76
Performance Blue EPO	\$867.79	\$1,946.47	\$2,141.06	\$2,357.42	\$2,451.23
United Concordia Elite Prime	\$ 33.12				\$ 108.93
Davis Vision	\$ 6.73				\$ 16.42

**INSTRUCTION**

**C. Instruction**

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

**1. June 2025 Candidates for Graduation**

Approve the list of candidates for June 8, 2025, graduation submitted by the Fox Chapel Area High School administration. Candidates must meet all graduation requirements by June 7, 2025, in order to graduate and receive their diplomas.

**2. The Day School – Services Agreement**

Approve the services agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and The Day School for educational and related alternative education placement services for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. **This is a renewal of services.**

**3. Allegheny Intermediate Unit Comprehensive Services Agreement and Special Education Services Addendum A age 188**

Approve the comprehensive services agreement and special education services Addendum A between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for specialized educational services for the period July 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**

On motion by Mr. Frank and seconded by Mr. Goode, it was resolved to approve the following Legislation/Policy item 1 with 8 in favor and 1 opposed, Ms. Zych voting No:

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

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

No. 222 – Tobacco and Vaping Products

On motion by Mr. Frank and seconded by Mrs. Lynch, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Legislation/Policy items 2 and 3:

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

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

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 – Second Reading and Adoption**

Approve the second 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, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Personnel items:

#### **1. Resignations**

##### **a. Educational Support**

- (1) The resignation of Kimberly A. Panza, instructional assistant at O'Hara Elementary School, due to retirement, is accepted effective June 9, 2025.

**b. STEAM Camp**

- (1) The resignation of Michelle Beck, instructor for the STEAM Camp at Fairview Elementary School, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective April 28, 2025.
- (2) The resignation of Kara Finkel, instructor for the STEAM Camp at Fairview Elementary School, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective April 28, 2025.

**2. Appointment**

**a. Supplemental Contract – Athletic**

- (1) The following athletic supplemental contract is approved effective May 6, 2025, for the 2025-2026 school year:

Joshua Randall	Basketball-Boys, HS 1st Asst.	\$6,559
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**3. Leave – Revision**

**a. Professional**

- (1) Elizabeth J. Dames, elementary teacher at O'Hara Elementary School, previously approved for childrearing/adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective March 21, 2025, with return scheduled for August 13, 2025, is revised to return May 19, 2025.

**4. Employment Agreement**

- a. The following employment agreement is approved as presented:

Behavior Specialist, Stacy E. Trpcic

**5. School Police Officers – Summer Hours**

- a. The following school police officers are approved for additional summer hours as needed at the officer's hourly rate with a maximum of 80 hours per officer:

Scott E. Bailey  
Stanley M. Bradish  
Joshua A. Dietz  
Dennis J. Lynch  
Timothy G. Rush  
Shannon Santucci  
Eric R. Valentine

**6. 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.

Carrie L. Harris  
Kiley S. Miller

**b. High School**

- (1) The individuals listed below are approved as Western PA Learning Academy specialty workshop facilitators (design and host). All workshop facilitators will receive 35% of the registration fees (minimum enrollment required).

Penny M. Capek  
Lesley A. Cowles, Ed.D.  
Lisa R. Gibson  
Chad S. Morley

- (2) The following individual is approved as the transition program coordinator at a rate of \$1,250:

Lesley A. Cowles, Ed.D.

- (3) The following individuals are approved as summer high school faculty at a rate of \$1,900 per 1/2-credit course and \$3,800 per 1-credit course:

Lesley A. Cowles, Ed.D.  
Jennifer L. Klein  
Mark J. Matusiak  
Meghan A. Meabon  
Stephanie S. Reilly  
Deborah A. Welty

- (4) The following individuals are approved as summer high school FCAO credit recovery faculty at a rate of \$1,900 (minimum enrollment required):

Mary E. Dixon  
Lisa R. Gibson  
Jennifer L. Klein  
Stephanie S. Reilly  
Heather M. Skillen

**OPERATIONS/COOPERATIVE SERVICES**

**F. Operations/Cooperative Services**

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

**1. School Board Treasurer – Appointment**

The appointment of Eric G. Hamilton as School Board Treasurer is approved effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

**2. Athletic Summer Camps/Activities**

The following teams are approved to hold summer camps/ activities in 2025 for athletes in the Fox Chapel Area School District:

Fox Chapel Area Baseball  
Fox Chapel Area Boys/Girls Basketball  
Fox Chapel Area Cheerleading  
Fox Chapel Area Boys/Girls Cross Country  
Fox Chapel Area Field Hockey  
Fox Chapel Area Football

Fox Chapel Area Boys/Girls Golf  
Fox Chapel Area Boys/Girls Lacrosse  
Fox Chapel Area Boys/Girls Soccer  
Fox Chapel Area Softball  
Fox Chapel Area Strength and Conditioning  
Fox Chapel Area Boys/Girls Swimming and Diving  
Fox Chapel Area Boys/Girls Volleyball  
Fox Chapel Area Boys/Girls Wrestling

**3. PSBA 2025 Delegate Assembly – Appointment of Voting Delegates**

The appointment of Adam Goode and Marybeth Dadd as voting delegates to the PSBA 2025 Delegate Assembly to be held October 21, 2025, is approved.

**4. United States Golf Association – Addendum to Parking Lot Agreement**

Approve the addendum between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the United States Golf Association for additional parking at O'Hara Elementary School at a fee of \$4,000, effective June 9, 2025, through July 15, 2025. **This addendum is pursuant to the agreement that was approved June 10, 2024.**

**5. Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh – Agreement and Lease**

Approve the agreement and lease between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh for operation of its Maccabiah Games, effective August 4, 2025, through August 6, 2025. **This is a new agreement.**

**SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no comments.

**FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE**

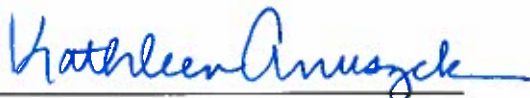
There was no report.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m.



Kathleen Anuszek  
Board Secretary