

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMBINED AGENDA STUDY SESSION
AND REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

DECEMBER 2, 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 7:21 p.m. on December 2, 2025, in the LGI Room at Fox Chapel Area High School.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

•The Fox Chapel Area High School boys varsity soccer team, for the second consecutive year, won the WPIAL Class 4A title and the WPIAL Class 4A Section 3 title, and qualified for the PIAA playoffs. The team members were seniors Chase Carney, Mason DeGuilio, Joseph DeMartino, Rocco Didomenico, Calyx Kimbrough, Jaxson Lapiana, Patrick Levy, Brady Matthews, Sean Regan, Lorenzo Smiraglio, Nicolas Squeglia, Jacob Williams, and Michael Winter; juniors Max Choset, Noah Fincher, Paul Fitzsimmons, Rocco Poli, Eli Ramirez, Julien Sarra, David Zakrocki, and Sharif Zureikat; sophomores Levi Amster, Alexander Banyas, Salvador Castro Maguina, Tamer Dandashi, Maximus Fortun, Andrew Gulakowski, Ethan Leichter, Ryan Overbeck, Colin Regan, Sebastian Rosenmeier, Gram Seymour, and Carson Torres; and freshmen Ethan Banta, Zane Bucek, Isaac Drucker, Rowan Fincher, Simon Fuller, Alexander Ginzburg, Ario Homayoun, Wilder Jacobson, Oskar Kochmanski, Landon Madden, Brayden Miele, Micah Ramirez, Brandon Tilstra, and Carson Vukmir. The WPIAL championships were held October 31, 2025, at Highmark Stadium.

•The Fox Chapel Area High School girls varsity soccer team won the WPIAL Class 3A title and the WPIAL Class 3A Section 1 title. The team also qualified for the PIAA playoffs. The team members were seniors Maeve Beresford, Cassie Classen, Summer Hill, Lilly Hunkele, Emily Korczynski, Sabina Mantella, Lily McLaughlin, Mira Owens, and Marilyn Pekarcik; juniors Lauren Bachman, Elise Dressman, Ella Ettinger, Antonia Linzoain, Emily McKee, Lia Pizzella, Caylie Wilkinson, and Taylor Wilkinson; sophomores Mattea Basile, Paige Capek, Viviana Didomenico, Gemma Levy, and Ava Stackhouse; and freshmen Ava Henderson, Riley Kessing, Gianna Leffakis Hanley, Carys Sarra, and Haly Westbrook. The team won the WPIAL championship October 29, 2025, at Highmark Stadium.

•The Fox Chapel Area High School field hockey team won the WPIAL Class 2A title and the WPIAL Class 2A Section 1 title, and qualified for the PIAA playoffs. The team members were seniors Atia DiGioia, Avery Jones, Emily Kintner, Charlotte Rattner, Katie Siddons, Emma Srodes, and Brooke Thiele; juniors Catelyn Pastoor, Melanie Pietz, Ava Tramontina, and Ava Wegley; sophomores Mia Carl, Cecilia Festa, Margaret Klamut, Alice McLeland, and Emily Olifson; and freshmen McKayla O'Leary, Tatum Patrick, and Pyper Shurina. The team won the WPIAL championship October 29, 2025, at North Allegheny Senior High School.

FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Junior, Ella Golomb, high school telethon co-chair, reported on the district's telethon benefitting Fox Families Care.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Reljac reminded the community that the comprehensive plan process will begin soon.

• **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 middle school's student ambassadors program.

Dr. Laura Miller, Dorseyville Middle School program principal, introduced counselor Craig Reinhard and teacher Ethan Wagner, and several students. They shared information about the newly-created program at Dorseyville Middle School.

•Marching Foxes Win First Place at PIMBA Championships

The Fox Chapel Area High School Marching Band won first place at the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Marching Band Association (PIMBA) Championships. The Marching Foxes placed first in Class 2A at the competition which was held October 18, 2025, at Deer Lakes High School. The Marching Foxes earned a score of 86.375, and also won awards for the highest Music and General Effect. The theme of this year's show was "From the Ashes."

The band is under the student direction of drum majors senior **Sophia Nguansiri** and junior **Nadre Digbohau**, and band directors/teachers **Daryl Lesnik**, **Evan Hertrick**, **Joshua Branker**, and **Karli Umholtz**.

•High School Students Place at Lake Erie Speech & Debate Tournament

Seven Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the annual M&M Lake Erie Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament. The debate teams of senior **Joanna Li** and junior **Emmanuella Ulas** and juniors **Elaine Huang** and **Lydia Humes** won second place in the Team Sweepstakes for Debate for their combined records in Parliamentary Debate. The team of sophomores **Paulomi Goel** and **Ottillie Happold** won second place in Duo Interpretation. Sophomore **Abigail Vaughan** won fifth place in Student Congress.

The tournament, sponsored by Mercyhurst Preparatory School and McDowell High School, was held November 8, 2025, on the campus of Penn State Behrend in Erie, Pennsylvania. A total of 124 students from 8 public and private high schools from Western Pennsylvania participated in the event.

•High School Students Win Award at Western PA Novice Speech and Debate Tournament

Two Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the annual Western Pennsylvania Novice Speech and Debate Tournament. The team of sophomores **Carter Fincher** and **Amelia Tedesco** won third place overall in Parliamentary Debate.

The tournament was held at Peters Township High School October 25, 2025. A total of 241 students representing 15 public, private, and charter high schools from across the region participated in the competition.

•High School Student Places at UVA Model UN Conference

A Fox Chapel Area High School student won an award at the 45th Annual University of Virginia Model UN Conference. Senior **Ori Goldin** was awarded a Verbal Commendation (equivalent to fourth place).

Nearly 950 students from 61 public, private, and charter schools from 10 states participated in the conference, held November 14-16, 2025, at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

The purpose of the Model UN conferences is to enable students to role-play and simulate the countries in the United Nations. As a part of the conferences, students debate and try to solve global problems from the perspectives of other countries.

• **Student Places at Riverview Model United Nations (UN) Conference**

A Fox Chapel Area High School senior placed at the 14th annual Riverview Model UN Conference. **Ori Goldin** won the Outstanding Delegate award (equivalent to second place).

Approximately 160 students from 12 schools participated in the Riverview Model UN Conference. The competition was held October 13, 2025, at Riverview High School in Oakmont.

• **Boys Soccer Player Named to All-State Team**

Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Rocco Didomenico** was named to the Western Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association (WPSCA) All-State team. The members of the team were selected by the coaches.

• **Boys Soccer Players Named to All-WPIAL Team**

Four Fox Chapel Area High School varsity boys soccer players, seniors **Rocco Didomenico** and **Sean Regan**, and juniors **Rocco Poli** and **Sharif Zureikat**, were named to the All-WPIAL Class 4A team. The team members were selected by the WPIAL coaches.

• **Boys Soccer Players Named to All-Section Team/Coach Section Coach of the Year**

Fox Chapel Area High School varsity boys soccer players seniors **Rocco Didomenico** and **Sean Regan**, and juniors **Rocco Poli** and **Sharif Zureikat**, were named to the WPIAL Class 4A Section 1 team. The teams were selected by the WPIAL Soccer Coaches Association.

Head coach **Erik Ingram** was also named the WPIAL Class 4A Section 1 coach of the year.

• **Boys Soccer Players Named to Big 56 Teams/Coach Named Coach of the Year**

Seven Fox Chapel Area High School boys varsity soccer players were named to Big 56 teams. Seniors **Rocco Didomenico**, **Brady Matthews**, and **Sean Regan**, and junior **Sharif Zureikat** were named to the WPIAL Class 4A Section 3 first team. Senior **Nicolas Squeglia** and juniors **Paul Fitzsimmons** and **Rocco Poli** were named to the second team. The teams are selected by the coaches.

Additionally, head coach **Erik Ingram** was named the section coach of the year.

• **Girls Soccer Players Named to All-Section Teams**

Six Fox Chapel Area High School girls soccer players were named to the WPIAL Class 3A Section 1 team. They are seniors **Cassie Classen** and **Summer Hill**, and juniors **Antonia Linzoain**, **Emily McKee**, **Cailey Wilkinson**, and **Taylor Wilkinson**. The teams were chosen by the WPIAL Soccer Coaches Association.

• **Football Players Named to Big 56 All-Conference Teams**

Two Fox Chapel Area High School football players were named to Big 56 Class 5A all-conference teams. Senior **Harran Zureikat** (kicker) was named to the Northeast Conference first team offense. Senior **Max Melocchi** (running back) was named to the Northeast Conference second team offense. The teams were selected by the coaches.

• **Field Hockey Player Named Class 2A Offensive Player of the Year**

Fox Chapel Area High School varsity field hockey team member senior **Emma Srodes** was named the WPIAL Class 2A offensive player of the year. The team was selected by the WPIAL Field Hockey Coaches Association.

• **Field Hockey Players Named to Class 2A All-Star Teams**

Eight members of the Fox Chapel Area High School field hockey team were named to Class 2A all-star teams. Seniors **Kathryn Siddons**, **Emma Srodes**, and **Brooke Thiele**; junior **Melanie Pietz**; and freshman **Mckayla O'Leary** were all named to the team. Senior **Atia DiGioia**, junior **Catelyn Pastoor**, and sophomore **Margaret Klamut** all received honorable mentions to the team.

• **Girls Volleyball Player Named to All-WPIAL Team**

Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Emma DiRocco** was named to the All-WPIAL Class 4A girls volleyball second team. The team members were selected by the WPIAL coaches.

• **Girls Volleyball Senior Named to All-Section Team**

Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Emma DiRocco** was named to the WPIAL Class 4A Section 4 girls volleyball team. The team members were selected by the WPIAL coaches.

• **Girls Volleyball Player Named to Big 56 Team**

A Fox Chapel Area High School student was named to a Big 56 volleyball team. Senior **Emma DiRocco** was named to the WPIAL Class 4A Section 4 girls volleyball first team. The teams were selected by the coaches.

• **Senior Chosen for All-Star Volleyball Team**

Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Emma DiRocco** was selected to participate in the fourth annual We Serve First All-Star Classic sponsored by the We Serve First Foundation. The event will include 40 of the top senior girls volleyball players from 30 schools throughout the Alle-Kiski Valley and surrounding communities. The matches will be held December 6, 2025, at Kiski Area High School.

The We Serve First Foundation was established in 2015 by the late Ellen Toy, a longtime high school and club volleyball coach in Western Pennsylvania. The group provides scholarships for high school volleyball players that enable them to participate on club volleyball teams and in volleyball camps.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Dadd asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the regular business meeting dated November 10, 2025. On motion by Mr. Frank and seconded by Ms. Zych, the minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Academic Committee Report

Mrs. Cooper, academic committee chairperson, gave a report.

B. Governance Committee Report

Mr. Frank, governance committee chairperson, gave a report.

C. Projects and Planning Committee Report

Ms. Zych, projects and planning committee chairperson, gave a report.

NEW BUSINESS

The superintendent recommended that action be taken on the following items of business:

FACILITIES/TRANSPORTATION

A. Facilities/Transportation

On motion by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Hamilton, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Facilities/Transportation item:

1. Additional School Bus Drivers – 2025-2026 School Year

Ratify hiring the additional ABC Transit, Inc., drivers effective for the 2025-2026 school year. All required licensing, clearances, and other essential employment requirements for school bus operators under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have been verified.

FINANCE

B. Finance

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

1. Finance Report – October 2025

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

2. Budget Transfers

The budget transfers for 2025-2026 are approved.

3. Allegheny Intermediate Unit Joint Purchasing Program – Resolution 2025-10

Approve Resolution 2025-10 authorizing the participation of the Fox Chapel Area School District in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Joint Purchasing Program through the 2026-2027 school year, and authorizing the appointment of Ryan Manzer, director of finance, and Daniel Breitreutz, director of ancillary services, as representatives of the district. **This is a renewal of participation.**

4. AMCA Systems, LLC – ACA (Affordable Care Act) TaxTrack Software Agreement

Approve the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and AMCA Systems, LLC for ACA TaxTrack Software effective December 2, 2025, at a cost of \$3,050. **This is a renewal of services.**

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. Goldfinch Learning Services, LLC – Service Agreement

Approve the service agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Goldfinch Learning Services, LLC for staff professional development, classroom planning, observation, and direct consultation services effective December 3, 2025, through June 30, 2026. **This is a new service.**

2. Stipulated Adjudication

Approve the stipulated adjudication as presented.

LEGISLATION/POLICY

D. Legislation/Policy

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

1. Policies – Revised – Second Reading and Adoption

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

- No. 006 – Meetings
- No. 102 – Academic Standards
- No. 105 – Curriculum
- No. 122 – Extracurricular Activities
- No. 123 – Interscholastic Athletics
- No. 918 – Title I Parent and Family Engagement

2. Policies – Revised – First Reading

Approve the first reading of the following revised policies:

- No. 100 – Comprehensive Planning
- No. 101 – Vision/Mission Statement/Beliefs/Shared Values
- No. 143 – Standards of Persistently Dangerous Schools
- No. 309 – Assignment and Transfer
- No. 312 – Performance Assessment of Superintendent/Deputy Superintendent
- No. 316 – Nontenured Employees
- No. 335 – Family and Medical Leaves
- No. 338.1 – Compensated Professional Leaves
- No. 706.1 – Disposal of Surplus Property and Obsolete Equipment
- No. 718 – Service Animals in Schools
- No. 907 – School Visitors
- No. 911 – News Media Relations
- No. 913.1 – Small Games of Chance

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. Hamilton, and after a discussion, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Personnel items:

1. Resignations

a. Supplemental Contracts – Athletic

- (1) The resignation of Keith DeNinno, swimming, HS 2nd asst., due to personal reasons, is accepted effective November 12, 2025.
- (2) The resignation of Shay McCaffrey, field hockey, MS head, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective October 23, 2025.
- (3) The resignation of Thomas Moul, cross country, HS head, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective November 5, 2025.

b. Supplemental Contracts – Non-Athletic

- (1) The resignation of Rachel Machen, student govt – O'Hara sponsor (leave replacement), due to personal reasons, is accepted effective November 10, 2025.
- (2) The resignation of Debra Polesiak, English – HS department head, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective January 18, 2026.

2. Appointments

a. Supplemental Contracts – Athletic

- (1) The following athletic supplemental contracts are ratified effective October 1, 2025:

Claire Dusek	Volleyball, Boys, MS Asst.	\$3,125
Mark Jones	Track, HS 4th Asst.	\$5,766
Wynne Kirchner	Swimming, HS 2nd Asst.	\$3,796
Brendon Urso	Basketball-Boys, MS Asst.	\$5,079

b. Supplemental Contract – Non-Athletic

- (1) The following non-athletic supplemental contract is ratified effective November 17, 2025:

Sydney Snyder	Student Govt – O'Hara Sponsor (LR)	\$ 468
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3. Volunteers

a. Athletic

- (1) The following athletic volunteers are ratified, effective November 13, 2025:

James Basilone	Baseball, HS
Anthony DeMarco	Flag Football, HS
Josh DePasquale	Unified Bocce, HS

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 item:

1. Donation – Hartwood Elementary School

Accept the donation of a Cordoba Dolce classical acoustic guitar from an anonymous donor.

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were two comments.

Rock and Marcia Ferrone, community residents, commented on their current pending litigation against the Fox Chapel Area School District's solicitor, Paul Giuffre, as well as against the district itself.

FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

Rachel Machen, Fox Chapel Educators Association president-elect, gave a report.

BOARD COMMENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

It was unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.



Kathleen Anuszek
Board Secretary