

February 9, 2026

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** — The Board of School Directors of the Fox Chapel Area School District held its regular business meeting at Fox Chapel Area High School February 9, 2026. Vice President Ronald P. Frank called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Also in attendance were President Marybeth Dadd (via telephone); Assistant Secretary Vanessa K. Lynch; Treasurer Eric G. Hamilton; Amy B. Cooper; Katie Findley; Adam G. Goode; Jessica Haselkorn, Ph.D.; and Ariel Zych.

**FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE** — Several Fox Chapel Area High School juniors who are part of the Fox Leadership Council talked about some of the past and future accomplishments of the junior class. The students are **Max Choset, Despina Gambotto, Sienna Mort, and Kayla Nguyen.**

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

•**Fox Chapel Area School District Required Comprehensive Plan (February 2)**– **Mary Catherine Reljac**, Ed.D., Superintendent — Dr. Reljac updated the Board and the community on the district's comprehensive plan.

•**A Lens on Learning** — Each month, we focus on student work in our schools to highlight lessons, growth, and successes of all kinds. This month, Hartwood Elementary School Principal Dr. **Rachel Fischbaugh** introduced Hartwood Elementary School staff members, reading interventionists **Jen Burmeister** and **Olivia McCall**, who shared information about the reading interventions offered in the district's elementary schools.

**Enrollment and Fire Drills** — Received the enrollment and the fire drills report.

**Fox Chapel Area School District Required Comprehensive Plan for Review** — The Fox Chapel Area School District required Comprehensive Plan will be recommended for approval at the March 9, 2026, Board meeting. The Comprehensive Plan is posted on the district website and a hard copy is available in the district administrative offices for review.

#### **Information**

•**Student Scores High on Math Exam/Qualifies to Take National Exam**

Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Arman Alborzi** has qualified to take the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME). Arman qualified to take the national exam as a result of his distinguished performance on the American Mathematics Competition (AMC) 12 exam that he took in November 2025. The AIME is a three-hour 15 question invitation-only mathematics exam and it will be given in February 2026.

Founded in 1950, the AMC is the preeminent math competition for students in kindergarten through grade 12. Every year, more than 300,000 students in 50 states and over 30 countries take the AMC. The AMC program is a national effort to strengthen the mathematical capabilities of the next generation of innovators. Students who performed exceptionally well on the AMC are invited to participate in the AIME.

•**High School Students Win Awards at Duquesne University Speech & Debate Tournament**

Four Fox Chapel Area High School students won awards at the annual Duquesne University Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament. The team of sophomores **Anna Juliet Chrissis** and **Austin Helsel** won sixth place and the team of seniors **Maya Agarwal** and **Prachi Behal** won eighth place in Parliamentary Debate.

Additionally, as part of the competition, Fox Chapel Area High School students won the first-place Sweepstakes Award for Small Schools. Sweepstakes awards recognize overall program success, and not just individual wins.

More than 230 students representing 19 public and private high schools from across Pennsylvania participated in the tournament that was held December 6, 2025, at Duquesne University.

•**High School Students Place Third in Regional FBLA Competition**

Four Fox Chapel Area High School students placed third in the 2025 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Regional Leadership Conference: freshmen **Melda Ciloglu, Isaac Drucker, Warren Fennell, and Rian Starz.**

The FBLA Regional Leadership Conference was held in December 2025. Approximately 400 students from 10 schools participated in the regional competition that was held virtually for objective tests (December 8-12), and in person for performance events (December 13) at Fox Chapel Area High School.

**•Emily McKee Named Winner of Prestigious Moe Rosensteel Award**

Fox Chapel Area High School junior soccer player **Emily McKee** was named the winner of the Moe Rosensteel Most Outstanding Player Award. The recognition is given annually to a Western Pennsylvania high school student-athlete whose play, leadership, and passion for the game emulates that of the award's namesake. The Moe Rosensteel award nominates players through a panel of coaches and media members. Those players are then pared down to three finalists and the panel then votes to determine the player of the year. The winner of the award is considered the best player in the WPIAL.

**Fox Chapel Area School Board Upcoming Meetings**

February 17, 2026 – 6 p.m. – Academic Committee Meeting – Administrative Offices Staff Development Room

February 24, 2026 – 6 p.m. – Projects and Planning Committee Mtg. – Admin. Offices Staff Development Room

March 2, 2026 – 7 p.m. – Agenda Study Session – High School LGI Room

March 3, 2026 – 6 p.m. – Governance Committee Meeting – Administrative Offices Staff Development Room

March 9, 2026 – 7 p.m. – Regular Business Meeting – High School LGI Room

March 10, 2026 – 6 p.m. – Academic Committee Meeting – Administrative Offices Staff Development Room

March 25, 2026 – 6 p.m. – Projects and Planning Committee Mtg. – Admin. Offices Staff Development Room

April 7, 2026 (Tues.) – 7 p.m. – Combined Agenda Study Session & Reg. Business Mtg. – High School LGI Room

May 4, 2026 – 7 p.m. – Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Business Meeting – High School LGI Room

June 1, 2026 – 7 p.m. – Agenda Study Session – High School Auditorium

June 8, 2026 – 7 p.m. – Regular Business Meeting – High School LGI Room

August 10, 2026 – 7 p.m. – Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Business Mtg. – High School LGI Room

September 14, 2026 – 7 p.m. – Combined Agenda Study Session & Reg. Business Mtg. – High School LGI Room

October 5, 2026 – 7 p.m. – Agenda Study Session – High School LGI Room

October 12, 2026 – 7 p.m. – Regular Business Meeting – High School LGI Room

November 2, 2026 – 7 p.m. – Agenda Study Session – High School LGI Room

November 9, 2026 – 7 p.m. – Regular Business Meeting – High School LGI Room

December 7, 2026 – 7 p.m. – Reorg. Mtg. & Comb. Agenda Study Sess. & Reg. Bus. Mtg. – HS LGI Rm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** — Approved the minutes of the combined agenda study session and regular business meeting dated January 12, 2026.

**FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** — Public comment is limited to residents or taxpayers of this district. The first public comment period is for items that are scheduled for deliberation or official action on the agenda. To register to make a public comment, please contact the Board Secretary during business hours, but no later than 12 p.m., on the day of the meeting by email (boardsecretary@fcsd.edu), telephone (412-967-2413), or at the district office (611 Field Club Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238). Please provide your name, complete address, telephone number, the subject of the comment or topic to be addressed, and any group affiliation. During the meeting, the Board Secretary will call those community members scheduled to comment by telephone. Sign-in sheets will also be provided at each meeting for those attending who wish to offer public comment and did not register in advance.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Academic Committee Report** — Mrs. Cooper gave the academic committee report.

**Governance Committee Report** — Mr. Frank gave the governance committee report.

**Projects and Planning Committee Report** — Ms. Zych gave the projects and planning committee report.

**NEW BUSINESS** — The superintendent recommended that action be taken on the following items of business:

**Facilities/Transportation**

**Change Orders – Hartwood Elementary School HVAC Project** — Approved change orders HC-006 at a cost of \$24,288; EC-001 at a cost of \$3,276.75; EC-002 at a cost of \$959.23; EC-003 at a cost of \$5,641.36; and EC-004 at a cost of \$24,382 as attached for the Hartwood Elementary School HVAC project. **These were reviewed and recommended by the Fox Chapel Area School Authority.**

## Finance

**Disbursements (Fund 10) – January 2026** — The general fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$9,760,987.48 from January 1, 2026, through January 31, 2026, were approved.

**Disbursements (Fund 31) – January 2026** — The capital reserves fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$130,097.50 from January 1, 2026, through January 31, 2026, were approved.

**Finance Report – December 2025** — The finance report for December 2025 was acknowledged and filed for audit.

**Student Activity Financial Reports** — The second quarter 2025-2026 middle school and high school student activity financial reports were acknowledged and filed for audit.

**Permission to Advertise – Athletic Supplies** — Authorized the advertisement of bids for the 2026-2027 school year for the following: athletic supplies (fall and winter) and athletic supplies (spring).

**Exoneration of Tax Collectors** — Approved to exonerate the local tax collectors for Indiana Township, O'Hara Township, Aspinwall Borough, Blawnox Borough, Fox Chapel Borough, and Sharpsburg Borough from further collection on the 2025 school district real estate tax duplicates, and to turn over to PA Del Tax for collection the 2025 real estate tax listings certified as delinquent by the local tax collectors.

**Resolution 2026-2 – Deputy Tax Collectors** — Approved Resolution 2026-2 approving the appointment of Jordan Tax Service, Inc., to collect school district taxes for the boroughs of Fox Chapel and Sharpsburg and the Township of O'Hara, and designating deputy tax collectors for the Borough of Blawnox and the Township of Indiana.

**Tax Collectors' Depositories** — Approved the following depositories for elected real estate tax collectors as recommended by the appropriate elected official: Aspinwall Borough – Dawn Eastley – Farmers National Bank, Blawnox Borough – Casey Cunningham – Dollar Bank, and Indiana Township – Julie Leventry – Farmers National Bank. **The Board of School Directors must approve the depositories for elected real estate tax collectors annually.**

**Asset Control Solutions, Inc. – Agreement** — Approved the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Asset Control Solutions, Inc., for the management of fixed assets effective February 10, 2026, at an annual cost of \$12,700. **This is a renewal of services.**

## Instruction

**2026-2027 School District Calendar** — Approved the 2026-2027 school district calendar. The calendar is available on the district website.

## Personnel

*Candidates for employment under this section were 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.*

## Resignations

**Professional** — Accepted the following professional resignation:

- **Tera Clutter**, French teacher at Dorseyville Middle School, due to retirement, effective June 11, 2026.

**Supplemental Contracts – Athletic** — Accepted the following athletic supplemental contract resignations:

- **John Alerich**, interscholastic strength/conditioning 1st asst. (75%) (S, W, SP), due to personal reasons, effective January 26, 2026.
- **Mary Loeffler**, intramurals, MS Back on Track Sponsor 2, BOT, due to personal reasons, effective June 30, 2026.
- **Mary Loeffler**, intramurals, MS Back on Track Sponsor 6, BOT, due to personal reasons, effective June 30, 2026.
- **Maura Pasquale**, softball, HS JV head, due to personal reasons, effective January 23, 2026.

**Supplemental Contract – Non-Athletic** — Accepted the following non-athletic supplemental contract resignation:

- **Mary E. Loeffler**, gifted – MS department head, due to personal reasons, effective June 30, 2026.

### **Appointments**

**Educational Support** — Approved the appointment of the following personal care assistant:

- **Christine M. Shi** as a personal care assistant at Fairview Elementary School, effective February 10, 2026. Salary was set based on the starting wage for personal care assistants, with benefits as per the Fox Chapel Area Education Support Professionals Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. This position is available due to the transfer of **Amy Funk**.

**Supplemental Contracts – Athletic** — The following athletic supplemental contracts were approved: **Jill Leonard** – Cheerleading, MS Head (Fall) (effective February 10, 2026, for the 2026-2027 school year); **Jill Leonard** – Cheerleading, MS Head (Winter) (effective February 10, 2026, for the 2026-2027 school year); **Sean Mawhinney** – Cross Country, HS Assistant (effective February 10, 2026); **Shana McKeever** – Interscholastic Strength/Conditioning 1st Assistant (75%) (S, W, SP) (prorated for remainder of winter season) (effective February 10, 2026); and **Keith Persing** – Baseball, MS Assistant (effective February 10, 2026).

**Supplemental Contracts – Non-Athletic** — The following non-athletic supplemental contracts were ratified: **Natalie J. Gourley** – Mentor Teacher – O’Hara Elementary School (effective January 19, 2026) and **Jessica L. Lattner** – Mentor Teacher – Dorseyville Middle School (effective January 29, 2026).

### **Leave**

**Professional** — Approved the following professional leave:

- **Kelsey L. Cavaliere**, elementary teacher at O’Hara Elementary School, for childrearing/ adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective March 27, 2026, with return scheduled for the first day of the 2026-2027 school year.

### **Leave Replacement**

**Professional** — Ratified the following professional leave replacement:

- **Kathryn R. Drombosky** as a leave replacement science teacher at Dorseyville Middle School effective January 29, 2026, through the day after the last day for students for the 2025-2026 school year. Salary was set (prorated) based on Step 2, B+24, with fringe benefits as per the collective bargaining agreement. This position is available due to a medical leave.

### **Extra Innings**

**Substitute Teacher** — The following individual was ratified as an Extra Innings substitute teacher for the 2025-2026 school year at an hourly rate: **Kerr Elementary School – Erin Wharton**.

**Instructional Assistants** — The following individuals were ratified as Extra Innings instructional assistants for the 2025-2026 school year at an hourly rate for a maximum of 24 hours, including planning/instruction: **Fairview Elementary School – Amy Ruane** and **Taylor Trasatti** and **Hartwood Elementary School – Clara Barnes**.

### **Summer Programs – 2026/2027**

**STEAM Camp Program Facilitator** — **Melissa E. Wiest** was approved as the STEAM Camp program facilitator for a two-year commitment at an hourly rate for 2026 and an hourly rate for 2027, with a maximum of 120 hours per year.

### **Volunteers**

**Athletic** — The following athletic volunteers were approved effective February 10, 2026: **Andrew Skundrich** – Softball, MS and **Stephen Swierczynski** – Baseball, HS.

### **Operations/Cooperative Services**

**Kennywood – Online Ticket Agreement** — Ratified the online ticket agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Kennywood for the Wednesday, May 27, 2026, school picnic. **There is no cost to the district.**

**SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** — Public comment is limited to residents or taxpayers of this district. The second public comment period is for other matters of concern within the authority of the School Board. To register to make a public comment, please contact the Board Secretary during business hours, but no later than 12 p.m., on the day of the meeting by email (boardsecretary@fcasd.edu), telephone (412-967-2413), or at the district office (611 Field Club Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238). Please provide your name, complete address, telephone number, the subject of the comment or topic to be addressed, and any group affiliation. During the meeting, the Board Secretary will call those community members scheduled to comment by telephone. Sign-in sheets will also be provided at each meeting for those attending who wish to offer public comment and did not register in advance.

**FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE**

**BOARD COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT** — The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

*The Fox Chapel Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, and/or any other basis prohibited by law, and prohibits discrimination, including harassment, in any employment practice, education program, or activity that it operates. Retaliation against anyone who, in good faith, makes a report of harassment or discrimination, files a complaint of harassment or discrimination, serves as a witness, or participates in an investigation or grievance process is also a violation of the Fox Chapel Area School District's nondiscrimination policy and is prohibited.*

*To report information about conduct that may constitute discrimination under Title IX, Section 504, or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please refer to the district's nondiscrimination policy and grievance procedures at [www.fcasd.edu/about-us/need-to-know-disclosures/compliance-statement](http://www.fcasd.edu/about-us/need-to-know-disclosures/compliance-statement).*

*The Fox Chapel Area School District has designated individuals to coordinate efforts to comply with and carry out its nondiscrimination responsibilities. Questions regarding the Fox Chapel Area School District's commitment to nondiscrimination, as well as related laws, regulations, and district policies, may be referred to the following employees:*

- Title IX: David P. McCommons, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent  
(412/967-2456) [David\\_McCommons@fcasd.edu](mailto:David_McCommons@fcasd.edu)*
- Section 504 and ADA: Timothy A. Mahoney, Ed.D., Director of Special Education and Pupil Services  
(412/967-2435) [Timothy\\_Mahoney@fcasd.edu](mailto:Timothy_Mahoney@fcasd.edu)*
- Address: Fox Chapel Area School District, 611 Field Club Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238*