

March 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 March 9, 2026. President Marybeth Dadd called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Also in attendance were Vice President Ronald P. Frank; Assistant Secretary Vanessa K. Lynch; Treasurer Eric G. Hamilton; Amy B. Cooper; Katie Findley; Adam G. Goode; Jessica Haselkorn, Ph.D.; and Ariel Zych.

GUESTS

Certificates of Merit (March 2, 2026) — The Board presented certificates of merit to the following students:

- Fox Chapel Area High School seniors **Abigail Haas** and **Molly Krajcovic** were named winners in Prime Stage Theatre's 6th Annual High School Drama Awards. Abigail and Molly won in the best student makeup design category for the high school's 2025 fall play, "Our Town."

"The High School Drama Awards is our way of looking to the future," said Dr. Wayne Brinda, Prime Stage Theatre producing artistic director. "By encouraging these young actors and production specialists in their early efforts, we're building a strong foundation for Pittsburgh theatre in years to come."

"What makes these awards unique," says Drama Awards Director and Prime Stage Theatre Board Member John Dolphin, "is that to be eligible, the students must be in a backstage leadership role or an onstage performance role. We encourage adult mentorship and assistance, but in the end, these productions are student-run."

The Prime Stage Theatre's drama awards were presented at a ceremony that was held January 10, 2026, at the Hillman Center for Performing Arts. The awards are open to schools from across Southwestern Pennsylvania.

- For the fourth consecutive year, the Fox Chapel Area High School varsity competition cheerleading squad competed at the National High School Cheerleading Championship that was held at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida, January 30-February 1, 2026. The competition is the most prestigious high school national championship in the country.

Members of the Fox Chapel Area High School competition squad are seniors **Maya Agarwal, Catherine Conway, Lillian Fontenot, Adele Greenawalt, Trista Jackson, and Emma Kurtz**; juniors **Ainsley Goode, and Evie Rosen**; sophomores **Ilaria Conte, Chloe Karlo, Mackenzie Minton, Emma Ritz, Arianna Solari, and Presley Turner**; and freshmen **Maeve Carey, Tessa Jackson, and Emelyn Mazzie**.

FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE — High school sophomore **Amelia Tedesco**, secretary of the diversity council, talked about the Eradicate Hate Summit and the school's annual multicultural night that will be held this Wednesday.

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. This month, Fairview Elementary School Principal **Susan Kreit** introduced three elementary school teachers, librarian **Jasmine Amato**, art teacher **Sarah Dixon**, and computer science teacher **Sarah Everest**, who talked about a unified arts cross curricular collaboration. First-grade students who participated in the presentation were **Maggie Abel, Emma Baines, Haley Brown, Skylar Brown, Billy Hughes, Arlo Israel, and Cannon Swanson**.

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

Information

- **High School Students Win Awards at North Allegheny Speech & Debate Tournament**

Five Fox Chapel Area High School students won awards at the annual North Allegheny High School Speech and Debate Tournament. The Parliamentary Debate team of seniors **Maya Agarwal** and **Prachi Behal** won third place. In Public Forum Debate, the team of juniors **Aiden Drucker** and **Noelle Fouron** were awarded fourth place. Senior **Sabina Mantella** won sixth place in Student Congress.

More than 450 students representing 31 public, private, and charter high schools from Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia participated in the tournament that was held January 17, 2026, at North Allegheny Intermediate and Senior high schools.

•Students Place in Regional Math Competition

Eight Fox Chapel Area School District students placed in the 2025 regional CalcuSolve tournament. The team of Dorseyville Middle School eighth-graders **Catherine Carlson, Shengfeng Fei, Akhil Muvvala, and Brian Xu** placed second overall out of all 70 teams competing countywide. From O’Hara Elementary School, **Chelsea Butzke, Chia-Yi Lin, and Asher Tobe** tied for third place in the individual part of the competition, and the O’Hara Elementary team of fifth-graders Chelsea Butzke, Chia-Yi Lin, **Will McKenzie,** and Asher Tobe placed third in the competition.

Hundreds of students participated in the contest from across Allegheny County and surrounding areas. The tournament was held virtually in December and was sponsored by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit.

CalcuSolve is a competition that tests students’ problem-solving skills related to mathematics. Students compete as part of a team, as well as individually.

Fox Chapel Area School Board Upcoming Meetings

- 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.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES — Approved the minutes of the regular business meeting dated February 9, 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@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.

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:

Finance

Disbursements (Fund 10) – February 2026 — The general fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$6,754,347.99 from February 1, 2026, through February 28, 2026, were approved.

Disbursements (Fund 31) – February 2026 — The capital reserves fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$107,133.96 from February 1, 2026, through February 28, 2026, were approved.

Finance Report – January 2026 — The finance report for January 2026 was acknowledged and filed for audit.

Budget Transfers — Several budget transfers for 2025-2026 were approved.

Subsidies to Fox Chapel Area School District Club Sports — Approved the request of Fox Chapel Area Fencing for a subsidy in the amount of \$3,000 for the current school year and approve the budgeting of an annual 2% increase in the amount of the approved subsidies to Fox Chapel Crew, Fox Chapel Area Ice Hockey, and Fox Chapel Area Fencing beginning in the 2026-2027 school year and continuing until further action of the Board.

Allegheny Intermediate Unit – 2026-2027 Program of Services Budget — Approved the proposed 2026-2027 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services Budget in the amount of \$2,431,488. The Allegheny County school districts’ total contribution to the budget is \$2,042,623. The Fox Chapel Area School District’s contribution to the Program of Services Budget is estimated to be \$111,224 and will be determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education some time after July 1, 2026, based on the District Aid Ratio and Weighted Average Daily Membership (WADM).

Instruction

Fox Chapel Area School District Comprehensive Plan — Approved the required Fox Chapel Area School District Comprehensive Plan for submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Legislation/Policy

Policies – Revised – First Reading — Approved the first reading of the following revised policies: No. 105.2 – Exemption From Instruction, No. 204 – Attendance, No. 218.1 – Weapons, No. 247 – Hazing, No. 610 – Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation, No. 611 – Purchases Budgeted, No. 626 – Federal Fiscal Compliance, No. 626 – Federal Fiscal Compliance Attachment – Procurement, No. 805.1 – Relations With Law Enforcement Agencies, and No. 805.2 – School Security Personnel.

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

Administration — Accepted the following administrative resignation:

- **Matthew J. Patterson**, Ph.D., executive director of secondary education and instruction for the Fox Chapel Area School District, due to personal reasons, effective April 27, 2026.

Professional — Accepted the following professional resignation:

- **Marilyn A. Hall**, literacy teacher at Dorseyville Middle School, due to retirement, effective June 11, 2026.

Educational Support — Accepted the following educational support resignations:

- **Jessica I. Albrecht**, instructional assistant at Kerr Elementary School, due to retirement, effective June 8, 2026.
- **Courtney L. Andring**, 12-month building secretary at Hartwood Elementary School, due to personal reasons, effective February 23, 2026.

Appointments

Educational Support — Approved the following secretarial appointment:

- **Catherine M. Kelly** as a 12-month building secretary at Hartwood Elementary School, effective March 17, 2026. Salary was 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 resignation of **Courtney Andring**.

Custodial/Maintenance — Approved the following custodial appointments:

- **Jason T. Elrick** as a 12-month, 8 hours per day custodian for the Fox Chapel Area School District for a probationary period, effective March 11, 2026, pending the fulfillment of pre-employment requirements, pursuant to the Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). The salary and fringe benefits were set as per the CBA. This position is available due to an open position.

- **Dianne M. Kiefer** as a 10-month, 8 hours per day custodian for the Fox Chapel Area School District for a probationary period, effective March 10, 2026, pending the fulfillment of pre-employment requirements, pursuant to the Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). The salary and fringe benefits were set as per the CBA. This position is available due to the retirement of **Michael Ealing**.

Leave

Professional — Approved the following professional leave:

- **Alyson E. De La Torre**, elementary teacher at Fairview Elementary School, for childrearing/adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective March 19, 2026, with return scheduled for August 17, 2026.

Employment

Agreements — The following employment agreements were approved as presented: Applications Systems Manager – **Mary B. Wiseman**, Ed.D.; Director of Ancillary Services – **Daniel Breitzkreutz**; and School Psychologist (12-month) – Megan L. Edwards, Ed.D.

Summer Programs – 2026

Elementary Program Facilitator — **Rebecca L. Grzebyk** was approved as the Fox Chapel Area School District Elementary Summer Learning Academy program facilitator at an hourly rate with a maximum of 135 hours for preparation and instruction.

Elementary Program Assistant Facilitator — **Sophie Anderson** was approved as the Fox Chapel Area School District Elementary Summer Learning Academy program assistant facilitator at a flat rate not to exceed a certain amount.

Elementary Program Instructors — The following individuals were approved as instructors for the Fox Chapel Area School District Elementary Summer Learning Academy at an hourly rate with a maximum of 95 hours for preparation and instruction: **Julia Arlia, Sean Baldis, Adam Danielson, Carrie Ferguson, Anne Hook, Alexis Hurlbut, Nicolas Luciano, Alexandria Lukert-Howell, Tracey Planz, Julia Puntil, McKenna Robinson, Emma Stankovic, Claire Walters, Kayla Wise, and Katy Wygant**.

Elementary Program Substitute Instructors — The following individuals were approved as substitute instructors for the Fox Chapel Area School District Elementary Summer Learning Academy at an hourly rate: **Jennifer Lancz, Kirstein Sharrow, and Miranda Zarlino**.

Elementary Food Services — **Lora M. Peretik** was approved as a food services employee for the Fox Chapel Area School District Elementary/Middle School Summer Learning Academy at an hourly rate with a maximum of 90 hours.

High School Western PA Learning Academy Director — **Lisa R. Gibson** was approved as the Western PA Learning Academy director at a flat rate plus 15% of workshop registration (minimum enrollment required).

Conference Attendance

Superintendent — Approved the superintendent's attendance at a national conference as presented. **The superintendent received a full scholarship and grant for all costs related to the conference.**

Personnel Information Item

Salary Crossovers – Professional — The following professional employees are eligible to cross over on the salary scale for the 2025-2026 school term based on verification of additional credits earned: **Joshua Bryan-Branker** from B+24 to M+0, **Bailey Katonka** from B+24 to M+0, **Miluska Lauterbach** from M+15 to M+30, **Rachael Meder** from B+24 to M+0, **Rachel Pollard** from M+30 to PH, **Julia Puntil** from B+15 to B+24, **McKenna Robinson** from B+15 to M+0, and **Ethan Wagner** from M+0 to M+15. This change is effective as of March 1, 2026, in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement.

Operations/Cooperative Services

Inter-State Studio – School Portrait Agreement – All Schools — Approved 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 12 for the 2026-2027 school year with the option to extend for the 2027-2028, 2028-2029, 2029-2030, and 2030-2031 school years, with no package price increases throughout the term of the agreement. **This is a renewal of services, and there is no cost to the district.**

IN Community Magazines, Inc. – Agreement — Approved the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and IN Community Magazines, Inc. for the fall 2026, winter 2026, spring 2027, and summer 2027 issues at a cost of \$7,000 per each quarterly issue effective July 1, 2026. **This is a renewal of services.**

Care Solace – Amendment to Renew the Service Agreement — Approved the amendment to renew the service agreement with Care Solace to provide a web-based navigation system to assist its school district clients and the districts’ students and parents in locating and connecting with mental health treatment providers and community-based social services, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, at a total cost of \$14,000, pursuant to the service agreement that was approved January 10, 2022. **This is a renewal of services and will be funded by a Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) school safety grant.**

Mobile Communication Service, Inc./Mobilcom – Agreement — Approved the agreement as presented between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Mobilcom for the purchase and installation of safety and security equipment effective March 9, 2026, at a cost of \$8,950. **This is a new agreement.**

Appointment of Solicitor – Resolution 2026-3 — Approved the appointment of Paul J. Giuffre, Esquire, as solicitor to the Fox Chapel Area School District pursuant to 24 P.S. § 4-406, for the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028.

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 8:08 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.

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:

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| Title IX: | David P. McCommons, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent (412/967-2456) 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 |
| Address: | Fox Chapel Area School District, 611 Field Club Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 |