

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

FEBRUARY 9, 2026

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular business meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fox Chapel Area School District was called to order by vice president, Ronald Frank, at 7:01 p.m. on February 9, 2026, in the LGI Room at Fox Chapel Area High School. Prior to tonight's public meeting, members of the Board met in executive session to review with counsel information or strategy in connection with tax appeal and other pending litigation matters and issues on which identifiable complaints are anticipated. The Board also reviewed information and discussed agency business that if conducted in public would lead to the disclosure of information or confidentiality protected by law.

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 (via telephone), 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**

There were no guests.

**FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Juniors Max Choset, Despina Gambotto, Sienna Mort, and Kayla Nguyen talked about some of the past and future accomplishments of the junior class.

**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 reading interventions offered in the district's elementary schools.

Hartwood Elementary School principal Dr. Rachel Fischbaugh introduced reading interventionists Jen Burmeister and Olivia McCall, who shared information about the reading interventions.

• **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.

• **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.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

There was no report.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Frank asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the combined agenda study session and regular business meeting dated January 12, 2026. On motion by Mr. Hamilton and seconded by Ms. Findley, 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. Change Orders – Hartwood Elementary School HVAC Project**

Approve 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 for the Hartwood Elementary School HVAC project. **These were reviewed and recommended by the Fox Chapel Area School Authority.**

**FINANCE**

**B. Finance**

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

**1. Disbursements (Fund 10) – January 2026**

General fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$9,760,987.48 from January 1, 2026, through January 31, 2026, are approved.

**2. Disbursements (Fund 31) – January 2026**

Capital reserves fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$130,097.50 from January 1, 2026, through January 31, 2026, are approved.

**3. Finance Report – December 2025**

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

**4. Student Activity Financial Reports**

The second quarter 2025-2026 middle school and high school student activity financial reports are acknowledged and filed for audit.

**5. Permission to Advertise – Athletic Supplies**

Authorize the advertisement of bids for the 2026-2027 school year for the following: athletic supplies (fall and winter) and athletic supplies (spring).

**6. Exoneration of Tax Collectors**

Approve 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.

**7. Resolution 2026-2 – Deputy Tax Collectors**

Approve 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.

**8. Tax Collectors' Depositories**

Approve the depositories listed below for elected real estate tax collectors as recommended by the appropriate elected official. **The Board of School Directors must approve the depositories for elected real estate tax collectors annually.**

Aspinwall Borough	Dawn Eastley	Farmers National Bank
Blawnox Borough	Casey Cunningham	Dollar Bank
Indiana Township	Julie Leventry	Farmers National Bank

**9. Asset Control Solutions, Inc. – Agreement**

Approve 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**

**C. Instruction**

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

**1. 2026-2027 School District Calendar**

Approve the 2026-2027 school district calendar.

**LEGISLATION/POLICY**

**D. Legislation/Policy**

There was no business.

**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. Goode, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Personnel items:

**1. Resignations**

**a. Professional**

- (1) The resignation of Tera Clutter, French teacher at Dorseyville Middle School, due to retirement, is accepted effective June 11, 2026.

**b. Supplemental Contracts – Athletic**

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

**c. Supplemental Contract – Non-Athletic**

- (1) The resignation of Mary E. Loeffler, gifted – MS department head, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective June 30, 2026.

**2. Appointments**

**a. Educational Support**

- (1) Christine M. Shi is approved as a personal care assistant at Fairview Elementary School, effective February 10, 2026. Salary is 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.

**b. Supplemental Contracts – Athletic**

- (1) The following athletic supplemental contracts are approved effective February 10, 2026, for the 2025-2026 school year:

Sean Mawhinney	Cross Country, HS Asst.	\$3,079
Shana McKeever	Interscholastic Strength/Conditioning 1st Asst. (75%) (S, W, SP) (prorated for remainder of winter season)	\$2,866
Keith Persing	Baseball, MS Assistant	\$3,030

- (2) The following athletic supplemental contracts are approved effective February 10, 2026, for the 2026-2027 school year:

Jill Leonard	Cheerleading, MS Head (Fall)	\$1,641
Jill Leonard	Cheerleading, MS Head (Winter)	\$1,641

**c. Supplemental Contracts – Non-Athletic**

- (1) The following non-athletic supplemental contract is ratified effective January 19, 2026:

Natalie J. Gourley	Mentor Teacher – O’Hara Elementary School	\$1,179.90
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- (2) The following non-athletic supplemental contract is ratified effective January 29, 2026:

Jessica L. Lattner	Mentor Teacher – Dorseyville Middle School	\$1,079.67
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**3. Leave**

**a. Professional**

- (1) Kelsey L. Cavaliere, elementary teacher at O’Hara Elementary School, is approved 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.

**4. Leave Replacement**

**a. Professional**

- (1) Kathryn R. Drombosky is ratified as a leave replacement science teacher at Dorseyville Middle School. This position is available due to a medical leave.

Certification:	Instructional I
Education:	B.A., University of Pittsburgh, 2011
Experience:	1 year, Hancock County Schools, WV
Effective:	January 29, 2026, through the day after the last day for students for the 2025-2026 school year
Salary:	\$64,523 (prorated) based on Step 2, B+24
Fringe Benefits:	As per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

**5. Extra Innings**

**a. Substitute Teacher**

- (1) The following individual is ratified as an Extra Innings substitute teacher for the 2025-2026 school year at a rate of \$32.17 per hour:

**Kerr Elementary School**  
Erin Wharton

**b. Instructional Assistants**

- (1) The following individuals are ratified as Extra Innings instructional assistants for the 2025-2026 school year at a rate of \$20 per hour for a maximum of 24 hours, including planning/instruction:

**Fairview Elementary School**  
Amy Ruane  
Taylor Trasatti

**Hartwood Elementary School**  
Clara Barnes

6. **Summer Programs – 2026/2027**

a. **STEAM Camp**

- (1) Melissa E. Wiest is approved as the STEAM Camp program facilitator for a 2-year commitment at a rate of \$32.17 per hour for 2026 and \$32.81 per hour for 2027, with a maximum of 120 hours per year.

7. **Volunteers**

a. **Athletic**

- (1) The following athletic volunteers are approved, effective February 10, 2026:

Andrew Skundrich	Softball, MS
Stephen Swierczynski	Baseball, HS

**OPERATIONS/COOPERATIVE SERVICES**

**F. Operations/Cooperative Services**

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

1. **Kennywood – Online Ticket Agreement**

Ratify 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**

There were no comments.

**FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE**

There was no report.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

There were five comments. Ms. Findley, Dr. Haselkorn, Mr. Goode, Mrs. Cooper, and Mr. Frank commented.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.



Kathleen Anuszek  
Board Secretary