

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

MARCH 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 president, Marybeth Dadd, at 7:04 p.m. on March 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 discuss with counsel information or strategy in connection with pending litigation matters and other issues on which identifiable complaints are anticipated. The Board also reviewed information related to an employment matter and district 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, Ms. Findley, Mr. Frank, Mr. Goode, Mr. Hamilton, Dr. Haselkorn, Mrs. Lynch, and Ms. Zych. Also present were Dr. Reljac, Dr. McCommons, and Mr. Giuffre. Mrs. Anuszek was absent. Other members of the public were present.

GUESTS

There were no guests.

FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

High school sophomore Amelia Tedesco, one of the lead students on the diversity council, talked about the Eradicate Hate Summit and the school's annual multicultural night.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Reljac thanked Amelia Tedesco and all of the students on the diversity council for the important work they do.

- **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 a unified arts cross-curricular collaboration.

Fairview Elementary School principal Mrs. Susan Kreit introduced librarian Jasmine Amato, art teacher Sarah Dixon, and computer science teacher Sarah Everest who shared information about the collaboration. Several first-grade students participated in the presentation.

- Dr. Reljac thanked the Lens on Learning students and families, gave an update on the district's winter sports, and congratulated Dr. Matthew Patterson who has been named the superintendent at Bethel Park School District.

- **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 Fourn** 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.

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 February 9, 2026. On motion by Mr. Frank 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

There was no business.

FINANCE

B. Finance

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

1. Disbursements (Fund 10) – February 2026

General fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$6,754,347.99 from February 1, 2026, through February 28, 2026, are approved.

2. Disbursements (Fund 31) – February 2026

Capital reserves fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$107,133.96 from February 1, 2026, through February 28, 2026, are approved.

3. Finance Report – January 2026

The finance report for January 2026 is acknowledged and filed for audit.

4. Budget Transfers

The budget transfers for 2025-2026 are approved.

5. Subsidies to Fox Chapel Area School District Club Sports

Approve 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.

6. Allegheny Intermediate Unit – 2026-2027 Program of Services Budget

Approve 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

C. Instruction

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

1. Fox Chapel Area School District Comprehensive Plan

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

LEGISLATION/POLICY

D. Legislation/Policy

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

1. Policies – Revised – First Reading

Approve 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
- No. 805.2 – School Security Personnel

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 Ms. Findley, and after a discussion, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Personnel items 1 – 6:

1. Resignations

a. Administration

- (1) The resignation of Matthew J. Patterson, Ph.D., executive director of secondary education and instruction for the Fox Chapel Area School District, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective April 27, 2026.

b. Professional

- (1) The resignation of Marilyn A. Hall, literacy teacher at Dorseyville Middle School, due to retirement, is accepted effective June 11, 2026.

c. Educational Support

- (1) The resignation of Jessica I. Albrecht, instructional assistant at Kerr Elementary School, due to retirement, is accepted effective June 8, 2026.
- (2) The resignation of Courtney L. Andring, 12-month building secretary at Hartwood Elementary School, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective February 23, 2026.

2. Appointments

a. Educational Support

- (1) Catherine M. Kelly is approved as a 12-month building secretary at Hartwood Elementary School, effective March 17, 2026. Salary is 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.

b. Custodial/Maintenance

- (1) Jason T. Elrick is approved 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 are set as per the CBA. This position is available due to an open position.
- (2) Dianne M. Kiefer is approved 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 are set as per the CBA. This position is available due to the retirement of Michael Ealing.

3. Leave

a. Professional

- (1) Alyson E. De La Torre, elementary teacher at Fairview Elementary School, is approved 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.

4. Employment Agreements

a. The following employment agreements are approved as presented:

Applications Systems Manager, Mary B. Wiseman, Ed.D.
Director of Ancillary Services, Daniel Breitreutz
School Psychologist (12-month), Megan L. Edwards, Ed.D.

5. Summer Programs – 2026

a. Elementary

- (1) Rebecca L. Grzebyk is approved as the Fox Chapel Area School District Elementary Summer Learning Academy program facilitator at a rate of \$32.82 per hour with a maximum of 135 hours for preparation and instruction.
- (2) Sophie Anderson is approved as the Fox Chapel Area School District Elementary Summer Learning Academy program assistant facilitator at a rate not to exceed \$700.

- (3) The following individuals are approved as instructors for the Fox Chapel Area School District Elementary Summer Learning Academy at a rate of \$32.82 per hour 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 Puntl
McKenna Robinson
Emma Stankovic
Claire Walters
Kayla Wise
Katy Wygant

- (4) The following individuals are approved as substitute instructors for the Fox Chapel Area School District Elementary Summer Learning Academy at a rate of \$32.82 per hour:

Jennifer Lancz
Kirstein Sharrow
Miranda Zarlino

b. Food Services

- (1) Lora M. Peretik is approved as a food services employee for the Fox Chapel Area School District Elementary/Middle School Summer Learning Academy at a rate of \$18.61 per hour with a maximum of 90 hours.

c. High School

- (1) Lisa R. Gibson is approved as the Western PA Learning Academy director at a rate of \$2,750 plus 15% of workshop registration (minimum enrollment required).

6. Conference Attendance for the Superintendent

Approve 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

7. Salary Crossovers – Information

a. Professional

- (1) The professional employees listed below are eligible to cross over on the salary scale for the 2025-2026 school term based on verification of additional credits earned. This change is effective as of March 1, 2026, in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement.

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Bryan-Branker, Joshua	B+24	M+0
Katonka, Bailey	B+24	M+0
Lauterbach, Miluska	M+15	M+30
Meder, Rachael	B+24	M+0
Pollard, Rachel	M+30	PH
Puntil, Julia	B+15	B+24
Robinson, McKenna	B+15	M+0
Wagner, Ethan	M+0	M+15

OPERATIONS/COOPERATIVE SERVICES

F. Operations/Cooperative Services

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

1. Inter-State Studio – School Portrait Agreement – All Schools

Approve 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.**

2. IN Community Magazines, Inc. – Agreement

Approve 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.**

3. Care Solace – Amendment to Renew the Service Agreement

Approve 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.**

4. Mobile Communication Service, Inc./Mobilcom – Agreement

Approve 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.**

5. Appointment of Solicitor – Resolution 2026-3

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, is approved.

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was one comment.

1. Nettie Owens, community resident, commented on the Rachel's Challenge assembly at Fox Chapel Area High School.

FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

There was no report.

BOARD COMMENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

It was unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.



Vanessa Lynch
Board Assistant Secretary