

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMBINED AGENDA STUDY SESSION
AND REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

APRIL 7, 2026

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 7:04 p.m. on April 7, 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. A committee of the whole meeting was held immediately following this combined agenda study session and regular business meeting.

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, and Ms. Zych. Mrs. Lynch was absent. 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 girls varsity swimming and diving team won the WPIAL Class 3A Section 3 title and was undefeated (7-0) in the section. The team members were juniors **Cameryn Brindza, Elizabeth Datt, Sarah Huang, Norah Kovach, Charlotte Rusche, and Josephine Stanczak**; sophomores **Tuuli Airik, Felicity Anderson, Ellie Dantey, Sarah Jane Dering, Autumn Ewing, Mariela Ferry, Elizabeth Mariana, Phoebe Mickus, Nico Ressler, Maren Shelkey-Bray, and Cecilia Sumrok**; and freshmen **Roya Alborzi, Adella Boy, Hazel Clifford, Claire Davison, Arianna Jerez, Elisabeth Lange, Delaney O'Toole, Lillian Shaffer, Mia Stelitano, Haly Westbrook, Ella Ziegler, and Sasha Ziegler**.

Additionally, several members of the Fox Chapel Area High School girls varsity swimming and diving team won gold medals at the WPIAL Class 3A swimming championships. The 200 yard medley relay team of Cameryn, Elisabeth, Josephine, and Delaney and the 400 yard freestyle relay team of Elisabeth, Nico, Charlotte, and Delaney won gold medals. Additionally, Elisabeth won a gold medal in the 200 yard individual medley (IM), Delaney won gold medals in the 50 yard freestyle and the 100 yard backstroke. The WPIAL championships were held February 26 and 27 at the University of Pittsburgh.

The following girls swimmers qualified for the PIAA Class 3A swimming and diving championships, held March 11 and 12 at Bucknell University: Cameryn (3 events), Sarah Huang, Norah (2 events), Charlotte (2 events), Josephine (4 events), Tuuli, Nico (2 events), Maren, Elisabeth (4 events), and Delaney (4 events).

At the state championships, Elisabeth won a gold medal in the 200 yard IM, and Delaney won a gold medal in the 100 yard backstroke.

•The Fox Chapel Area High School boys varsity swimming and diving team won the WPIAL Class 3A Section 3 title and was undefeated (7-0) in its section for the sixth consecutive year. The team members were seniors **Arman Alborzi and Alan Jiang**; juniors **Finnian Kress, Hugo Mickus, Gosha Pistsov, and Desmond Ruff**; sophomores **Nathan Agens, Samuel Asher, Nicholas Bell, Christian Birkner, William Henderson, Leo Ivory, Owen Nguyen, Artin Omidfar, Gavin Patterson, Davide Pullara, and Samuel Resek**; and freshmen **Hayden Kang and Matthew Lappen**.

The following boys swimmers qualified for the PIAA Class 3A swimming and diving championships, held March 11 and 12 at Bucknell University: Arman, Nathan (2 events), Owen (2 events), and Hayden. Gosha, a diver, also qualified for PIAAs.

- The Fox Chapel Area High School girls varsity basketball team qualified for the PIAA Class 5A playoffs. The members of the team were seniors **Lyla Jablon** and **Sophia Jacobs**; juniors **Olivia Arca**, **Emily McKee**, and **Gia Mort**; sophomores **Abigail Goodman**, **Abby Hughes**, **Nakaya Kulikowski**, **Nina Kulikowski**, **Addison Sacco**, **Bailey Sacco**, **Ella Shevchuk**, and **Jane Weber**; and freshmen **Reese Biehl**, **Aria Colbert**, **Josephina Franchino**, **Isabella Geller**, and **Gianna Leffakis Hanley**.

- A 4x800 relay team of Fox Chapel Area High School students qualified for the Pennsylvania Track and Field Coaches Association (PTFCA) indoor state championship meet. The students are sophomores **Bridget Hemingray** and **Ella Shevchuk**, and freshmen **Sydney Kimmons** and **Claire LoIudice**. The state meet was held March 1, 2026, at Penn State University (Main Campus).

- The Fox Chapel Area High School girls fencing team won first place at the Pittsburgh Interscholastic Fencing Association (PIFA) Championships. The team members representing Fox Chapel Area in tournaments were seniors **Korra Littwin** and **Elizabeth Thomas**, junior **Victoria Macklin**, sophomore **Felicity Anderson**, and freshman **Kate Lin**. The championships were held February 27, 2026, at Oakland Catholic High School.

FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Senior Laila Golla, chair of the high school's wellness council, and junior Rylie Graham, co-lead, talked about the school's wellness activities this year and previewed the student wellness day.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Reljac congratulated the Fox Leadership Council and the wellness council.

- **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 high school's Middle States accreditation process.

Fox Chapel Area High School program principal Dr. Michelle Young shared information about the process.

- The textbooks listed below will be recommended for approval at the May 4, 2026, Board meeting. They are available for review until that time in the administrative offices.

New Textbooks for Adoption:

Elementary Schools – English Language Arts

"Into Reading" by Dr. Alma Flor Ada, Dr. Kylene Beers, Isabel Campoy, Dr. Joyce Armstrong Carroll, Dr. Nathan Clemens, Dr. Anne Cunningham, Dr. Tyrone Howard, Dr. Elena Izquierdo, Carol Jago, Dr. Robert Probst, Dr. Shane Templeton, and Dr. Julie Washington; Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; Copyright 2025; for English Language Arts Kindergarten – Grade 5

FCAHS & DMS Polar Plunge Team Raises More Than \$30,000

A group of Fox Chapel Area High School and Dorseyville Middle School students raised \$30,881 in the 2026 Cool Schools Polar Plunge. For the fourth consecutive year, the total raised by Fox Chapel Area's team was the highest amount by a team in Pennsylvania. The money raised will support Fox Chapel Area School District Special Olympics Unified Sports teams and Unified Sports teams across Pennsylvania, which promote inclusion through competitive experiences. Over the past four years, the Fox Chapel Area Polar Plunge team has raised \$152,888.

Donations can still be made to Fox Chapel Area's team at <https://give.specialolympicspa.org/team/790101>. Once again, a Fox Chapel Area family matched a portion of the donations given to Fox Chapel Area's team.

The Fox Chapel Area High School and Dorseyville Middle School students participated in the Pittsburgh Cool Schools Polar Plunge on February 27 at Acrisure Stadium.

• **High School Seniors Named National Merit Finalists**

Eight Fox Chapel Area High School seniors have been designated as National Merit Finalists in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program. The Finalists from Fox Chapel Area High School are **Michael Costello, Riley Hemingray, Alan Jiang, Eloise Johnson, Joanna Li, Gavin Lynch, Rodrigo Silva, and Helen Xu.**

These Fox Chapel Area High School students were named Semifinalists in September 2025 and have met all the requirements to advance to Finalist standing in the competition for National Merit Scholarships. The students are selected as Finalists based on their Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) scores and other factors, including SAT and/or ACT scores, a student essay, a school recommendation, and having an outstanding academic record throughout high school. Finalists must also participate in school and community activities, demonstrate leadership abilities, and receive other awards and honors.

Each year college-bound 11th-grade students complete the PSAT/NMSQT. All the students who take this test are automatically enrolled in the National Merit Scholarship Program and approximately 15,000 advance to become Finalists. The Finalists represent less than 1% of the nation's high school seniors and compete for some 6,870 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$26 million that will be offered this spring.

• **High School Students Inducted Into National Technical Honor Society**

Six Fox Chapel Area High School and A.W. Beattie Career Center students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) this year. Seniors **Lucy Binger** (Culinary Arts), **Summer Burkhart** (Early Childhood Education), and **Elyse Ritchie** (Carpentry/Building Construction); and juniors **Nolan Gwin** (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning), **Ethan Strain** (Carpentry/Building Construction), and **Elias Zeiner** (Network Engineering and Cybersecurity) were inducted into the NTHS at a ceremony March 9, 2026, at A.W. Beattie Career Center.

To be considered for the honor, students must maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale, have a grade of at least 95% in their career training program, and miss no more than five days of school. Candidates also must have a clear disciplinary record and belong to a service organization or participate in an extracurricular activity.

• **High School Students Place at Annual Hampton Speech & Debate Tournament**

Four Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the annual Hampton Talbot Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament. The team of sophomores **Paulomi Goel** and **Ottillie Happold** won fourth place in Duo Interpretation, and the team of juniors **Aiden Drucker** and **Noelle Fouron** were awarded fifth place in Public Forum Debate.

The tournament was held February 21, 2026, at Hampton High School and Hampton Middle School. More than 300 students from 20 public and private high schools from Western Pennsylvania participated in the competition.

• **FCAHS Students Place at Mars Spring Pre-Qualifier Speech and Debate Tournament**

Three Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the Mars Spring Pre-Qualifier Speech and Debate Tournament. The team of sophomores **Paulomi Goel** and **Ottillie Happold** won second place in Duo Interpretation, and senior **Sabina Mantella** won third place in Student Congress.

The tournament was held at Mars Area High School February 21, 2026. A total of 284 students representing 22 public and private high schools from across Western Pennsylvania and one school from Florida (virtually) competed in the event.

• **Boys Basketball Players Chosen for Big 56 Team**

Two Fox Chapel Area High School boys varsity basketball players were chosen for a Big 56 team. Senior **John Rehak** and junior **Joseph McGivney** were selected for the Big 56 second team. The teams are selected by the section coaches.

• **Girls Basketball Players Chosen for Big 56 Teams**

Three Fox Chapel Area High School girls varsity basketball players were chosen for Big 56 teams. Senior **Lyla Jablon** and sophomore **Nina Kulikowski** were named to the first team, and junior **Emily McKee** was named to the second team. The teams are selected by the section coaches.

• **High School Students Chosen for All-Star Hockey Game**

Two Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected for a Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL) all-star game. Senior **Spencer Goehring** and junior **Tucker Cullen** were chosen to play on the AAA Gold team. The games were played March 29, 2026, at the Robert Morris University Island Sports Center.

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 March 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. There was a discussion regarding a future climate survey.

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 Ms. Findley and seconded by Mr. Frank, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Facilities/Transportation items:

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.

2. Change Order – Hartwood Elementary School HVAC Project

Approve change order HC-0076 for a decrease of \$3,899.22 for the Hartwood Elementary School HVAC project. **This change order was reviewed and recommended by the Fox Chapel Area School Authority.**

FINANCE

B. Finance

On motion by Mr. Hamilton and seconded by Mr. Frank, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Finance items 1 – 3:

1. Finance Report – February 2026

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

2. Budget Transfers

The budget transfers for 2025-2026 are approved.

3. Award of Bids – Athletic

The administration is authorized to award the following bids for the 2026-2027 school year:

Athletic Supplies Bids – Fall and Winter

BSN Sports, LLC PO Box 7726 Dallas, TX 75209	\$14,378.88
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Century Sports, Inc. 115 E McMurray Road McMurray, PA 15317	\$16,463.87
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Natale Sporting Goods 112 Lincoln Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15209	\$18,233.95
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Pyramid School Products 6510 N 54 th Street Tampa, FL 33610-1908	\$145.99
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Riddell 7501 Performance Lane North Ridgeville, OH 44039	\$2,081.15
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Finance Information Item: (There was a discussion.)

4. 2026-2027 Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium Rates – Information

The Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium approved rates below are effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. The Performance Blue PPO and EPO rate increase is 8.3%, the United Concordia Elite Prime increase is 3%, and the Davis Vision rate increase is 0%.

<u>Monthly Coverage</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Parent/Child</u>	<u>Parent/Children</u>	<u>Employee/Spouse</u>	<u>Family</u>
Performance Blue PPO	\$1,006.04	\$2,255.56	\$2,481.11	\$2,732.96	\$2,841.53
Performance Blue EPO	\$939.82	\$2,108.03	\$2,318.77	\$2,553.09	\$2,654.68
United Concordia Elite Prime	\$ 34.11				\$ 112.20
Davis Vision	\$ 6.73				\$ 16.42

INSTRUCTION

C. Instruction

On motion by Mrs. Cooper and seconded by Ms. Zych, and after a discussion, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Instruction items:

1. Zen Educate, Inc. – Agreement for Education Staffing Services

Approve the agreement for education staffing services between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Zen Educate, Inc. to provide paraprofessionals to the district effective April 7, 2026. **This is a new service.**

**2. Allegheny Clinic – Behavioral Health Services Agreement
Chill Pop-Up Event and Services**

Approve the behavioral health services agreement for Chill Pop-Up event and services between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Allegheny Clinic to provide temporary, short-term educational services to participants in the Summer Learning Academy effective July 9, 2026, through July 28, 2026, at a cost of \$12,828.75. **This is a new service and is being funded by the 2026-2027 PCCD Mental Health and Safety Grant.**

3. The Day School – Services Agreement

Approve the services agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and The Day School for educational and related alternative education placement services effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. **This is a renewal of services.**

4. Imagine Learning LLC – Price Quotes

Accept the price quotes from Imagine Learning LLC for services from Edgenuity, Inc. for a standards-aligned video-based curriculum for blended learning environments and credit recovery effective for the 2026-2027 school year at a total cost of \$51,778.74. **This is an extension and renewal of services.**

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. 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

2. Resolution 2026-4

Approve Resolution 2026-4, urging the Allegheny County Council to mandate and implement a system of regular, periodic property tax assessments.

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. Custodial/Maintenance

- (1) The resignation of James R. Fleissner, 12-month, 8 hours per day maintenance employee for the Fox Chapel Area School District, due to retirement, is accepted effective July 7, 2026.

b. Food Services

- (1) The resignation of Sandra R. Strong, food services employee at Hartwood Elementary School, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective March 9, 2026.

c. Supplemental Contracts – Athletic

- (1) The resignation of Joshua DePasquale, football, HS 7th asst. (50%), due to personal reasons, is accepted effective March 24, 2026.
- (2) The resignation of Bradley Lewis, golf-girls, JV head, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective March 25, 2026.

- (3) The resignation of Carlo Prati, soccer, girls, HS head, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective March 19, 2026.

2. Appointments

a. Professional

- (1) Jonathan T. Strumpf is approved as a physics teacher at Fox Chapel Area High School, pending the completion of the program requirements and certification testing. This position is available due to the retirement of Peter Shiner.

Certification: Instructional I (pending testing)
Education: B.A., University of Rochester, 2015
M.A., University of Pittsburgh, expected May 2026
Experience: Student teaching, Pittsburgh Public Schools
Effective: August 17, 2026
Salary: \$67,038, based on Step 1, M+0 (pending completion of program)
Fringe Benefits: As per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

b. Custodial/Maintenance

- (1) Joshua T. Gentile is approved as a 12-month, 8 hours per day maintenance employee for the Fox Chapel Area School District for a probationary period, effective April 8, 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 James Fleissner.
- (2) Austin J. Mravintz is approved as a 12-month, 8 hours per day maintenance employee for the Fox Chapel Area School District for a probationary period, effective April 8, 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 James Moore.

3. Leaves

a. Professional

- (1) Elizabeth R. Methven, math teacher at Fox Chapel Area High School, is approved for childrearing/adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective May 1, 2026, with return scheduled for August 17, 2026.
- (2) Ashley L. Henny, elementary teacher at O'Hara Elementary School, is approved for a first semester educational sabbatical, effective August 17, 2026, with return scheduled for January 18, 2027.

4. Homebound Instruction

a. Teacher

- (1) Caryn A. Campbell is ratified as a homebound instruction teacher for the 2025-2026 school year, effective March 18, 2026, at a rate of \$32.17 per hour.

5. Advanced Placement Exam

a. Proctors

- (1) The following individuals are approved as Advanced Placement (AP) exam proctors at Fox Chapel Area High School, effective May 4, 2026, through May 15, 2026, for a stipend of \$1,600:

Quincy Fana
Martha Freese
Alexandra Rogalski
Isabel Valasek

6. Summer Programs – 2026

a. Elementary

- (1) 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:

Taylor Trasatti
Erin Wharton

b. High School

- (1) The individuals listed below are approved as Western PA Learning Academy specialty workshop facilitators (design and host). All workshop facilitators will receive 35% of the registration fees (minimum enrollment required).

Penny M. Capek
Lesley A. Cowles, Ed.D.
Lisa R. Gibson
Chad S. Morley

- (2) The following individual is approved as the high school transition program coordinator at a rate of \$1,300:

Lesley A. Cowles, Ed.D.

- (3) The following individuals are approved as summer high school faculty at a rate of \$1,950 per half-credit course:

Lesley A. Cowles, Ed.D.
Jennifer L. Klein
Meghan A. Meabon
Stephanie S. Reilly
Deborah A. Welty

- (4) The following individuals are approved as summer high school FCAO credit recovery faculty at a rate of \$1,950 (minimum enrollment required):

Mary E. Dixon
Lisa R. Gibson
Jennifer L. Klein
Stephanie S. Reilly
Heather M. Skillen

c. STEAM Camp

- (1) The following individuals are approved as instructors for the STEAM Camp at Fairview Elementary School at a rate of \$1,500:

Clara Barnes
Natalie Brock
Marie Chir
Adam Danielson
Sarah Dixon
Kaitlin Dodd
Isabella Donaldson
Martha Freese
Karly Keller
Jean Nitowski
Sarah Pattock
Tracey Planz
Sarah Podvasnik
Alexander Poellnitz
Gavin Smith

- (2) Jennifer S. Jones is approved as a nurse for the STEAM Camp at Fairview Elementary School at a rate of \$1,500.

7. Substitute Certified Athletic Trainer

- a. Joshua Miller is approved as a substitute certified athletic trainer, effective April 8, 2026, at a rate of \$32.13 per hour.

8. Purchase-of-Service Agreement

a. Athletics Operations Coordinator

- (1) The services agreement for an athletics operations coordinator between the Fox Chapel Area School District and John J. McGee, Ph.D., is approved effective on or about August 1, 2026, through on or about June 30, 2027, as presented. **This is a renewal of services.**

9. Volunteer

a. Athletic

- (1) The following athletic volunteer is approved effective April 8, 2026:

Vincent Sokalski Track, MS

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. Public School Facility Improvement Grant – Authorized Official Resolution

Approve the authorized official resolution, requesting a Public School Facility Improvement Grant of \$5,000,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the Fox Chapel Area High School mechanical project.

2. Incident IQ – Quote

Accept the quote from Incident IQ to provide software for technology asset inventory, technology fees, damages, and the help desk ticketing system effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, at a cost of \$16,974.87. **This is a renewal of services with a different company.**

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

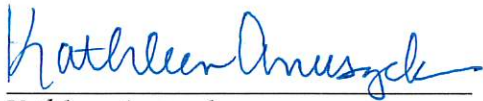
Rachel Machen, Fox Chapel Educators Association president-elect, gave a report.

BOARD COMMENTS

There were four comments. Ms. Dadd, Dr. Haselkorn, Ms. Findley, and Mr. Frank commented.

ADJOURNMENT

It was unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.



Kathleen Anuszek
Board Secretary