

June 8, 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 June 8, 2026. President Marybeth Dadd called the meeting to order at 7 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 (June 1, 2026)

•**Fox Chapel Area High School Madrigal Singers and Choir Director Benjamin Murray** — The Fox Chapel Area High School Madrigal Singers performed “The Fox and the Grapes.” This is a 2026 piece that was commissioned specifically for the Madrigal Singers, and the group presented the world premiere of the song May 5 as part of the high school spring choral concert.

Certificate of Recognition – Staff — The Board presented a certificates of recognition to the following teacher:

•Dorseyville Middle School literacy teacher **Scott Vensel** was named the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh’s Educator of the Year for 2025-2026. The award recognizes outstanding commitment to Holocaust education and fostering understanding among students.

According to a letter from Emily Loeb, the director of the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh, Mr. Vensel has spent nearly two decades engaging students in the study of the Holocaust.

“His teaching inspires students to reflect deeply on the dangers of hate, the power of propaganda, and the relevance of the Holocaust in today’s world,” Ms. Loeb said. “His student-centered, story-driven approach highlights the lives of Holocaust victims and survivors, making the history accessible and human.”

Mr. Vensel’s teaching methods have even inspired the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh’s own programming. In 2023, he was recognized by the center as a Righteous Among Neighbors honoree. He was also selected to attend the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous’ summer institute in June of 2022, where he became an Alfred Lerner Fellow.

At Dorseyville Middle School, Mr. Vensel founded the LIGHT Center. The center is a humanities makerspace that serves as a dedicated hub of remembrance, advocacy, and action, connecting students to transformative experiences. During the past few years, the LIGHT Center at DMS has held exhibits on World War II, Chief GUYASUTA, and the Pittsburgh Steelers. The LIGHT Center at DMS is a project of the LIGHT Education Initiative, a program of the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Vensel was honored as part of the Holocaust Center’s annual Waldman Arts and Writing Competition Award Ceremony May 12, 2026, at Chatham University. As part of the award, he received \$2,000, and Dorseyville Middle School received \$1,000 to support and advance Holocaust education.

The Holocaust Educator of the Year award was established to recognize and encourage excellence in Holocaust education in the tri-state area.

Certificates of Merit – Students — The Board presented certificates of merit to the following students:

•Fox Chapel Area High School seniors **Claire Conti** and **Raina Guzman** qualified for the Junk Kouture World Final event. The international competition was held in Ireland at the end of February 2026. There, Raina and Claire compete alongside finalists from Milan, Paris, London, Dubai, Dublin, and the United States. As part of the competition, Raina and Claire used crocheted plastic bags, Styrofoam egg cartons, and repurposed jewelry to create a dress titled “Ostara.”

Prior to that, they qualified for the national competition and were named among 10 United States finalists. The 10 entries chosen for the World Final stood out for their ingenuity, storytelling, and commitment to sustainability. The national competition, based out of New York, was held online in May.

Additionally, last school year’s World Final qualifiers, seniors **Lily McLaughlin** and **Ayla Ojanen**, helped this year by senior **Kathryn Siddons**, also made it to the 2025 online national contest as part of the Junk Kouture competition.

Junk Kouture is a sustainable fashion competition open to students ages 13-19 that challenges young people to create high-fashion designs from 100% recycled materials. The creations showcase the creativity, innovation, and environmental consciousness driving the next generation of changemakers. The competition is organized by Junk Kouture Operations Ireland Ltd. and is the largest sustainable fashion competition for young people.

- A Fox Chapel Area High School student won the grand prize in the 2025 FUSION Youth Metal Arts Showcase. Junior **Olivia Arca** won the top award, the Juror's Grand Prize, for her piece, "Picnic for One."

The showcase was open to students in kindergarten through grade 12 from throughout the greater Pittsburgh area, and all work had to feature metal as a material or in the process of creating the art. The show featured small works in aluminum, pewter, copper, brass, and silver.

The showcase was hosted by the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh MuseumLab as part of FUSION Fest and ran November through January in the lobby of the MuseumLab.

- Several Fox Chapel Area High School students won Gold Key awards for their entries in the Pittsburgh Region of the 2026 Scholastic Art Awards.

Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Nora Kelley** won a Gold Key for her art portfolio titled "Lifetime of Beauty." The portfolio included several pieces of original artwork. Additionally, Nora won six other Gold Keys and was also selected as an American Visions nominee for her drawing titled, "Marked Wisdom." This honor is given to only a select few regional Gold Key winners and their pieces are considered to be among the very best of the submissions.

Other Gold Key winners were Fox Chapel Area High School seniors **Claire Conti**, **Adele Grady**, and **Raina Guzman**; sophomore **Ella Shevchuk**; and freshman **Nathan Ko**. All of the Gold Key winners had their work sent to New York for national judging.

Students from schools from across the greater Pittsburgh area participated in the regional competition. The award winners were selected by a panel of distinguished judges which included artists, art educators, and art professionals.

The artwork of the students was on display at Carnegie Mellon University's Hall of Fine Arts February 25-March 7. The Fox Chapel Area students were honored, along with the other winners, at a special ceremony March 7 at Carnegie Mellon University's Kresge Theater.

- A Fox Chapel Area High School student won an award as part of the Standard Clay 2026 High School Student Exhibition. Senior **Adele Grady** received individual recognition for her piece, "The Emergence." This year's juror was Britney Smith, the program director for art and design at Carlow University.

The artwork of all the students involved in the show was on display during the month of April at the ClayPlace@Standard Gallery, part of Standard Ceramic Supply in Carnegie. The show featured the artwork of students from 16 high schools throughout the greater Pittsburgh area.

- Six Fox Chapel Area School District students won first-place awards for their submissions in the 2026 Pittsburgh Region, and two won national Scholastic Writing Awards.

Fox Chapel Area High School sophomore **Veronika McCarl** and freshman **Rebecca Dorneich** both won Gold Medals at the national level. Veronika won for her poem, "The Stillness That Knows Too Much," and Rebecca won for her flash fiction writing, "The Half-Life of a Hug." This year, more than 110,000 submissions were submitted for the national contest, and only 2% received awards at the national level. Select national medalists will be honored at a ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York City on June 10.

At the Pittsburgh Region Scholastic Writing Awards, Gold Keys were won by Fox Chapel Area High School sophomore Veronika McCarl (3 Gold Keys), and freshmen Rebecca Dorneich and **Jack Teschke**; and Dorseyville Middle School eighth-graders **Emily Dean**, **Samuel Ettinger** (2 Gold Keys), and **Laila Tobe**. All six of these Fox Chapel Area School District students qualified for national judging.

Hundreds of submissions spanning a variety of different genres of writing were received from students in grades 7-12 from across Allegheny County. The local competition is sponsored by the Point Park University Honors Program, which hosted a regional recognition ceremony for the winners in March at the Pittsburgh Playhouse.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is the nation's longest-running, most prestigious recognition program for creative teens.

- A total of 10 Fox Chapel Area High School students placed first and second in the 2025 Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) District 3 (regional) competition and qualified for the state competition. Fox Chapel Area first-place regional winners were sophomore **Anna Chrissis** and freshmen **Isaac Drucker**, **Ario Homayoun**, **Olivia Richter**, and **Salam Saidi**. Second-place regional winners were juniors **Aiden Drucker**, **Cooper Fleming**, and **Noelle Fournon** and freshmen **Zoey Liu** and **Maya Vyas**. These 10 students qualified for the 2026 DECA State Career Development Conference that was held in Hershey, Pa., February 18-20, 2026.

The DECA District 3 competition was held December 3 at Duquesne University. Approximately 400 students from 12 high schools from across Allegheny and Westmoreland counties participated in the regional competition.

DECA is a global nonprofit career and technical high school and college student organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management.

- Three Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the 2026 Pennsylvania Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) State Career Development Conference. Juniors **Aiden Drucker** and **Noelle Fournon** won third place in the Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making event, qualifying them to advance to the DECA International Career Development Conference to be held April 25-28 in Atlanta. At that event, Aiden and Noelle will compete against the top students from around the world.

Fox Chapel Area High School state winners in other competitions were Aiden, Noelle, and sophomore **Anna Chrissis** who each received "Best Role Play" awards. Noelle also earned the "Best Test" award.

The DECA State Career Development Conference was held in Hershey, Pa., February 18-20. Approximately 3,500 students from high schools across the state participated in the competition.

DECA is a global nonprofit career and technical high school and college student organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management.

- A total of 142 Fox Chapel Area High School students placed in the 2025 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Regional Leadership Conference and qualified for the state competition.

Fox Chapel Area first-place regional winners were seniors **Naudia Boyle**, **Michael Costello**, **Zelia Herald**, **Zinta Jacob**, **Grady Johnson**, **Joshua Shah**, and **Mason Shelkey-Bray**; juniors **Jolie Cessna**, **Aiden Drucker**, **Paige Dugan**, **Sera Filar**, **Noelle Fournon**, **Ella Golomb**, **Ainsley Goode**, **Juliette Hirshberg**, **Melanie Pietz**, **Ava Wegley**, and **Nico Zgurzynski**; sophomores **Santiago Alvarez**, **Sydney Asher**, **Maddox Chiu**, **Anna Chrissis**, **Viviana Didomenico**, **Sydney Gibel**, **Paulomi Goel**, **Margaret Handron**, **Otilie Happold**, **Austin Helsel**, **Philip Johnson**, **Jacob Jones**, **Filamena LeDonne**, **John McLaughlin**, **Eliot Meese**, **Elizabeth Passavant**, **Asher Peng**, **Easton Ritz**, **Addison Smith**, **Ava Stackhouse**, **Liliya Viti**, **Chase Walters**, and **Matthew Wang**; and freshmen **Delaney Drum**, **Roman Johnston**, **Rishabh Krishnamurthy**, **Zoey Liu**, **Lauren Schmutz**, **Sara Squeglia**, and **Maya Vyas**. Second-place regional winners were seniors **James Manges** and **Lorenzo Smiraglio**; juniors **Braxton Bielawski**, **Ava Carey**, **Caroline Franklin**, **Abigail Freyvogel**, **Mason Hager**, **Marianna Iannarelli**, **Luke Kaizer**, **Clara Koteski**, **Christopher Luther**, **Lucia McElwain**, **Anthony Nguyen**, **Kayla Nguyen**, **Catelyn Pastoor**, **Victoria Pfendler**, **Eli Ramirez**, **Dominic Rothmeyer**, **Desmond Ruff**, **Camila Trott**, and **Elias Zeiner**; sophomores **Nathan Agens**, **Lucas Ahern**, **Samuel Asher**, **Hunter Blask**, **Andrew Dinh**, **Christina Do**, **Mariela Ferry**, **Alyssia Gaucin**, **Isabella Gray**, **Purv Patel**, **Maddox Patterson**, **Sebastian Rosenmeier**, **Murray Smith**, and **Tyler Work**; and freshmen **Matthew Bartolacci**, **Reese Biehl**, **Bettis Bierenbaum**, **Grace Cooper**, **Claire Davison**, **Brooke Nalevanko**, **Anaia Shehzad**, **Brandon Tilstra**, and **Juliet Webb**. Third-place regional winners were seniors **Ross Calig**, **Joanna Li**, and **Samuel Troutman**; juniors **Max Choset**, **Cooper Fleming**, **Joseph McGivney**, **Elizabeth Leland**, **Gia Mort**, **Sienna Mort**, **Cora Watters**, and **Dashel Wilson**; sophomores **William Henderson**, **Annika Kubiska**, **Alexander Rosenmeier**,

Maren Shelkey-Bray, Grace Smiraglio, and Thomas Troutman; and freshmen **Gianna Leffakis Hanley, Delaney Liu, Paige Maheshwary, Olivia Richter, Luke Stauffer, and Elsa Watters**. Fourth-place regional winners were senior **Aavree Hill**; sophomores **Brett Chiquelin, Fernando Echeverria Conte, Olivia De Castro Noordzij, Harrison Soose, and Brady Vukmir**; and freshmen **Mira Agarwal, Ella Bleier, Bryson Datt, Kelsey Delaney, Katherine Franklin, Sasha Pechersky, Carys Sarra, Joelle Sullinger, and Carson Vukmir**. Fifth-place regional winners were seniors **Nicholas Krist and Elliott Willison**; juniors **Brooklyn Harper and Harrison Parker**; sophomore **Mattea Basile**; and freshmen **Aidan Brunner, Liam Glick, Zhiqing Hou, Emmett Regentin, Jack Rice, Salam Saidi, and Evan Vukmir**. All of these students qualified for the 2026 Pennsylvania FBLA State Leadership Conference that was held in Hershey, Pa., April 13-15, 2026.

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 and in person at Fox Chapel Area High School for performance events.

- Seven Fox Chapel Area High School and Dorseyville Middle School students placed at the 2026 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Leadership Conference and qualified for nationals. From Fox Chapel Area High School, the team of sophomore **Anna Chrissis** and freshman **Sara Squeglia** won third place, and junior **Aiden Drucker** won fourth place. From Dorseyville Middle School, seventh-grader **Oli Echard** won first place, seventh-grader **Arya Vyas** won third place, and seventh-grader **Lorina Kiselyov** and eighth-grader **Nora Spector** won fourth places. All of these students qualified to participate in the FBLA National Leadership Conference that will be held in San Antonio, Texas, June 29-July 2.

The FBLA State Leadership Conference was held in Hershey, Pa., April 12-14. Approximately 6,700 students from high schools and middle schools across the state participated in the competition.

- Several Fox Chapel Area High School and Dorseyville Middle School students won awards as part of the 2026 Region 7 Meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS).

Five students qualified for the state competition. Fox Chapel Area first-place winners were juniors **Rachel Kim, Taylor Stocker, and Param Thawani**; freshman **Rishabh Krishnamurthy**; and seventh-grader **Alexandra Delale-O'Connor**. The state PJAS competition was held May 17-19 at Penn State University, Main Campus.

The participating students (from several schools from Allegheny and Westmoreland counties) researched their science projects for several months. During the competition, each of the students was required to make a presentation in front of a panel of judges. The regional competition was held February 7 at Baldwin High School.

- Three Fox Chapel Area School District students won first-place awards at the 2026 State Meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS). Fox Chapel Area first-place state winners were junior **Param Thawani**, freshman **Rishabh Krishnamurthy**, and seventh-grader **Alexandra Delale-O'Connor**.

The participating Fox Chapel Area High School and Dorseyville Middle School students were among approximately 2,000 students in grades 7-12 from across Pennsylvania who qualified to participate in the state PJAS competition. The students researched their science projects for several months and were required to give an oral presentation in front of a panel of judges.

The state competition was held at Penn State University, Main Campus, May 17-19. All of the Fox Chapel Area students participating at the state level were named first-place winners at the annual Region 7 Meeting of the PJAS in February.

- Two Fox Chapel Area School District students won first-place awards at the 2026 Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair (PRSEF).

Fox Chapel Area High School ninth-grader **Rishabh Krishnamurthy** was named the first-place winner in the senior division of the physics and astronomy category. Dorseyville Middle School seventh-grader **Ellie Huh** was named a first-place winner in the intermediate division of the earth and environment category. As a result of her category win, Ellie has been nominated for the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge (JIC).

The PRSEF is open to students in grades 6-12 from 21 counties in Western Pennsylvania, as well as students in Garrett County in Maryland. Each year, students from more than 75 schools spend up to 12 months developing and executing a project and compete for more than \$1 million in cash, scholarships, and trips. All of the students who participated in the fair conducted individual science research and presented their projects to a committee of judges. The judging took place March 24 and 25 at the Kamin Science Center.

- Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Arman Alborzi** qualified to compete in the 2026 USA Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO). The USAMO took place March 21-22 at 31 colleges and universities across the country. Only 600 students were invited to participate in these national finals and they completed six proof-based problems over two days for a total of nine hours. Students who score high on the USAMO will qualify to participate in the International Math Olympiad.

Prior to qualifying to compete in the USAMO, Arman took the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME) in February. He was one of the top 11% of participants and qualified for the USAMO. Arman qualified to take that exam as a result of his distinguished performance on the American Mathematics Competition (AMC) 12 exam that he took in November 2025.

- Fox Chapel Area High School seniors **Arman Alborzi** and **Ian Wellman** qualified to take the 2026 USA Physics Olympiad (USAPhO) exam. The exam, sponsored by the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT), was administered April 10 and included topics in advanced physics, such as mechanics, electricity and magnetism, thermodynamics, fluids, relativity, and nuclear / atomic physics.

The top-scoring students on the USAPhO exam will be chosen to represent the United States as part of the U.S. Physics Team at the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO).

Prior to the USAPhO assessment, Arman and Ian qualified by excelling in the AAPT $F = ma$ exam in February. There were 6,000 students who participated in the $F = ma$ exam, and Arman and Ian qualified for the USAPhO with 440 other students.

- Fox Chapel Area High School junior **Victoria Pfendler** and sophomore **Amelia Tedesco** have been honored by the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) and InnerView as part of the 2025-2026 Community Service Impact Awards. The program is open to students across the nation and connects student service to real-world outcomes, skill development, and community needs. Victoria and Amelia were also recipients of the Kroger Co. Zero Hero Award which is given to students for taking action to help create communities free of hunger and waste. Victoria is an Honor Awardee, devoting 60 hours of community service during the 2025-2026 school year. This is Victoria's second consecutive year to receive the award. Amelia is an Ambassador Awardee and devoted more than 100 hours of community service during this school year.

For her largest volunteer effort, Victoria has spent the last four years helping at the Christ the King Giving Garden. There, she is involved in a variety of tasks with regard to growing healthy fruits and vegetables that benefit local food pantries. She is also a member of the Fox Chapel Area High School Cakes for Care club, is a student ambassador for the high school, and is a volunteer for Family House.

Amelia has been in charge of several volunteer efforts this school year. She conducted a food drive that benefitted the Singing Winds Food Pantry that is part of the Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center in Indiana Township. Amelia also founded and runs a nonprofit called the Tissue Issue that collects and provides hygiene products to people in underserved communities. Additionally, as part of Global Youth Service Day, she organized a group of students who put together three sharing boxes that will house free hygiene products for those in need. Amelia is also active with conservation and preserving and improving the environment and works as a volunteer for the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania.

"Even as the world faces tough questions about the future of international cooperation, students are supporting the Global Goals with heart, hard work, and a clear path forward," says Farah Salim Eck, managing director of the UNA-USA. "While the challenges of our time are real, seeing young people step up reminds us that change is always possible. We are so proud to partner with InnerView to celebrate these changemakers who are proving that you don't have to wait for the future to make the world a better, more united place."

“This recognition reflects more than participation, it represents the time, care, and commitment these students are putting into causes that matter to them,” says Kristine Sturgeon, CEO of InnerView. “It’s an honor to support and amplify their work. They’re not only creating impact today, they’re building the skills and confidence that will shape how they lead and contribute for the rest of their lives.”

- Seventeen Fox Chapel Area High School students won first place in the annual Three Rivers German Day Competition. In the song performance category, the team of seniors **Joseph Comte, Abigail Haas, Auden Jacobson, John McGough, Joshua Murphy, Mira Owens, and Ryan Wang**; juniors **Collin Fasanella, Jane Maurer, Luke Montgomery, Drew Moyer, Evelyn Owens, Maris Silva, and Ashley Wingard**; and freshmen **Rebecca Dorneich, Holden Link, and Charbel Mady** won first place for their performance of “Ich kündige.” Additionally, Evelyn won first place in the poetry recitation category.

The Three Rivers German Day Competition was open to high school students from across Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia and was held April 9, 2026, at Washington & Jefferson College. Approximately 200 students participated in the event which was sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania/West Virginia Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG).

- Two teams of Fox Chapel Area High School students won awards at the BotsIQ state finals competition.

The “Trident 2.0” battle bot won the “Best Engineered Bot” award, second place in the “Engineering Documentation” category, and tied for 13th place in the battle portion of the competition. The team members are juniors **Zhanyu “Eric” Jiang, Ayush Patel, and Georgy Pistsov**, and sophomore **Cecilia Sumrok**.

The “Rockem Sockem 2.0” bot won third place in “Engineering Documentation,” as well as tying for ninth place in battle. Those team members are seniors **Jackson Biehl, Benjamin Sun, and Yixin “Amy” Zhang**, and juniors **Mateo Phelan-Vidal, Nicholas Spector, and Brady Stocker**.

Students from both teams have been invited to participate in national tournaments in Ohio and Colorado based on their performances throughout the season.

Additional members of the club include juniors **Zachary Chan, Holden Driver, Ethan Kabus, David Kong, Benjamin Kirby, Tristan Kobylinski, Zekai Lin, Mikhail Lukichev, Gabriel Mahone, Patrick Pohl, and Rayyan Saidi**; sophomore **Zachary Chao**; and freshmen **Luke Shin and Brandon Tilstra**.

Fox Chapel Area High School’s industry sponsor is Aerotech Inc., located in RIDC O’Hara.

A total of 68 teams from 48 school districts participated in the BotsIQ state finals. The competition was held April 10 and 11, 2026, at PennWest California.

- Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Sophia Tai** and junior **Drew Moyer** were named 2026 High School All-American Strength and Conditioning Athletes of the Year by the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA). The honor recognizes high school athletes whose accomplishments reflect their dedication to strength and conditioning. The athletes are also recognized for their academic accomplishments, as well as the positive influence they have on their peers. Sophia was recognized for girls wrestling and rowing, and Drew was recognized for baseball.

Sophia and Drew were nominated by the Fox Chapel Area High School interscholastic strength and conditioning staff that includes social studies teacher and strength and conditioning head coach **Brandon Peifer**. According to Mr. Peifer, Sophia and Drew are members of the National Honor Society and both exhibit a strong dedication to academics and athletics.

“Sophia is a leader with a commitment to excellence in the classroom and athletics. She exemplifies a disciplined balance of academic rigor and focused leadership. She also provides the essential leadership to push her teammates and herself to achieve success,” Mr. Peifer said. “Drew is a remarkably driven and disciplined student-athlete. He approaches every training session with a level of focus and intent that sets a high standard for our entire program. Drew leads by example, consistently putting in the extra work and effort.”

Founded in 1978, the NSCA is a nonprofit association dedicated to advancing the strength and conditioning and related sport science professions around the world. The NSCA exists to empower a community of professionals to maximize their impact through disseminating evidence-based knowledge and its practical application by offering industry-leading certifications, research journals, career development services, networking opportunities, and continuing education. The NSCA community is composed of more than 60,000 members and certified professionals throughout the world.

- The Fox Chapel Area High School boys varsity tennis team won the WPIAL Class 3A Section 3 title. The team members were seniors **Rocco Didomenico** and **Brody Saunders**; juniors **Grant Fenton**, **Brady Haberman**, **Mason Hager**, and **Brody Malone**; and sophomores **Andrew Larsen**, **Frank Siegel**, **Harrison Soose**, and **Chase Walters**. The team was undefeated in the section (6-0) and ended the season with an overall record of 10-6. Additionally, Frank and Grant were the WPIAL Class 3A Section 3 doubles champions.

- The Fox Chapel Area High School boys varsity lacrosse team won the WPIAL Class 3A Section 2 title. The team members were seniors **Jacob Amster**, **Ross Calig**, **Anderson Dockey**, **William Gagliardino**, **Spencer Goehring**, **Charles Hill**, **Grady Johnson**, **Nathan Johnson**, **Brady Matthews**, **Griffin McCaffrey**, **Evan Saunders**, and **Samuel Troutman**; juniors **Tucker Cullen**, **Keita Komatsu**, **Blake Leffakis Hanley**, **Cavan Patrick**, **Dominic Rothmeyer**, and **Sebastian Rzeszotarski**; sophomores **Barron Bitar**, **Hunter Blask**, **Rory Clouse**, **Zachary Farber**, **Parker Hanley**, **Kai Koffler**, **Luke Troutman**, and **Thomas Troutman**; and freshmen **Campbell Barbour**, **Brayden Casey**, **Tucker Howell**, **Steven Lubinski**, **Declan Patrick**, **Cooper Zampogna**, and **Connor Zuri**.

- The Fox Chapel Area High School girls varsity lacrosse team qualified for the PIAA Class 3A playoffs. The students are seniors **Atia DiGioia**, **Caroline Grimsley**, **Sophia Jacobs**, **Avery Jones**, **Emily Kintner**, **Caroline Leland**, **Zehra Ozkaya**, **Hope Pekarcik**, **Kathryn Siddons**, **Emma Srodes**, and **Emilia Sutkowski**; juniors, **Caroline Franklin**, **Catelyn Pastoor**, **Grace Patel**, and **Ava Tramontina**; sophomores **London Bitar**, **Brooke Leone**, and **Alice McLeland**; and freshmen **Mareidith Adams**, **Lydia DeMotte**, **Mary Johnson**, **Olivia Napolitan**, and **McKayla O'Leary**.

- Six members of the Fox Chapel Area High School girls track and field team qualified for the 2026 PIAA Track and Field Championships. The students are senior **Claire Conti** (discus), and the 4x800 relay team of senior **Marin Airik**, sophomores **Bridget Hemingray** and **Ella Shevchuk**, and freshman **Sydney Kimmons** and **Claire Loiudice**. The state championships were held May 22 and 23 at Shippensburg University.

- Several members of the Fox Chapel Crew team qualified for the Scholastic Rowing Association of America (SRAA) Regatta (nationals). The women's varsity quad finished first at the Midwest Scholastic Rowing Association (MSRA) Championship Regatta (regionals) and included seniors **Nora Kelley**, **Sophia Tai**, and **Morgan Van Kirk**; and junior **Marlowe Schmidt**. Other members of the crew team qualifying for nationals were seniors **Charles Hahl**, **Gavin Nguyen**, **Keitaro Inada**, and **Ian Wellman**; juniors **Simon Goode** and **Mark Christopher Ong**; sophomores **Emily Shaw**, **Alessandra Sirio**, and **Eliana Wellman**; and freshman **Julia Olivieri**.

The MSRA Championship Regatta was held May 9 and 10, 2026, in Milford, Michigan. The SRAA Regatta was held May 22 and 23 in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE(S)

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, O'Hara Elementary School kindergarten teacher and the district's early childhood transition coordinator, Dr. **Alison Francis**, talked about the transition events the district sponsors to help the newest learners to be successful upon their arrival in the district.

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

Information

- FCASD Named 'District on the Rise' in U.S.**

The Education Scorecard – a collaboration between Stanford University's Educational Opportunity Project and Harvard University's Center for Education Policy Research – recently designated Fox Chapel Area as a "District On the Rise."

The distinction recognizes school districts that are improving faster than their peers in both math and reading achievement, as measured by available standardized testing data. Fox Chapel Area is one of only 108 districts nationwide to receive this designation.

The Education Scorecard evaluates academic growth trends across school districts throughout the country.

•**District Ranks No. 1 in Region and State in Pittsburgh Business Times Guide**

For the third consecutive year, the Pittsburgh Business Times has ranked the Fox Chapel Area School District as the No. 1 school district in both Southwestern Pennsylvania and the state.

The rankings, released in May as part of the 2026 Guide to Southwestern Pennsylvania Schools, are based on the past three years of available standardized test scores – 2023, 2024, and 2025 – for grades three through eight on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSAs) and the high school proficiency (Keystone Exams).

All the district’s tested grade levels ranked in either the No. 1 or No. 2 spot in the region as follows:

Grade 3 – No. 2 position
Grade 4 – No. 2 position
Grade 5 – No. 1 position
Grade 6 – No. 1 position
Grade 7 – No. 1 position
Grade 8 – No. 2 position
Keystone (11th Grade) – No. 1 position

•**District Receives PBIS Recognition**

The Fox Chapel Area School District received Bronze-Level District of Distinction recognition from the Northeast Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Network (NEPBIS) for successfully implementing Tier 1 PBIS frameworks in all its schools.

Achieving the bronze-level recognition requires demonstrating consistent, evidence-based behavioral supports to improve school climate, social-emotional competence, and academic success.

The district was honored with a certificate in May 2026 at the NEPBIS Leadership Forum in Mystic, Connecticut.

•**FCASD Named One of Best Communities for Music Education**

The Fox Chapel Area School District has been named among the 2026 Best Communities for Music Education. This is the 15th year that the district has received this designation.

Fox Chapel Area is one of 141 in the state of Pennsylvania and one of approximately 1,000 school districts in the nation chosen for this honor. The distinction recognizes districts that demonstrate an exemplary dedication to music education and their ongoing efforts to ensure equitable access to music learning as part of a well-rounded education.

The districts were selected through a program sponsored by the NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Foundation which honors districts for outstanding achievement in providing access to high-quality music education.

Recipients of the Best Communities for Music Education Awards were selected through a comprehensive application and review process that evaluates key indicators, including funding, instructional time, participation rates, facilities, and community support.

The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit that works to remove systemic barriers that limit access to music-making and career pathways in the music industry. The group strives to build inclusive and thriving musical communities and invests in the future of music.

•**High School Named NSCA School of Distinction**

Fox Chapel Area High School has been named a School of Distinction by the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA), a prestigious honor recognizing excellence in strength and conditioning programs nationwide.

The NSCA School of Distinction program honors K-12 schools that demonstrate the highest standards in strength and conditioning. This recognition awards strength and conditioning programs that meet rigorous criteria in the following categories: program supervision; strength and conditioning program administration; strength and conditioning education; and facility management. Fox Chapel Area High School is among 13 schools nationwide to receive the recognition, and the first in Pennsylvania.

Fox Chapel Area School District's strength and conditioning program is led by **Brandon Peifer**, a Fox Chapel Area High School social studies teacher.

"Being recognized as an NSCA School of Distinction reflects the dedication and expertise of our staff, as well as the commitment of our students," says Michael O'Brien, Fox Chapel Area School District's director of athletics. "Coach Peifer's passion and proven workout implementation grounded in science is why his program is so successful."

"The NSCA School of Distinction award is a huge milestone because it proves we're committed to developing the 'whole student' by using the highest professional standards in athlete training and safety," Mr. Peifer adds. "This honor puts Fox Chapel on the national map, showing that our students have access to a top-tier, college-level environment right here in our high school. It's a proud moment that highlights the incredible teamwork between our strength staff, the administration, and our dedicated student-athletes."

For more information about the NSCA and its School of Distinction program, visit the National Strength and Conditioning Association at www.nsca.com.

•DMS Choirs Earn High Ratings

The Dorseyville Middle School (DMS) Chorale and the FoxTones performed both separately and together as the DMS Honor Choir at a High Note Festival in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Each ensemble earned the highest rating of "Superior" and all three groups were given trophies for their performances.

The Highnote Festival was held May 8, 2026, and the groups were judged by professional adjudicators.

The DMS Chorale includes 40 girls in sixth through eighth grades, the FoxTones includes 11 boys in grades six through eight, and the Honor Choir is made up of the Chorale and the FoxTones.

The DMS choirs are under the direction of teacher **Amy Beresik**.

•DMS Orchestra Earns Highest Rating

The Dorseyville Middle School Philharmonic Orchestra earned the highest rating possible at the Cedar Point Festival of Music. The orchestra was rated "Superior," and was the only middle school orchestra to earn that rating. The group received a plaque for its performance.

The festival was held May 15, 2026, at Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio.

The Dorseyville Middle School Philharmonic Orchestra includes 48 students in grades six, seven, and eight. The orchestra is under the direction of teacher **Jeffrey Bryer**.

•Students Win Regional Scholastic Writing Awards

Several Fox Chapel Area School District students won second-place and honorable mention awards for their submissions in the 2026 Pittsburgh Region and the national Scholastic Writing Awards.

Silver Keys were awarded to junior **Nadre Digbohough**; sophomores **Veronika McCarl** (10 Silver Keys), **Amelia Tedesco**, and **Divya Thirumala** (3 Silver Keys); freshmen **Kai Galyardt** (3 Silver Keys), **Celestial Hou** (2 Silver Keys), **Layla Niggel**, **Rebecca Smith**, and **Jack Teschke**; eighth-graders **Elodie Clark**, **Samuel Ettinger** (3 Silver Keys), **Soleil Muller**, and **Simon Schmidt**; and seventh-graders **Norah Delaney** and **Evelyn Singh**.

Honorable Mentions went to seniors **Arman Alborzi**, **Ori Goldin**, and **Emma Kuhns**; juniors Nadre Digbohough and **Logan Rapp**; sophomores Veronika McCarl (2 Honorable Mentions), Amelia Tedesco, and **Eliana Wellman**; freshmen **Anaia Shehzad** (2 Honorable Mentions), Rebecca Smith, and Jack Teschke; and eighth-graders **Madelyn Burgess**, **Rosario Echeverria Conte**, Samuel Ettinger (4 Honorable Mentions), **Seth Gibson**, **Aarya Senn**, **Nora Spector**, and **Sarey Winston**.

Hundreds of submissions spanning a variety of different genres of writing were received from students in grades 7-12 from across Allegheny County. The local competition is sponsored by the Point Park University Honors Program, which hosted a regional recognition ceremony for the winners in March at the Pittsburgh Playhouse.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is the nation's longest-running, most prestigious recognition program for creative teens.

•Students Place in State FBLA Competition

Several Fox Chapel Area High School and Dorseyville Middle School students placed at the 2026 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Leadership Conference.

State place winners were seniors **Zelia Herald** (fifth place) and **Zinta Jacob** (fifth place); juniors **Braxton Bielawski** (seventh place), **Jolie Cessna** (ninth place), **Paige Dugan** (ninth place), **Noelle Fourn** (fifth place), **Ella Golomb** (ninth place), **Ainsley Good** (fifth place), **Dashel Wilson** (eighth place), and **Elias Zeiner** (fifth place); sophomores **Lucas Ahern** (sixth place), **Samuel Asher** (seventh place), **Fernando Echeverria Conte** (tenth place), **Emma Gilman** (eighth place), **Paulomi Goel** (ninth place), **Isabella Gray** (seventh place), **Margaret Handron** (fifth place), **Austin Helsel** (tenth place), **Philip Johnson** (fifth place), **Jacob Jones** (ninth place), **Filamena LeDonne** (eighth place), **Elizabeth Passavant** (fifth place), **Asher Peng** (ninth place), **Easton Ritz** (ninth place), **Ava Stackhouse** (eighth place), and **Matthew Wang** (fifth place); freshman **Delaney Drum** (tenth place); and seventh-grader **Oskar Guttridge** (fifth place).

Fox Chapel Area High School and Dorseyville Middle School state place winners in open events (not eligible for the national competition) were juniors **Aiden Drucker** (fourth place), Noelle Fourn (third, fifth, and seventh places), and Ella Golomb (seventh place); and sophomore **Anna Chrissis** (sixth and ninth places).

Additionally, as part of the state leadership conference, other awards were given. Several students were accepted into the National Business Honor Society (NBHS). The students are seniors Zelia Herald and Zinta Jacob; juniors Aiden Drucker, Ella Golomb, Ainsley Goode, **Allison Olivieri**, **Victoria Pfendler**, and **Melanie Pietz**; and sophomores Lucas Ahern, **Sydney Gibel**, and **Murray Smith**. Students are accepted into the NBHS through evaluation of an application, overall unweighted GPA, a résumé, a transcript, and a career-objective essay. Big 33 Community Service Awards went to senior **Nicholas Krist**; juniors Aiden Drucker, Ella Golomb, Allison Olivieri, and Victoria Pfendler; sophomores Lucas Ahern, **Andrew Dinh**, Sydney Gibel, and **Purv Patel**; and freshman **Rishabh Krishnamurthy**. Business Achievement Awards were given to juniors Aiden Drucker, Noelle Fourn, and **Celeste Yeske**; and sophomores Filamena LeDonne and Asher Peng. Business Achievement Awards allow students to learn more about FBLA and other business topics and include four levels of study. Students participate in a series of online interactive modules to achieve each level.

The Fox Chapel Area High School chapter of the FBLA also came in as the seventh largest in the state with a total of 185 students. There are 248 active high school chapters in Pennsylvania.

The FBLA State Leadership Conference was held in Hershey, Pennsylvania, April 12-14. Approximately 6,700 students from high schools and middle schools across the state participated in the competition.

•FCASD Students Place at Regional PJAS Competition

Several Fox Chapel Area High School and Dorseyville Middle School students won second-place and special awards as part of the 2026 Region 7 Meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS).

Fox Chapel Area second place winners were senior **Joanna Li**, junior **Heidi Stiger**, sophomores **Asher Peng** and **Kanyapat Wesaratchakit**, and seventh-graders **Alexander Li** and **Marisa Wesaratchakit**.

Additionally, freshman **Rishabh Krishnamurthy** and seventh-grader **Alexandra Delale-O'Connor** each received a Perfect Score Award. Heidi received a Women in Engineering Award and Alexandra also received a sustainability award.

The participating students (from several schools from Allegheny and Westmoreland counties) researched their science projects for several months. During the competition, each of the students was required to make a presentation in front of a panel of judges. The regional competition was held February 7 at Baldwin High School.

•Students Win Awards at State PJAS Competition

Two Fox Chapel Area High School juniors won awards at the 2026 State Meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS). The second place state winner was **Rachel Kim**, and **Param Thawani** received a Perseverance Award.

The participating Fox Chapel Area High School and Dorseyville Middle School students were among approximately 2,000 students in grades 7-12 from across Pennsylvania who qualified to participate in the state PJAS competition. The students researched their science projects for several months and were required to give an oral presentation in front of a panel of judges.

The state competition was held at Penn State University, Main Campus, May 17-19. All of the Fox Chapel Area students participating at the state level were named first-place winners at the annual Region 7 Meeting of the PJAS in February.

•Students Win Awards at Regional Science and Engineering Fair

Four Fox Chapel Area School District students won awards at the 2026 Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair (PRSEF).

Dorseyville Middle School seventh-grader **Alexander Li** received an honorable mention in the intermediate division engineering category, as well as a sponsor/affiliate award from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Fox Chapel Area High School ninth-grader **Rishabh Krishnamurthy** won a University of Pittsburgh Department of Physics and Astronomy sponsor/affiliate award. Junior **Param Thawani** received a sponsor/affiliate award from the Princeton Alumni Association of Western Pennsylvania, and seventh-grader **Alexandra Delale-O'Connor** won a sponsor/affiliate award from the Society of Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh.

The PRSEF is open to students in grades 6-12 from 21 counties in Western Pennsylvania, as well as students in Garrett County in Maryland. Each year, students from more than 75 schools spend up to 12 months developing and executing a project and compete for more than \$1 million in cash, scholarships, and trips. All of the students who participated in the fair conducted individual science research and presented their projects to a committee of judges. The judging took place March 24 and 25 at the Kamin Science Center.

•Students' Artwork Displayed as Part of Clay Exhibition

Five Fox Chapel Area High School students had their work displayed as part of the Standard Clay 2026 High School Student Exhibition. The students are seniors **Lily Cannon**, **Adele Grady**, and **Morgan Van Kirk**; junior **Elise Dressman**; and sophomore **Ana Sofia Davit**.

The artwork of all the students involved in the show was on display during the month of April at the ClayPlace@Standard Gallery, part of Standard Ceramic Supply, located in Carnegie. The show featured the artwork of students from 16 high schools throughout the greater Pittsburgh area.

•Students Place in German Day Competition

Two Fox Chapel Area High School students placed second and third in the annual Three Rivers German Day Competition. Senior **Ava DeBruyn** won second place in the fictional writing category, and third place went to junior **Evelyn Owens**.

The Three Rivers German Day Competition was open to high school students from across Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia and was held April 9, 2026, at Washington & Jefferson College. Approximately 200 students participated in the event which was sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania/West Virginia Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG).

•Student Named Outstanding Young Citizen

Fox Chapel Area High School junior **Mateo Phelan-Vidal** was named a 2026 Outstanding Young Citizen awardee. The program honors students who demonstrate exemplary character and leadership, dedication to community service, and outstanding academic achievement. Students can be nominated by family, friends, school officials, teachers, and members of the community. Judging was done by an independent panel who reviewed the students' biographies and selected the Outstanding Young Citizens awardees and the Top 10 Gold Medalists.

The program was open to high school juniors and seniors from more than 100 schools across Western Pennsylvania and the students were honored in the print newspapers, as well as online.

•**Softball Players Named to Big 56 Section Teams**

Four Fox Chapel Area High School softball players were named to Big 56 teams. Junior **Jillian Haigh** was named to the WPIAL Class 5A Section 1 first team, and sophomore **Guiliana Foley** and freshmen **Lexi Stabile** and **Isabel Zoher** were named to the second team.

•**Baseball Players Named to Big 56 Section Teams**

Five Fox Chapel Area High School baseball players were named to Big 56 teams. Senior **Blake Krushinski** and juniors **Tristan Blum** and **Elias George** were named to the WPIAL Class 5A Section 3 first team, and senior **Tyler Golembiewski** and sophomore **Milan Fluhme** were named to the second team.

•**Boys Lacrosse Players Named to All-Section Team/Coaches Named Coaches of the Year**

Seven members of the Fox Chapel Area High School boys varsity lacrosse team were named to all-section teams, and two of their coaches were named coaches of the year. Senior **Jacob Amster**, **Brady Matthews**, **Griffin McCaffrey**, and **Samuel Troutman**, and junior **Tucker Cullin** were named to the WPIAL Class AAA Section 2 first team. Seniors **Anderson Dockey** and **Nathan Johnson** received honorable mentions to the team. Additionally, **Jordon Hodder** and **Ben Romah** were named the WPIAL Class AAA Section 2 coach of the year and assistant coach of the year, respectively.

•**Boys Volleyball Players Named to Section Team**

Two members of the Fox Chapel Area High School boys varsity volleyball team were named to the WPIAL Class AAA Section 4 team. The students are seniors **Kagan Joyce** and **Owen Long**. The team was chosen by the WPIAL Coaches Association.

Fox Chapel Area School Board Upcoming Meetings

August 10, 2026 – 7 p.m. – Combined Agenda Study Session & Reg. 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. – Reorganization Mtg. & Comb. Agenda Study Sess. & Reg. Bus. Mtg. – HS LGI Rm.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES — Approved the minutes of the combined agenda study session and regular business meeting dated May 4, 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 — No meeting was held.

Governance Committee Report — No meeting was held.

Projects and Planning Committee Report — No meeting was held.

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

Facilities/Transportation

Change Order – High School Tennis Court Renovations Project — Approved change order 001 in the amount of \$39,300 for the high school tennis court renovations project. **This change order was reviewed and recommended by the Fox Chapel Area School Authority.**

Authorization to Advertise for Bids – High School Athletic Field Sports Lighting Replacement Project — Authorized the advertisement for bids for the high school athletic field sports lighting replacement project.

Thomas & Williamson Program Management – Proposal – Program Management and Construction Management Services – Fox Chapel Area High School Mechanical Renovations Project — Accepted the proposal from Thomas & Williamson Program Management for program management and construction management services related to the Fox Chapel Area High School mechanical renovations project at a cost of \$378,884.

H.F. Lenz Co. – Proposal and Agreement – Engineering Services – Fox Chapel Area High School Mechanical Renovations Project — Accepted the proposal and approved the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and H.F. Lenz Co. for engineering services related to the Fox Chapel Area High School mechanical renovations project at a cost of \$552,000.

H.F. Lenz Co. – Proposal and Agreement – Commissioning Services – Fox Chapel Area High School Mechanical Renovations Project — Accepted the proposal and approved the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and H.F. Lenz Co. for commissioning services related to the Fox Chapel Area High School mechanical renovations project at a cost of \$102,500.

Finance

Disbursements (Fund 10) – May 2026 — The general fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$8,684,273.35 from May 1, 2026, through May 31, 2026, were approved.

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

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

Interfund Transfer — Approved an interfund transfer from Fund 10 (general fund disbursements) to Fund 32 (athletic capital reserves fund) in the amount of \$42,163 based on 50% of the 2025-2026 athletic ticket sales.

Insurance 2026-2027 — Authorized the director of finance to enter into insurance contracts for the 2026-2027 school year at a cost not to exceed \$581,000.

2026-2027 Fox Chapel Area School District Food Services Budget — Approved the 2026-2027 Fox Chapel Area School District Food Services Budget in the amount of \$2,246,250.

Final 2026-2027 General Fund Operating Budget – Resolution 2026-5 — Approved Resolution 2026-5 as follows:

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT RESOLUTION 2026-5 2026-2027 General Fund Operating Budget

RESOLVED, that a budget is hereby adopted for the Fox Chapel Area School District in the amount of \$125,489,654 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and a copy of said budget as finally adopted shall be on record in the office of the Secretary of the Board of School Directors; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fox Chapel Area School District hereby levies and re-enacts a tax for general revenue purposes of 1% on salaries, wages, commissions, and other compensation earned by residents of the Fox Chapel Area School District during the period beginning on July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, and for each successive fiscal year thereafter and on the net profits earned during said period from business, professions, and other activities conducted by residents of the Fox Chapel Area School District, in the same form as Resolution No. 1969-5 heretofore adopted by the Interim Operating Committee of Fox Chapel Area School District on June 29, 1970; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fox Chapel Area School District hereby levies a realty transfer tax for general revenue purposes of 1% upon the transfer of real estate or on interest in real estate situate within the Fox Chapel Area School District for the period from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, and for each succeeding fiscal year thereafter by the adoption of Resolution No. 1986-2; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fox Chapel Area School District hereby levies and re-enacts a tax for general purposes in the amount of \$10 upon the privilege of engaging in an occupation within the Fox Chapel Area

School District in the fiscal year 2026-2027 and in each fiscal year thereafter, in the same form as Resolution No. R-1972-4 heretofore adopted by the Board of School Directors on January 1, 1973; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of the Fox Chapel Area School District, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, hereby authorizes the appropriation and expenditure of the funds as itemized in the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, the necessary revenue for the same to be provided by the taxes hereinabove levied by the Board of School Directors and by a school tax levy on real estate which is hereby levied and assessed at the rate of twenty-two and six thousand eight hundred ninety-eight ten thousandths on the dollar on the total amount of the assessed valuation of all taxable real property in the Fox Chapel Area School District, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, at the rate of \$22.6898 on each \$1,000 of the assessed calculation of the taxable real property.

Adopted this 8th day of June, 2026, at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of School Directors.

A proposed final budget in the amount of \$125,489,654 as presented with 22.6898 mills of real estate tax and to continue all other taxes without change was preliminarily adopted May 4, 2026. The budget was advertised and made available to the public for review and comment for the past 30 days. The Board of School Directors and the administration have reviewed any comments. A budget in the amount of \$125,489,654 was presented for final approval.

Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion – Resolution 2026-6 — Approved Resolution 2026-6 regarding the Fox Chapel Area School District Homestead Exclusion.

Instruction

New Textbook for Adoption — Approves the following new textbook listed below:

High School – Business Education

— “Managing Your Personal Finances” by Tamra S. Connor; Publisher: Cengage; Copyright 2026, 8th Edition; for Career and Financial Essentials, Grade 11.

Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Comprehensive Services Agreement and Special Education Services

Addendum A — Approved the comprehensive services agreement and special education services Addendum A between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for specialized educational services for the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. **This is a renewal of services.**

Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Waterfront Learning Services – Addendum — Approved the Waterfront Learning services addendum pursuant to the Allegheny Intermediate Unit 2026-2027 comprehensive services agreement for flexible virtual education options, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. **This is a renewal of services.**

Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Title III Consortium Memorandum of Understanding — Approved the memorandum of understanding between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for participation in the Title III Consortium for the 2026-2027 school year, and authorized the superintendent to execute the memorandum of understanding on behalf of the district. **This is a renewal of services.**

Human Services Administration Organization – Student Assistance Program (SAP) – Letter of Agreement — Approved the letter of agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the Human Services Administration Organization to provide Student Assistance Program (SAP) services for the 2026-2027 school year, and authorized the superintendent to execute the letter of agreement on behalf of the district. **This is a renewal of services and is funded by the Allegheny County Office of Behavioral Health.**

East End Therapists LLC – Linkage Agreement for Mental Health Services in Schools — Approved the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and East End Therapists LLC for mental health services in schools for the 2026-2027 school year, and authorized the administration to execute the agreement on behalf of the district. **This is a new agreement and there is no cost to the district.**

LinkIt! – Quote and Software License Agreement — Accepted the quote and approved the software license agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and LinkIt! for the Instructional Management System that LinkIt! provides effective for the 2026-2027 school year at a cost of \$14,976.60. **This is a renewal of services.**

Renaissance Learning, Inc. – Quotes — Accepted the quotes from Renaissance Learning, Inc. for data-driven software and assessment solutions effective for the 2026-2027 school year at a total cost of \$62,646.83. **This is a renewal of services.**

Global Wordsmiths – Language Services Agreement — Approved the language services agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Global Wordsmiths to provide language interpretation services and language translation services at a cost as listed in the fee schedule effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. **This is a renewal of services.**

PHASE 4 Learning Center, Inc. – ACT 48 Program Agreement for Services — Approved the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and PHASE 4 Learning Center, Inc. for alternative education services for students for the 2026-2027 school year. **This is a renewal of services.**

Wesley Family Services – Agreement — Approved the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Wesley Family Services for child/adolescent Partial Hospital Program (PHP) services for the 2026-2027 school year. **This is a renewal of services.**

St. Anthony Post-Secondary Program – Public School District Service Agreement — Approved the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and St. Anthony School Programs for post-secondary program services effective August 24, 2026, through June 30, 2027. **This is a renewal of services.**

LearnWell – Agreement — Approved the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and LearnWell for tutoring services effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, at a cost stated in Exhibit A. **This is a renewal of services.**

Pressley Ridge Autism – Addendum #9 to the Contractual Agreement — Approved addendum #9 pursuant to the contractual agreement approved August 14, 2017, between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Pressley Ridge Autism for services to students for the 2026-2027 school year. **This is a renewal of services.**

Kristine Orosz – Contractual Agreement — Approved the contractual agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and **Kristine Orosz** to provide special education evaluations to students identified by the district for the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. **This is a renewal of services.**

The School at McGuire Memorial – Educational Services Agreement — Approved the educational services agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and The School at McGuire Memorial for the 2026-2027 school year beginning August 24, 2026, through June 30, 2027, and the 2027 ESY program. **This is a renewal of services.**

Pittsburgh Behavioral Services, Inc., DBA PGH ABA – Educational Placement Service Agreements — Approved the educational placement service agreements as between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Pittsburgh Behavioral Services, Inc., DBA PGH ABA, for special education services for the 2026-2027 school year, and the 2027 ESY program. **This is a renewal of services.**

The Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children – Outreach Services Contract Agreement — Approved the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children for services to students effective August 30, 2026, through August 29, 2027. **This is a renewal of services.**

River Academy of Excellence – Master Student Education Agreement — Ratified the master student education agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and River Academy of Excellence to provide services for an unnamed student for the 2025-2026 school year. **This is a renewal of services.**

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 resignations:

- **David W. Dadowski**, science teacher at Dorseyville Middle School, due to retirement, effective June 11, 2026.
- **Dana M. Ferrari**, elementary teacher at O'Hara Elementary School, due to personal reasons, effective June 11, 2026.
- **Patricia E. McCauley**, elementary teacher at O'Hara Elementary School, due to retirement, effective June 11, 2026.
- **Kayla M. Walnoha**, computer literacy teacher at O'Hara Elementary School, due to personal reasons, effective June 11, 2026.
- **Cara E. Zlatos**, elementary teacher at Kerr Elementary School, due to personal reasons, effective June 11, 2026.

Educational Support — Accepted the following instructional assistant resignation:

- **Colleen S. Lazaro**, instructional assistant at Hartwood Elementary School, due to personal reasons, effective May 18, 2026.

Custodial/Maintenance — Accepted the following custodial resignations:

- **Karon J. Henderson**, 10-month, 8 hours per day custodian at Fairview Elementary School, due to personal reasons, effective May 27, 2026.
- **Maria A. Riga**, 12-month, 8 hours per day custodian at O'Hara Elementary School, due to retirement, effective June 8, 2026.

Food Services — Accepted the following food services resignations:

- **Margaret J. Allen**, food services worker at Fox Chapel Area High School, due to personal reasons, effective June 8, 2025.
- **Lynda M. Dugan**, food services worker at Fox Chapel Area High School, due to personal reasons, effective June 8, 2025.

Supplemental Contracts – Non-Athletic — Accepted the following non-athletic supplemental contract resignations:

- **Season A. Gigliotti**, class sponsor 6th grade (50%), due to personal reasons, effective June 11, 2026.
- **Season A. Gigliotti**, class sponsor 7th grade, due to personal reasons, effective June 11, 2026.
- **Kayla M. Walnoha**, student government – O'Hara sponsor, due to personal reasons, effective June 11, 2026.

Services Agreement — Accepted the following services agreement resignation:

- **Keith Gorse**, athletic trainer for the Fox Chapel Area School District, due to retirement, effective May 18, 2026.

Summer Programs – 2026 — Accepted the following summer programs resignation:

- **Mary E. Dixon**, summer high school FCAO credit recovery faculty for the Western PA Learning Academy, due to personal reasons, effective June 3, 2026.

Appointments

Administration — Approved the following administrative appointment:

- **Kenneth A. Bissell**, Ed.D., as the executive director of secondary education and instruction with an effective date to be determined. The salary was set with fringe benefits as per the Act 93 Agreement. This position is available due to the resignation of **Matthew Patterson**, Ph.D.

Professional — Approved the following professional appointments:

- **Julia G. Arlia** as an elementary teacher at O'Hara Elementary School effective August 17, 2026. Salary was set based on Step 2, B+0, with fringe benefits as per the collective bargaining agreement. This position is available due to an open position.
- **Joshua D. Mariana** as an elementary teacher at Kerr Elementary School effective August 17, 2026. Salary was set based on Step 2, B+0, with fringe benefits as per the collective bargaining agreement. This position is available due to the resignation of **Cara Zlatos**.
- **Olivia R. Thompson** as an elementary teacher at Kerr Elementary School effective August 17, 2026. Salary was set based on Step 1, M+0, with fringe benefits as per the collective bargaining agreement. This position is available due to the retirement of **Kristin Bashforth**.

- **Taylor R. Trasatti** as an elementary teacher at O'Hara Elementary School effective August 17, 2026. Salary was set based on Step 3, M+0, with fringe benefits as per the collective bargaining agreement. This position is available due to an open position.
- **Kayla M. Wise** as an elementary teacher at O'Hara Elementary School effective August 17, 2026. Salary was set based on Step 3, B+0, with fringe benefits as per the collective bargaining agreement. This position is available due to increased enrollment.

Educational Support — Approved the following personal care assistant appointments:

- **Kayla M. Connelly** as a personal care assistant at Hartwood Elementary School effective August 21, 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 **Clara Barnes**.
- **Jill A. Lawson** as a personal care assistant at Hartwood Elementary School effective August 21, 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 **Heather Wike**.
- **Stefanie M. Meyers** as a personal care assistant at Kerr Elementary School effective August 21, 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 expanding special education.

Supplemental Contracts – Athletic — Approved the following athletic supplemental contracts for the 2026-2027 school year: **Timothy Derbish** – Intramurals, MS Back on Track Sponsor 6, BOT and **Jessica Shannon** – Intramurals, MS Back on Track Sponsor 2, BOT.

Supplemental Contracts – Athletic – Spring Season of the 2026-2027 School Year — The following athletic supplemental contracts for the spring season of the 2026-2027 school year were ratified/approved: **James Hastings** – Baseball Head Coach (HS); **John Susi** – Baseball 1st Assistant Coach (HS); **Nicolas Luciano** – Baseball 2nd Assistant Coach (HS); **Christopher Bandurski** – Baseball Junior Varsity Head Coach (HS); Open – Baseball Junior Varsity 1st Assistant Coach (HS); Open – Baseball Junior Varsity 2nd Assistant Coach (HS); **David Kotts** – Baseball Freshman Head Coach (HS); **Dr. James Jones** – Baseball Freshman Assistant Coach (HS); **Reed Bursic** – Baseball Head Coach (DMS); **Keith Persing** – Baseball Assistant Coach (DMS); **Brandon Rios** – Girls Flag Football Head Coach (HS); **Michael Hower** – Girls Flag Football First Assistant Coach (HS); **Deborah Welty** – Girls Flag Football Second Assistant Coach (HS); **Jordon Hodder** – Boys Lacrosse Head Coach (HS); **Ben Romah** – Boys Lacrosse 1st Assistant Coach (HS); **Richard Correnti** – Boys Lacrosse 2nd Assistant Coach (66.66%) (HS); Open – Boys Lacrosse 2nd Assistant Coach (33.33%) (HS); **Kellee Cribby** – Girls Lacrosse Head Coach (HS); **Ruth Jean Kirk** – Girls Lacrosse 1st Assistant Coach (50%) (HS); **Eleni McGrath** – Girls Lacrosse 1st Assistant Coach (50%) (HS); **Kelsey Lancon** – Girls Lacrosse 2nd Assistant Coach (HS); **Larry Troutman** – Softball Head Coach (HS); **Jonathan Linkes** – Softball 1st Assistant Coach (HS); **Michelle Stiller** – Softball Junior Varsity Head Coach (HS); **Jonathan Berkowitz** – Softball Head Coach (DMS); **John Stout** – Softball Assistant Coach (DMS); **Alexander Slezak** – Boys Tennis Head Coach (HS); Dr. **Laura Ward** – Boys Tennis Assistant Coach (HS); **Justin Patterson** – Boys/Girls Track Head Coach (HS); **Scott Karavlan** – Boys/Girls Track 1st Assistant Coach (HS); Open – Boys/Girls Track 2nd Assistant Coach (HS); **Eric Norberg** – Boys/Girls Track 3rd Assistant Coach (HS); **Mark Jones** – Boys/Girls Track 4th Assistant Coach (HS); **Sean Mawhinney** – Boys/Girls Track 5th Assistant Coach (HS); **Timothy McLister** – Boys/Girls Track 6th Assistant Coach (HS); **Emily Grychowski** – Boys/Girls Track Head Coach (DMS); **Scott Vensel** – Boys/Girls Track 1st Assistant Coach (DMS); **Douglas Kitay** – Boys/Girls Track 2nd Assistant Coach (DMS); **James Neely** – Boys/Girls Track 3rd Assistant Coach (DMS); **Matthew LaPatka** – Boys/Girls Track 4th Assistant Coach (DMS); Dr. **Stacie Dojonovic** – Unified Track; **Deborah Welty** – Unified Track; **Anna Hopper** – Unified Track; **Philip O'Keeffe** – Boys Volleyball Head Coach (HS); **Alex Lawson** – Boys Volleyball Assistant Coach (HS); **Gregory Laun** – Boys Volleyball Head Coach (DMS); and **Claire Dusek** – Boys Volleyball Assistant Coach (DMS).

Supplemental Contracts – Non-Athletic — The following non-athletic supplemental contracts were approved effective the 2026-2027 school year: **Craig Reinhard** – Class Sponsor 6th Grade (50%) and **Craig Reinhard** – Class Sponsor 7th Grade.

Leave

Professional — Ratified the following childrearing/adoption leave:

- **Emily C. Hinojosa**, reading support teacher at Fairview Elementary School, for childrearing/adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective April 24, 2026, with return scheduled for March 29, 2027.

Purchase-of-Service Agreements

Health Services — Approved the following substitute nurse services purchase-of-service agreements between:

- **Kristan M. Mawhinney** and the Fox Chapel Area School District effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, as presented. **This is a renewal of services.**
- **Kimberly L. Rosenberg** and the Fox Chapel Area School District effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, as presented. **This is a renewal of services.**
- **Elizabeth A. Scholz** and the Fox Chapel Area School District effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, as presented. **This is a renewal of services.**

Summer Programs – 2026

STEAM Camp Personal Care Assistant — **Jill A. Lawson** was approved as a personal care assistant for the STEAM Camp at Fairview Elementary School at an hourly rate, with a maximum of 35 hours.

Volunteer

Athletic — The following athletic volunteer was approved, effective June 10, 2026: **Jessica Wilson** – High School Girls Soccer.

Compensation Adjustments

Nutrition Center — Approved the 2026-2027 hourly wage scale for food services employees: General Food Worker – New Hire, General Food Worker – 1, General Food Worker – 2, General Food Worker – 3, Lead – 1, Lead – 2, and High School Manager.

Agreement — Approved the agreement between the district and an unnamed employee as presented.

Operations/Cooperative Services

Authorization for Approval of Change Orders — Authorized the superintendent or designee to approve, on behalf of the Fox Chapel Area Board of School Directors, change orders issued during June through August 9, 2026, for the ongoing construction projects as recommended by the construction/project manager, in an amount not to exceed \$24,499.

Authorization for Payment of Construction Invoices — Authorized the superintendent or designee to approve, on behalf of the Fox Chapel Area Board of School Directors, payment of invoices for the months of June and July 2026 for all previously board-approved contract work and change orders for the ongoing construction projects, as recommended by the construction/project manager.

Resolution 2026-7 — Approved resolution 2026-7 recognizing Fox Chapel Area Flag Football Boosters as a Nonschool-Affiliated Organization (NSAO), as that term is defined in Board policy 915.

Student Teaching Affiliation Agreements — Approved the following student teaching affiliation agreements: Carnegie Mellon University and Point Park University.

School Psychology Affiliation Agreement — Approved the following school psychology affiliation agreement: Pennsylvania Western University (PennWest).

School Nursing Affiliation Agreement — Approved the following school nursing affiliation agreement: Millersville University of Pennsylvania.

Dental Examiner – 2026-2027 School Year — Approved Dr. **Susan Buzzatto** as dental examiner for the 2026-2027 school year at a rate of \$25 per student, at original entry into school and in grades three and seven, and \$125 for cleaning of instruments. **This is a renewal of services.**

Meal Prices — Approved the following meal prices and milk price for the 2026-2027 school year: Breakfast – Free, Reduced-Price Breakfast – Free, Adult Breakfast – \$3.05, Elementary Lunch – \$2.65, Secondary Lunch – \$2.95, Reduced-Price Lunch – Free, Adult Lunch – \$5.05, and Milk – \$0.75. **Free School Breakfast Program (SBP) meals for all students and no charge for reduced-price eligible student lunches through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) will continue in the 2026-2027 school year.**

Omnigo Software, LLC – Quote — Accepted the quote from Omnigo Software, LLC to provide a records management system to the district school police officers effective June 15, 2026, through June 14, 2027, at a cost of \$11,192.76. **This is a renewal of services.**

Donation – Dorseyville Middle School Music Department — Accepted the anonymous donation of \$5,000 to be used by the Dorseyville Middle School music department to support the orchestra program and future music students.

YMCA – Agreement and Lease — Approved the agreement and lease between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the YMCA for the before-/after-school child care program during the school year, and a day care camp during the summer, effective August 1, 2026, through July 31, 2027. **This is a renewal of services, and there is no cost to the district.**

Dagostino Electronic Services, Inc. – Proposals for Camera Upgrades — Accepted the proposals from Dagostino Electronic Services, Inc. for camera upgrades, effective June 9, 2026, at a total cost of \$49,457.76. **A portion of this cost, \$34,245.34, will be funded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) School Safety Grant.**

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 8:13 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:

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