

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMBINED AGENDA STUDY SESSION
AND REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

MAY 4, 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 7:01 p.m. on May 4, 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. During the executive session, the Board reviewed school district business that, if discussed in public, would lead to the disclosure of information or confidentiality protected by law, including information regarding student matters and the initiation and conduct of an investigation. The Board also discussed with counsel information or strategy in connection with a matter on which a complaint or litigation is anticipated and strategy related to pending tax litigation matters.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL-CALL

The Board members present at roll call were Mrs. Cooper, Ms. Dadd, Ms. Findley, Mr. Frank, Mr. Goode, Mr. Hamilton, Dr. Haselkorn, Mrs. Lynch, and Ms. Zych. Also present were Dr. Reljac, Dr. McCommons, Mr. Giuffre, and Mrs. Anuszek. Other members of the public were present.

GUESTS

• **25-Year Pins** — The following employees will be recognized for 25 years of service to the district:
Fairview Elementary School – **Jennifer Kane**;
Hartwood Elementary School – **Kira Dadowski**;
Kerr Elementary School – **Connie Banachoski** and **Rachel Stone**;
O'Hara Elementary School – **Kerrie Barnett** and **Julie Perrotte**;
Dorseyville Middle School – **David Dadowski**, **Joseph Eisel**, and **Gretchen Gyrich**; and
Fox Chapel Area High School – **Jose Aires**, **Jennifer Antonikas**, **Bill Barle**, **Jeremy Bennett**, **Mairi Cooper**, **Jessica Green**, **Tanja Koller**, **Mary Modlin**, **Bonnie Pazin**, and **Andrew Richards**.

• **Two Dorseyville Middle School students** placed in the 2025 regional CalcuSolve tournament. Individually, Dorseyville Middle School eighth-graders **Shengfeng Fei** and **Brian Xu** tied for first place.

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

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

• **Twenty Fox Chapel Area School District students** were selected to perform with the inaugural Allegheny Valley Elementary Honors Band. A total of 135 fifth- and sixth-grade student-musicians from the Avonworth, Fox Chapel Area, Hampton, North Allegheny, Northgate, North Hills, Pine-Richland, Riverview, and Shaler Area school districts participated in the band.

The students chosen from Dorseyville Middle School are sixth-graders **Naomi Chao** (flute), **Daniel Choi** (alto saxophone), **Daniel Claus** (trombone), **Theda Kingman-Graves** (trombone), **Luca Liu** (clarinet), **Morgan Lovett** (flute), **Tristan Sayre** (percussion), and **Hanaka Takano** (flute). The Fox Chapel Area elementary school students chosen are Fairview Elementary School fifth-graders **Brilee Edwards** (clarinet) and **Cludio Jeffery** (trombone); Hartwood Elementary School fifth-graders **Conor Hollis**

(French horn) and **Granth Patel** (alto saxophone); Kerr Elementary School fifth-graders **Lucy Ferda** (trumpet), **Ada Randtke** (clarinet), **Rowan Teschke** (trumpet), and **Shihong Yu** (clarinet); and O'Hara Elementary School fifth-graders **Lisha Chen** (clarinet), **Nicholas Friedberg** (alto saxophone), **Miles Glick** (trombone), and **Michael Luis Sakoian** (trumpet).

The first-ever Allegheny Valley Elementary Honors Band concert was held February 5, 2026, at Hampton Middle School. The conductor was Christine Burgh, a retired long-time elementary band director who taught in the Quaker Valley School District.

- Two Dorseyville Middle School students were selected by committee to perform with the 2026 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 Junior High Orchestra. The students are eighth-graders **Laila Tobe** (viola) and **Louis Vandapel** (violin). The orchestra included more than 80 of the most talented seventh-, eighth-, and ninth-grade orchestra students from throughout Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

The PMEA District 1 Junior High Orchestra Festival was held March 13 and 14 at Hampton Middle School, and culminated with a concert March 14. The concert was directed by Dr. Jeffrey Tedford, professor of music and director of orchestras at Grove City College.

- Dorseyville Middle School eighth-graders **Owen Ewing** and **Cora Good** were selected to perform with the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 Junior High Chorus. The chorus featured 150 seventh- through ninth-grade students from more than 60 schools from Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

The festival was held at Mount Lebanon High School February 27, 2026, and culminated with a concert. The festival guest conductor was Dr. Ethan Murphy, an assistant professor of choral music education at Duquesne University.

Both Owen and Cora are active in the DMS choral program, participating in the DMS Honor Choir and serving on the choir council for the past three years.

- Fourteen Fox Chapel Area High School students participated in the third annual Allegheny County Chorus Festival: seniors **Daniel DeMotte**, **Maggie Jones**, **Benjamin Shuttleworth**, and **Robert Svenson**; juniors **Cascie Banachoski**, **Aubrielle Cheatham**, **Evangeline Sereno**, and **Emma Smith**; and sophomores **Anita Fava**, **Sophia Geraci**, **Kassidy Joyce**, **Abigail Ornelas Barajas**, **Addison Smith**, and **Margot Walter**.

Approximately 200 students were selected by their directors to perform with the chorus. The festival was held October 15, 2025, at Gateway High School and the students were directed by four area choir directors.

- Two Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected to perform with the 2026 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 Choir. The students are juniors **Evangeline Sereno** and **Emma Smith**.

The PMEA District 1 Choir featured students from Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties and the festival was hosted by Elizabeth Forward and McKeesport Area high schools and was held at McKeesport Area High School January 8 and 9. It culminated in a concert January 9 directed by Dr. Christopher Kiver, the director of choral activities at Penn State University.

- Two Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected to perform with the 2026 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Region I Choir. The students are juniors **Evangeline Sereno** and **Emma Smith**.

The choral group included approximately 160 of the best singers from school districts throughout Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Mercer, Washington, and Westmoreland counties. The Region I Chorus Festival was held February 19-21 and was hosted by Mohawk High

School. The event culminated in a concert February 21 at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in New Castle, Pa. The group was directed by British composer, Patrick Hawes.

- Twenty-one Fox Chapel Area School District students were selected by audition to perform with the 2026 Allegheny Valley senior and junior high honors bands. Seventh-twelfth grade student-musicians from the Avonworth, Fox Chapel Area, Hampton, North Allegheny, Northgate, North Hills, Pine-Richland, Riverview, and Shaler Area school districts auditioned for the groups, and approximately 200 were selected.

The students chosen from Fox Chapel Area are high school senior **Elliott Broyles** (trombone); junior **Nadre Digbohou** (clarinet); sophomores **Paulomi Goel** (trombone) and **Claire Lesnik** (trumpet); and freshmen **Isaac Chan** (trumpet), **Kaitlyn DiNatale** (mallet percussion), **Celestial Hou** (piccolo), **Roman Johnston** (alto saxophone), **Holden Link** (trombone), **Delaney Liu** (flute), and **Zoey Liu** (flute). The students chosen from Dorseyville Middle School are eighth-graders **Shengfeng Fei** (clarinet), **Georgia Graves** (trombone), **Beatrice Kiger** (French horn), **Christine Meskel** (tuba), **David Neilan** (clarinet), and **Charles Wang** (French horn); and seventh-graders **Reid Bushnell** (clarinet), **Ellie Huh** (clarinet), **Christina Randtke** (flute), and **Marisa Wesaratchakit** (tenor saxophone).

The Allegheny Valley Honors Band Festival was held January 28 and 29 at North Allegheny Senior High School and culminated with a public concert January 29. The conductors were Dr. Arris Golden, the assistant director of bands and the associate director of the Spartan Marching Band at Michigan State University, and Captain David Regner, the commander and conductor of the United States Air Force Band of the West.

- Three Dorseyville Middle School students were selected to perform with the 2026 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Junior High District 1 Band East. The students are eighth-graders **Shengfeng Fei** (clarinet), **Georgia Graves** (trombone), and **Christine Meskel** (tuba). The band was comprised of the best seventh- through ninth-grade student-musicians from 37 schools from Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

The PMEA District 1 Band East festival was held May 1 and 2 at Connellsville Area High School. A concert was held May 2 and the guest conductor was Dr. William Stowman, a professor of music and chair of the department of music at Messiah University in Mechanicsburg, Pa.

- Five Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected by audition to perform with the 2025 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 Honors Band. The students are seniors **Jack Murray-Krezan** (percussion) and **Joshua Shah** (flute); juniors **Nadre Digbohou** (clarinet) and **Rachel Kim** (clarinet); and freshman **Celestial Hou** (flute). The band was comprised of 120 of the best student-musicians from Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

The PMEA District 1 Honors Band concert was held November 23 at North Hills Middle School and was conducted by Dr. Andrew Boysen Jr., professor of music and the University of New Hampshire.

- Three students, seniors **Jack Murray-Krezan** (percussion) and **Joshua Shah** (flute) and sophomore **Claire Lesnik** (trumpet), were chosen for the 2026 PMEA Senior District 1 Band Festival (East). The band was comprised of 130 of the best student-musicians from 31 high schools from Allegheny, Fayette, and Westmoreland counties.

The PMEA Senior District 1 Band Festival (East) was held February 4-6 and was hosted by Greater Latrobe Senior High School. A concert was held February 6 at The Palace Theatre in Greensburg. The guest conductor was Dr. James Gourlay, the director of bands at Duquesne University and the music director of the River City Brass Band.

- Three Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected by audition to perform with the PMEA Region I Band. The students are seniors **Jack Murray-Krezan** (percussion) and **Joshua Shah** (flute) and sophomore **Claire Lesnik** (trumpet). The band included 146 of the best student-musicians from 63 school districts from throughout Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Mercer, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

The PMEA Region I Band Festival was held March 19-21, 2026, and culminated with a concert March 21 at Upper St. Clair High School. The guest conductor was Dr. Shelby R. Chipman, the director of bands and professor of music at Florida A&M University.

- Seven Fox Chapel Area High School students were chosen to participate in the 2025 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 Honors String Orchestra Festival. The students are seniors **Xing Carlough** (viola), **Michael Costello** (bass), and **Charles Hahl** (cello); juniors **Ozlem Sayrak** (cello) and **Leonidas Vandapel** (cello); and sophomores **Philip Johnson** (bass) and **Ayden Wang** (violin).

Approximately 250 students from across the greater Pittsburgh area auditioned for the PMEA District 1 Honors String Orchestra and only 90 were chosen to participate. The students rehearsed November 15 and 16 and the festival culminated with a concert on November 16 at Carson Middle School in the North Allegheny School District. The orchestra was conducted by Scott Laird, instructor of music and chair of fine arts at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics.

- Nine Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected to perform with the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 Senior High Orchestra. The orchestra was comprised of a select group of 150 student-musicians from Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties. The students chosen are seniors **Michael Costello** (bass), **Charles Hahl** (cello), **Jack Murray-Krezan** (percussion), and **Joshua Shah** (flute); juniors **Nadre Digbohau** (clarinet), **Ozlem Sayrak** (cello), **Aislynn Senn** (harp), and **Leonidas Vandapel** (cello); and sophomore **Philip Johnson** (bass).

The District 1 Senior High Orchestra Festival was held at Mt. Lebanon High School January 22-24, 2026. A concert was held January 24 and the guest conductor was Rotem Weinberg, director of orchestral activities at West Virginia University.

- Six Fox Chapel Area High School students were chosen by audition to perform with the 2026 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Western Region Orchestra. The orchestra was comprised of best musicians from the western half of Pennsylvania. The students are seniors **Michael Costello** (bass), **Charles Hahl** (cello), and **Joshua Shah** (flute); juniors **Ozlem Sayrak** (cello) and **Aislynn Senn** (harp); and sophomore **Philip Johnson** (bass).

Approximately 120 students were selected for the Western Region Orchestra. The festival was held March 5-7, was hosted by North Allegheny Senior High School, and culminated with a concert at Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh. The festival was conducted by Daniel Meyer, music director of the Erie Philharmonic and artistic director of the Westmoreland Symphony and Cleveland's BlueWater Chamber Orchestra.

- Six Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected by audition to perform with 2026 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) All-State Ensembles. The students chosen for the PMEA All-State Concert Band are senior **Jack Murray-Krezan** (percussion) and sophomore **Claire Lesnik** (trumpet). The students selected for the PMEA All-State Orchestra are seniors **Michael Costello** (bass) and **Charles Hahl** (cello), and juniors **Ozlem Sayrak** (cello) and **Joshua Shah** (flute). The PMEA All-State Ensembles bring together the top student-musicians from across Pennsylvania.

The PMEA All-State Festival was held at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in the Poconos, in conjunction with the PMEA Annual In-Service Conference April 22-25. The Fox Chapel Area High School students performed with their prospective groups April 25.

- Two Fox Chapel Area High School students won awards at the annual Pine-Richland High School Speech and Debate Tournament. Sophomores **Paulomi Goel** and **Ottillie Happold** won first place in Duo Interpretation.

More than 340 students representing 21 public and private high schools from Western Pennsylvania participated in the tournament that was held November 22, 2025, at Pine-Richland High School.

- Two Fox Chapel Area High School students won a first-place award at the annual Duquesne University Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament. Sophomores **Paulomi Goel** and **Ottillie Happold** won first place overall in Duo Interpretation.

More than 230 students representing 19 public and private high schools from across Pennsylvania participated in the tournament that was held December 6, 2025, at Duquesne University.

- Two Fox Chapel Area High School students placed in the annual Dalmasse Sterner Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament. The team of seniors **Maya Agarwal** and **Prachi Behal** won first place in Parliamentary Debate.

The Dalmasse Sterner Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament was held January 10, 2026, and was hosted by the Pittsburgh Central Catholic Forensics Society, in cooperation with the Taylor Allderdice Speech and Debate Team. A total of 394 students representing 27 public and private high schools from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, and West Virginia competed at the event that was held at Taylor Allderdice High School.

- Four Fox Chapel Area High School students qualified for the National Catholic Forensic League Grand National Tournament. The team of sophomores **Paulomi Goel** and **Ottillie Happold** won third place overall in Duo Interpretation, sophomore **Divya Thirumala** won fourth place in Declamation, and senior **Sabina Mantella** won fifth place in Student Congress. All four of these students have qualified for the national tournament. The competition will be held in Washington, D.C., Memorial Day weekend.

The Pittsburgh Diocesan qualifying speech and debate tournament was held March 7, 2026, at Fox Chapel Area High School. A total of 168 students from 13 public and private high schools from the Pittsburgh area participated in the competition.

- Six Fox Chapel Area High School students placed in the Pennsylvania High School Speech League (PHSSL) District 16 state championship qualifying tournament. First-place awards went to the team of sophomores **Paulomi Goel** and **Ottillie Happold** in Duo Interpretation, to the Public Forum Debate team of juniors **Aiden Drucker** and **Noelle Fournon**, and to senior **Priscila Hayetian** in Oral Interpretation. A second-place award went to senior **Anya Butler** in Oral Interpretation. Additionally, the Parliamentary Debate team of seniors **Maya Agarwal** and **Prachi Behal** placed in enough tournaments throughout the year to qualify for the state event. All eight of these students earned invitations to compete in the PHSSL State Championship Tournament that was held March 20 and 21, 2026, at Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania – Bloomsburg.

The state qualifying tournament hosted 247 students representing 24 high schools from across Western Pennsylvania. Students then competed against others from their own district. The tournament was held at Moon Area High School February 28.

- Fox Chapel Area High School and A.W. Beattie Career Center senior **Gracen Patterson** placed in the SkillsUSA Pennsylvania District 8 competition. Gracen won first place in the medical terminology category. Gracen is a student in Beattie's Health and Nursing Sciences program and qualified for the SkillsUSA Pennsylvania Leadership & Skills Conference that was held April 8-10, 2026, in Hershey, Pa.

The SkillsUSA District 8 competition was held in December 2025 at Community College of Allegheny County West Hills Campus in Oakdale. The competition was open to students from 10 career and technical education centers from across the greater Pittsburgh area.

SkillsUSA is a student organization that develops leadership skills to complement what students learn in career and technical education programs. Its mission is to empower students to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders, and responsible community members.

FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE(S)

Members of the Class of 2026 senior council Lil Thomas and Gigi Mettenburg discussed the things the class has done this year and what is being planned for the year-end activities for the class.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

• **A Lens on Learning** – Each month, we focus on student work in our schools to highlight lessons, growth, and successes of all kinds.

Tonight's presentation focused on the middle school's Student-Led Conferencing.

Dorseyville Middle School program principal Dr. Laura Miller introduced middle school teachers Emily Grychowski and Ethan Wagner who shared a presentation about the program.

• **Annual Data Summary** – Stephen Edwards, Ed.D., Director of Student Achievement and Instructional Verification – There was a discussion.

• **2026-2027 Proposed Final General Fund Operating Budget Summary** – Ryan Manzer, Director of Finance, and Mary Catherine Reljac, Ed.D., Superintendent – There was a discussion.

• The textbook listed below will be recommended for approval at the June 8, 2026, Board meeting. It is available for review until that time in the administrative offices.

New Textbook for Adoption:

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

• **FCAHS Orchestra Receives "Superior" Rating**

The Fox Chapel Area High School Orchestra performed at Heinz Hall on March 16, 2026, for the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Music Performance Assessment. A total of 75 members of the high school orchestra attended and played "Elegy" from John Ireland's "Downland Suite" and "Praelude" from Edvard Grieg's "Holberg Suite." The Fox Chapel Area High School Orchestra received the highest rating, "Superior," for their performance.

In addition to the adjudication, the students participated in a clinic with members of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and Associate Conductor Jacob Joyce.

• **High School Seniors Candidates in Presidential Scholars Program**

Fox Chapel Area High School seniors **Michael Costello**, **Joanna Li**, and **Rodrigo Silva** have been selected as candidates in the 2026 United States Presidential Scholars Program. Approximately 5,000 students from about 3.5 million high school seniors graduating this year from across the U.S. have been named candidates in this year's program, and 168 are from Pennsylvania.

Inclusion in the Presidential Scholars Program, begun in 1964, is one of the nation's highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Students are first selected for the program based on their superior academic achievements. They are then further evaluated on their academic achievements, leadership and service activities, and an analysis of a submitted essay.

Approximately 650 students will be selected as Semifinalists in the program, and then students chosen as U.S. Presidential Scholars (up to 161) will be notified later this spring.

• **Students Qualify as Alternates for National Catholic Forensic League Tournament**

Two Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the national-qualifying tournament and will serve as alternates for the National Catholic Forensic League Grand National Tournament. The team of juniors **Aiden Drucker** and **Noelle Fouron** won seventh place in Public Forum Debate, and are first

alternates to the national tournament. The competition will be held in Washington, D.C., Memorial Day weekend.

The Pittsburgh Diocesan qualifying speech and debate tournament was held March 7, 2026, at Fox Chapel Area High School. A total of 168 students from 13 public and private high schools from the Pittsburgh area participated in the competition.

• **High School Students Qualify as Alternates to the State Championship Speech & Debate Tournament**

Eight Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the Pennsylvania High School Speech League (PHSSL) District 16 state championship qualifying tournament and qualified to serve as alternates for the state competition. Senior **Sabina Mantella** won third place in Student Congress, the Public Forum Debate team of juniors **Elaine Huang** and **David Zakrocki** won third place, the Parliamentary Debate team of seniors **Steven Li** and **Ryan Wang** won fourth place, freshman **Thomas Pohl** won fourth place in Lincoln Douglas Debate, freshman **Zebo Sarkarov** won fourth place in Commentary, and freshman **Leah Sparks** won fifth place in Poetry. The PHSSL State Championship Tournament was held March 20 and 21, 2026, at Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania – Bloomsburg.

The state qualifying tournament hosted 247 students representing 24 high schools from across Western Pennsylvania. Students then competed against others from their own district. The tournament was held at Moon Area High School February 28.

• **Students Win Awards at State Speech & Debate Championships**

Four Fox Chapel Area High School students ranked among the best at the Pennsylvania High School Speech League (PHSSL) State Tournament. The team of seniors **Maya Agarwal** and **Prachi Behal** placed in the top four Parliamentary Debate teams in the state. Additionally, the Public Forum Debate team of juniors **Aiden Drucker** and **Noelle Fouron** finished in the top eight in the state.

The state championship speech and debate tournament was held March 20 and 21, 2026, at Commonwealth University-Bloomsburg. More than 675 students representing 72 public, private, and charter high schools from across Pennsylvania participated in the competition.

• **Students Place at Westminster Model UN Conference**

Two Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the annual Westminster College Model United Nations (UN) Conference. Senior **Ori Goldin** received an honorable mention (equivalent to second place), and sophomore **Amelia Tedesco** also won an honorable mention (equivalent to second place).

A total of 325 students from 25 public and private high schools from Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio participated in the Westminster College Model UN Conference. The competition was held April 14, 2026, at Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pa.

The purpose of the Model UN conference is to enable students to role-play and simulate the countries in the United Nations. As a part of the conference, students debate and try to solve global problems from the perspectives of other countries.

• **Students Win Regional 2026 Scholastic Art Awards**

Twenty Fox Chapel Area School District students won awards for their entries in the Pittsburgh Region of the 2026 Scholastic Art Awards.

The Fox Chapel Area Silver Key winners were seniors **Raina Guzman**, **Riley Hemingray**, **Nora Kelley** (4 Silver Keys), **Emma Kuhns** (2 Silver Keys), **Akshay Lath**, and **Joshua Murphy**; juniors **Brynn Gamblin** and **Nathan Ko** (3 Silver Keys); sophomore **America Sakoian** (3 Silver Keys); and Dorseyville Middle School eighth-grader **Samuel Ettinger** (4 Silver Keys).

The Fox Chapel Area Honorable Mention winners were seniors **Claire Conti**, **Adele Grady**, **Auden Jacobson**, **Nora Kelley** (3 Honorable Mentions), **Emma Kuhns** (3 Honorable Mentions), **Akshay Lath** (4 Honorable Mentions), **Elyse Ritchie** (2 Honorable Mentions), and **Morgan Van Kirk**; juniors **Emily Kiro** and **Sadie Stephenson**; sophomores **Paulomi Goel** (2 Honorable Mentions) and **Otilie Happold**; freshman **Nathan Ko** (2 Honorable Mentions); and eighth-graders **Margaret Davis** (2 Honorable Mentions) and **Samuel Ettinger** (9 Honorable Mentions).

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.

•High School Students Place in Poetry Competition

Two Fox Chapel Area High School students placed in the Western Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of English (WPCTE) Poetry Slam contest. Junior **Norah Kovach** won second place, and senior **Fayth Johnson** received an honorable mention. Each student wrote an original poem and performed their work in front of a panel of judges.

The contest was held April 9, 2026, at Beaver Area High School. Students in grades 7-12 from 10 school districts from across the greater Pittsburgh area participated.

•2026 Valley News Dispatch All-Star Girls Basketball Teams

Three Fox Chapel Area High School girls varsity basketball players were named to 2026 Valley News Dispatch all-star teams. Senior **Lyla Jablon** was named to the first team, sophomore **Nina Kulikowski** was named to the second team, and junior **Emily McKee** received an honorable mention to the team.

•Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Girls All-Section Basketball Team

A Fox Chapel Area High School girls varsity basketball player was named to an all-section team. Senior **Lyla Jablon** was named to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette WPIAL Class 5A Section 1 team.

•Players Name to 2026 Valley News Dispatch All-Star Boys Basketball Team

Two members of the Fox Chapel Area High School boys varsity basketball team were named to a 2026 Valley News Dispatch all-star team. Senior **John Rehak** and junior **Joseph McGivney** were named to the second team.

•Fox Chapel Area High School Seniors Named to Boys Wrestling All-Star Teams

Three Fox Chapel Area High School senior wrestlers were named to Valley News Dispatch boys wrestling all-star teams. **Adam Haines** was named to the first team, and **Joey Geller** and **Calyx Kimbrough** were named to the second team.

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 combined agenda study session and regular business meeting dated April 7, 2026. On motion by Mr. Frank and seconded by Ms. Zych, the minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was one comment.

1. Emily Glick, community resident, commented on the budget, student devices, the data summary, and her child's school experience.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Academic Committee Report

Mrs. Cooper, academic committee chairperson, gave a report.

B. Governance Committee Report

Mr. Frank, governance committee chairperson, gave a report.

C. Projects and Planning Committee Report

Ms. Zych, projects and planning committee chairperson, gave a report.

NEW BUSINESS

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

FACILITIES/TRANSPORTATION

A. Facilities/Transportation

On motion by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Frank, and after a discussion, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Facilities/Transportation item:

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 all other essential employment requirements for school bus operators under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have been verified.

FINANCE

B. Finance

On motion by Mr. Hamilton and seconded by Ms. Findley, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Finance items 1 – 8:

1. Disbursements (Fund 10) – March 2026

General fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$12,677,996.45 from March 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026, are approved.

2. Disbursements (Fund 31) – March 2026

Capital reserves fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$8,057.50 from March 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026, are approved.

3. Disbursements (Fund 10) – April 2026

General fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$8,247,613.02 from April 1, 2026, through April 30, 2026, are approved.

4. Disbursements (Fund 31) – April 2026

Capital reserves fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$48,713.98 from April 1, 2026, through April 30, 2026, are approved.

5. Finance Report – March 2026

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

6. Budget Transfers

The budget transfers for 2025-2026 are approved.

7. Student Activity Financial Reports

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

8. CSM Consulting, Inc. – Contract for E-Rate Compliance Services

Approve the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and CSM Consulting, Inc. for E-Rate consulting services, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, at a cost of \$3,000, plus an amount equal to 3.5% of category two applications submitted during the term of the agreement. **This is a renewal of services.**

Mr. Hamilton made a motion to approve Finance item 9 as listed below. Mr. Frank seconded the motion. There was a discussion.

9. 2026-2027 Proposed Final General Fund Operating Budget

The superintendent, with the advice of and upon the recommendations of the administration and with advisement from the Resource Planning Advisory, has prepared for presentation to the School Board the Proposed Final General Fund Operating Budget for 2026-2027.

Therefore, be it resolved, to adopt the 2026-2027 Proposed Final General Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$125,332,236 as attached with a real estate tax increase of 2.9% (0.6382 mills) and a continuation of all other taxes without change.

Mr. Hamilton moved to amend Finance item 9. Mr. Frank seconded the motion. There was a discussion. It was resolved to approve amending the motion with 6 in favor and 3 opposed, Mrs. Lynch, Ms. Zych, and Ms. Findley voting No.

Mr. Hamilton made a motion to approve the amended Finance item 9 as listed below. Mr. Goode seconded the motion. There was a discussion. It was resolved to approve the amended motion as listed below with 7 in favor and 2 opposed, Mrs. Lynch, and Ms. Findley voting No.

9. 2026-2027 Proposed Final General Fund Operating Budget – AMENDED

Therefore, be it resolved, to adopt the 2026-2027 Proposed Final General Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$125,489,654 as discussed with a real estate tax increase of 3.1% (0.6822 mills) and a continuation of all other taxes without change.

INSTRUCTION

C. Instruction

On motion by Mrs. Cooper and seconded by Ms. Findley, and after a discussion, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Instruction items 1 – 14:

1. Textbooks

Approve the new textbooks listed below.

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

2. June 2026 Candidates for Graduation

Approve the list of candidates for June 7, 2026, graduation submitted by the Fox Chapel Area High School administration. Candidates must meet all graduation requirements by June 6, 2026, in order to graduate and receive their diplomas.

3. Flexible Instructional Day (FID) Program

Approve the Fox Chapel Area School District Flexible Instructional Day Program, as presented, for the 2026-2027, 2027-2028, and 2028-2029 school years, and authorize the administration to submit the application for approval to the Pennsylvania Department of Education in accordance with Act 64 of 2019, Section 1506.

4. Pennsylvania School-Based ACCESS Program (SBAP) Local Education Agency (LEA) Agreement to Participate – School Age

Approve the agreement for the Fox Chapel Area School District to participate in the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services School-Based ACCESS Program (SBAP) for school-age children for the 2026-2027 school year, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, and authorize the superintendent to execute the agreement on behalf of the district.
This is a renewal of services.

5. Allegheny Adult & Pediatric Therapy, LLC – Service Agreement

Approve the service agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Allegheny Adult & Pediatric Therapy, LLC for staff professional development, classroom planning, observation, and direct consultation services effective August 25, 2026, through July 31, 2027.
This is a renewal of services.

6. The Bradley Center – Agreement for Educational Services

Approve the agreement for educational services between the Fox Chapel Area School District and The Bradley Center for educational services for students for the 2026-2027 school year.
This is a renewal of services.

7. Glade Run Lutheran Services – Day Student Education Agreement

Approve the day student education agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Glade Run Lutheran Services for services to students for the 2026-2027 school year. **This is a renewal of services.**

8. MHY Family Services – Longmore Academy – Agreement

Approve the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and MHY Family Services for services to students at Longmore Academy for the 2026-2027 school year. **This is a renewal of services.**

9. River School Therapies – Contract

Approve the contract between the Fox Chapel Area School District and River School Therapies for special education therapy services to students effective August 2026 through July 31, 2028. **This is a renewal of services.**

10. Challenge Success – Letter of Agreement

Approve the letter of agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Challenge Success to administer four elementary school student surveys, one middle school student survey, one high school student survey, and one parent/caregiver survey within the 2026-2027 school year at a cost of \$28,600. **This is a new letter of agreement.**

11. Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Notice of Adoption of Policies, Procedures, and Use of Funds

Approve the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Notice of Adoption of Policies, Procedures, and Use of Funds for the program year 2026-2027.

12. Allegheny Intermediate Unit

IDEA-Part B Use of Funds Agreement

Approve the subgrant agreement for Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) – Part B between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

**13. PA Mental Health Education Learning Program in Schools (PA HELPS)
Participation Agreement**

Approve the participation agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and PA HELPS to be eligible for disbursements for the 2026-2027 school year to support school psychologist interns and school counselor interns, and authorize the administration to execute the agreement on behalf of the district. **This is a renewal of services.**

14. Stipulated Adjudications

Approve the stipulated adjudications as presented.

Instruction Information Item:

15. A.W. Beattie Career Center 2026-2027 School Calendar – Information

The A.W. Beattie Career Center 2026-2027 school calendar is available.

LEGISLATION/POLICY

D. Legislation/Policy

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

**1. Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA)
PSBA Policy Services Member Agreement**

Approve the PSBA policy services member agreement and end user agreement for use of the Engagifii platform by PSBA and PSBA-authorized users between the Fox Chapel Area School District and PSBA for the PSBA Policy Service and PSBA Administrative Regulations Service for the 2026-2027 school year, at a cost of \$2,930.25. **This is a renewal of services and PSBA is using a new platform.**

2. Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) 2027 Legislative Platform Proposal

Approve the following proposed amendment to the PSBA 2027 Legislative Platform and authorize the Board secretary to verify and submit the proposal through the online submission form:

4.4.1 Taxing Authority

School boards call on the state to:

(c) Establish and require counties to: 1) maintain a uniform statewide ratio of assessed value to market value; 2) require uniform assessment and appeal practices; and 3) regularly reassess real estate at no cost to school districts. **develop and implement a five-year cycle for reassessment of real estate at no cost to school districts.**

Rationale – A predictable cycle of reassessment allows for fairness and equity across the Commonwealth. This is the only way to ensure that all property owners are paying their fair share, no matter where they live. The consistency in property tax revenue will also allow school districts to budget more effectively.

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

1. Resignations

a. Food Services

- (1) The resignation of Amber L. Eddy, food services employee at Dorseyville Middle School, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective April 8, 2026.
- (2) The resignation of Michele L. Kondas, food services employee at Fox Chapel Area High School, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective April 7, 2026.

2. Appointments

a. Professional

- (1) Lucas W. Brinling is approved as a business education teacher at Dorseyville Middle School. This position is available due to the retirement of Jill Tabis.

Certification: Instructional I
Education: B.S., University of Pittsburgh, 2022
Experience: Student teaching, Pittsburgh Public Schools
.5 Years, Allegheny Valley School District
Effective: August 17, 2026
Salary: \$64,450.50, based on Step 1.5, B+24
Fringe Benefits: As per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

- (2) Joseph E. Bubonics is approved as a physics teacher at Fox Chapel Area High School. This position is available due to the retirement of Thomas Moul.

Certification: Instructional I
Education: B.S., University of Dayton, 2021
M.Ed., American College of Education, 2024
Experience: 4 Years, Solon City Schools, OH
Effective: August 17, 2026
Salary: \$70,188, based on Step 5, M+0
Fringe Benefits: As per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

- (3) Elizabeth A. Hartman is approved as a science teacher at Dorseyville Middle School. This position is available due to an open position.

Certification: Instructional II
Education: B.S., Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, 2018
M.Ed., Pennsylvania Western University, 2023
Experience: 6 Years, Burrell School District
Effective: August 17, 2026
Salary: \$70,188, based on Step 5, M+0
Fringe Benefits: As per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

- (4) Suzanne M. Hegarty is approved as an English teacher at Fox Chapel Area High School. This position is available due to the retirement of Daniel Kirk.

Certification: Instructional I
Education: B.S., Slippery Rock University, 2013
M.A., Middlebury College, 2021
Experience: Student teaching, New Castle Area School District
Effective: August 17, 2026
Salary: \$67,038, based on Step 1, M+0
Fringe Benefits: As per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

- (5) Emily N. Janosko is approved as an English teacher at Dorseyville Middle School. This position is available due to the retirement of Mary Loeffler.

Certification: Instructional I
Education: B.S., University of Pittsburgh, 2025
Experience: 1 year, North Allegheny School District
Effective: August 17, 2026
Salary: \$59,263, based on Step 2, B+0
Fringe Benefits: As per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

- (6) Molly R. Stallard is approved as a math teacher at Dorseyville Middle School. This position is available due to the retirement of Noelle Noel.

Certification: Instructional I
Education: B.S., Duquesne University, 2025
Experience: 1 year, Pittsburgh Public School District
Effective: August 17, 2026
Salary: \$59,263, based on Step 2, B+0
Fringe Benefits: As per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

- (7) Leah C. Stock is approved as a science teacher at Dorseyville Middle School. This position is available due to an open position.

Certification: Instructional I
Education: B.S., Slippery Rock University, 2021
Experience: 4 Years, Baldwin Whitehall School District
Effective: August 17, 2026
Salary: \$64,688, based on Step 5, B+15
Fringe Benefits: As per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

- (8) Gabrielle N. Yost is approved as a science teacher at Dorseyville Middle School. This position is available due to an open position.

Certification: Instructional I
Education: B.S., Kent State University, 2023
Experience: 2 Years, Elizabeth Forward School District
Effective: August 17, 2026
Salary: \$59,788, based on Step 3, B+0
Fringe Benefits: As per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

**b. Supplemental Contracts – Athletic
Summer, Fall, and Winter Seasons of the 2026-2027 School Year**

- (1) The athletic supplemental contracts for the summer, fall, and winter seasons of the 2026-2027 school year are ratified / approved.

3. School Police Officers – Summer Hours

- a. The following school police officers are approved for additional summer hours as needed at the officer's hourly rate with a maximum of 80 hours per officer:

Scott E. Bailey
Stanley M. Bradish
Joshua A. Dietz
Dennis J. Lynch
Timothy G. Rush
Shannon Santucci
Scott K. Slagel
Eric R. Valentine

4. Advanced Placement Exam

a. Proctor

- (1) Martha Freese is approved as an Advanced Placement (AP) exam proctor at Fox Chapel Area High School, effective May 18, 2026, through May 22, 2026, for a stipend of \$800.

5. Summer Programs – 2026

a. Middle School

- (1) Todd Ashbaugh is approved as the Dorseyville Middle School Summer Learning Academy program facilitator at a rate of \$32.82 per hour with a maximum of 135 hours for preparation and program facilitation.
- (2) The following individuals are approved as instructors for the Dorseyville Middle School Summer Learning Academy at a rate of \$32.82 per hour with a maximum of 95 hours for preparation and instruction:

Richard DeMedio
Kevin Grecek
Emily Janosko
Joshua Mariana
Taylor Trasatti

- (3) Ethan Wagner is approved as an instructor for the Dorseyville Middle School Summer Learning Academy at a rate of \$32.82 per hour with a maximum of 15 hours for preparation and instruction.

6. Extended School Year (ESY) Program – 2026

- a. Kerri L. Bacco is approved as the Fox Chapel Area School District ESY program facilitator at a rate of \$35.70 per hour with a maximum of 260 hours for preparation and program facilitation.
- b. The following individuals are approved as full-day instructors for the Fox Chapel Area School District ESY Program at a rate of \$35.70 per hour with a maximum of 170 hours for preparation and instruction:

Clara Barnes
Marie Chir
Olivia Thompson
Abigail Wentling

- c. The following individuals are approved as half-day instructors for the Fox Chapel Area School District ESY Program at a rate of \$35.70 per hour with a maximum of 110 hours for preparation and instruction:

Frank Bacco
William Baine
Jill Bennett
Gabriella Bonelli
St Clair Oliver
Maria Swartzbaugh

- d. The following individuals are approved as full-day paraprofessionals for the Fox Chapel Area School District ESY Program at a rate of \$21.68 per hour with a maximum of 140 hours for preparation and instruction:

Rebecca Apter
Britney Ciorra
Kara Cutrara
Cynthia Fondrk
Sophia Gass
Olivia Keilbler

Jill Lawson
Rosanne Libengood
Aileen Miller
Premalatha Mylarappa
Tammi Pietropaolo
Amy Trozzo
Karen Whitehead
Ethan Wygant
Leanne Zottola

- e. The following individuals are approved as half-day paraprofessionals for the Fox Chapel Area School District ESY Program at a rate of \$21.68 per hour with a maximum of 80 hours for preparation and instruction:

Amy Funk
Teresa Kieffer
Sophia Liberto
Lori Tavella
Angela Wilhelm
Emily Wilhelm
Autumn Williams

- f. Melissa Zoschg is approved as substitute paraprofessional for the Fox Chapel Area School District ESY Program at a rate of \$21.68 per hour.

OPERATIONS/COOPERATIVE SERVICES

F. Operations/Cooperative Services

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

1. Athletic Summer Camps/Activities

The following teams are approved to hold summer camps/activities in 2026 for athletes in the Fox Chapel Area School District:

Fox Chapel Area Baseball
Fox Chapel Area Boys/Girls Basketball
Fox Chapel Area Cheerleading
Fox Chapel Area Boys/Girls Cross Country
Fox Chapel Area Field Hockey
Fox Chapel Area Flag Football
Fox Chapel Area Football
Fox Chapel Area Boys/Girls Golf
Fox Chapel Area Boys/Girls Lacrosse
Fox Chapel Area Boys/Girls Soccer
Fox Chapel Area Softball
Fox Chapel Area Strength and Conditioning
Fox Chapel Area Boys/Girls Swimming and Diving
Fox Chapel Area Boys/Girls Volleyball
Fox Chapel Area Boys/Girls Wrestling

2. School Board Treasurer – Appointment

Approve the appointment of Eric G. Hamilton as School Board Treasurer effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

3. PSBA 2026 Delegate Assembly – Appointment of Voting Delegates

Approve the appointment of Adam Goode and Marybeth Dadd as voting delegates to the PSBA 2026 Delegate Assembly to be held November 7, 2026.

4. Donation to Purchase Books for Elementary Libraries

Accept the donation of \$100 from Cathy Wagner to purchase books for each elementary library in memory of Millie Ruben.

5. KCE Champions LLC – Child Care Services Agreement

Approve the child care services agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and KCE Champions LLC for before and/or after school child care services at Fairview Elementary School, effective May 4, 2026, with a projected program start date of August 25, 2026, and continuing for five years. **This is a new agreement, and there is no cost to the district.**

6. A.W. Beattie Career Center Operating Budget – 2026-2027 School Year

The A.W. Beattie Career Center Operating Budget for 2026-2027 is \$12,473,936. Fox Chapel Area School District's share of the 2026-2027 A.W. Beattie Career Center Operating Budget is approved as set forth below.

	<u>Total Members Share</u>	<u>Fox Chapel Area SD Share</u>
Operating Budget	\$7,055,836	\$404,411
Debt Service Budget	<u>\$1,387,450</u>	<u>\$215,887</u>
	\$8,443,286	\$620,298

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

There was no report.

BOARD COMMENTS

There were eight comments. Mr. Goode, Ms. Zych, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Hamilton, Dr. Haselkorn, Mrs. Lynch, Ms. Findley, and Mr. Frank commented.

ADJOURNMENT

It was unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 p.m.



Kathleen Anuszek
Board Secretary