

October 12, 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 October 12, 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 (October 5, 2026)

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

• Six Fox Chapel Area High School seniors have been designated as National Merit Semifinalists and 18 have been named Commended Students in the 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program. The Semifinalists from Fox Chapel Area High School are **Zachary Chan, Nathan Chu, Brynn Gamblin, Simon Goode, Adam Nimr, and Ozlem Sayrak**. The Commended Students from Fox Chapel Area High School are **Max Choset, Ella Ettinger, Grant Fenton, Ainsley Goode, Zhanyu Jiang, William Kelly, Rachel Kim, Tristan Kobylinski, David Kong, Mikhail Lukichev, Sofia Melani, Georgy Pistsov, Rayyan Saidi, Aislynn Senn, Taylor Stocker, Altrian Story, Leonidas Vandapel, and Gabriel Yassin**.

All of these students were selected based on their 2025 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) scores. Each year, more than 1.3 million juniors complete the PSAT/NMSQT and are automatically entered in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Approximately 16,000 advance to become Semifinalists and about 34,000 are Commended. The Semifinalists represent less than 1% of the nation's high school seniors and the Commended Students scored in the top 5%. A Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT or ACT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test. Semifinalists must also participate in school and community activities, demonstrate leadership abilities, and receive other awards and honors. The Commended Students are recognized for their exceptional academic promise.

The Semifinalists now have the opportunity to advance to the Finalist level and compete for 6,700 National Merit Scholarships worth approximately \$24 million to be offered in the spring of 2027.

• **Fox Chapel Area High School Mechanical Renovations Project** — **George McMillan IV, P.E.**, President, H.F. Lenz Company and **Jon Thomas**, President, Thomas & Williamson, LLC

• **Bond Refinance** — **Alisha Reesh Henry**, PNC Capital Markets

FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE(S) (October 12, 2026) — Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Logan Rapp**, the lead of the Fox Leadership Council's Diversity Council, discussed the Eradicate Hate Student Summit that some high school students attended.

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, Dorseyville Middle School teacher **Andrew Shaw** and eighth-grader **Nina Passavant**, talked about the Game Design and Development class that is part of the school's Unified Arts curriculum.

Enrollment and Fire Drills — The Board received the enrollment and fire drills report.

Information

• **Students Win Third Place & Honorable Mention in National PSA Contest**

Fox Chapel Area High School 2026 graduate **Emily Korczycki** was named a third-place national winner for directing and producing, and an advanced media production class of 2025-2026 high school students was named an honorable mention winner, in the 2026 Create Real Impact Contest in the high school campaign category.

The students produced a public service announcement (PSA) titled, "The Final Rose," that was a take on "The Bachelorette," with a student giving a "Final Rose" to the safest driver.

The students involved with producing the PSA were 2026 graduates **Deniko Agurs, Quinn Carey, Samuel Kieffer, Emily Korczynski, and Eugenia Mettenburg**; 2025-2026 juniors **Lauren Bachman, Harry Bradley, Dax Buitrago, Finnegan DeRensis, Elias George, Logan Rapp, James Saleone, Nico Tavorario, and Jeffery Zacharias**; and 2025-2026 sophomores **Jonah Driver, Omar Elshahat, Giuliana Foley, and Jacob Kull**.

According to a letter from Kelly Browning, the executive director of Impact Teen Drivers, the sponsor of the contest, "Your campaign stood out for its creativity, positive messaging, and commitment to promoting safe driving and riding behaviors while helping prevent reckless and distracted driving ... We were especially inspired by your efforts to highlight positive solutions and strategies that can help stop preventable car crashes and create safer communities for everyone."

The goal of the Create Real Impact contest, open to students from across the United States ages 14-22, was to emphasize the importance of avoiding reckless and distracted driving and reducing teen driving injuries and fatalities on roadways and walkways. The students were to create a PSA that could be shared on social media. Fox Chapel Area High School received a Create Real Impact Educational Grant of \$500 for the students' honorable mention win.

The PSA created by Fox Chapel Area High School students can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfoFxCKJDt0>.

Fox Chapel Area School Board Upcoming Meetings

October 12, 2026 – Following the Regular Business Meeting – Committee of the Whole – HS LGI Room
October 20, 2026 – 6 p.m. – Academic Committee Meeting – Administrative Offices Staff Development Room
October 27, 2026 – 6 p.m. – Projects and Planning Committee Mtg. – Admin. Offices Staff Development 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
November 10, 2026 – 6 p.m. – Governance Committee Mtg. – Administrative Offices Staff Development Room
November 17, 2026 – 6 p.m. – Academic Committee Mtg. – Administrative Offices Staff Development Room
November 18, 2026 – 6 p.m. – Projects and Planning Committee Mtg. – Admin. Offices Staff Development Rm.
December 7, 2026 – 7 p.m. – Reorganization Mtg. & Comb. Agenda Study Sess. & Reg. Bus. Mtg. – HS LGI Rm.
January 5, 2027 – 6 p.m. – Governance Committee Meeting – Administrative Offices Staff Development Room
January 12, 2027 – 6 p.m. – Academic Committee Meeting – Administrative Offices Staff Development Room
January 19, 2027 – 6 p.m. – Projects and Planning Committee Mtg. – Admin. Offices Staff Development Room
February 2, 2027 – 6 p.m. – Governance Committee Meeting – Administrative Offices Staff Development Room
February 9, 2027 – 6 p.m. – Academic Committee Meeting – Administrative Offices Staff Development Room
February 16, 2027 – 6 p.m. – Projects and Planning Committee Mtg. – Admin. Offices Staff Development Room
March 2, 2027 – 6 p.m. – Governance Committee Meeting – Administrative Offices Staff Development Room
March 3, 2027 – 6 p.m. – Academic Committee Meeting – Administrative Offices Staff Development Room
March 30, 2027 – 6 p.m. – Projects and Planning Committee Mtg. – Admin. Offices Staff Development Room

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES — Approved the minutes of the combined agenda study session and regular business meeting dated September 14, 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 — Dr. Haselkorn gave the academic committee report.

Governance Committee Report — Mr. Frank gave the governance committee report.

Projects and Planning Committee Report — Ms. Lynch gave the projects and planning committee report.

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

Facilities/Transportation

Award of Contract – High School Athletic Field Sports Lighting Replacement Project — Accepted the bid of GeoSport Lighting Systems, LLC, for the General Construction Contract with a Base Bid amount of \$499,500, and approved to award a contract to the bidder for the high school athletic field sports lighting replacement project conditioned upon the bidder's written acceptance of the terms and conditions of the contract, and timely submission of all required pre-award documentation, contract documents, and post-bid award documents. **This was reviewed and recommended by the Fox Chapel Area School Authority.**

Authorization to Advertise for Bids – Fox Chapel Area High School Mechanical Renovations Project — Authorized the advertisement for bids for the high school mechanical renovations project.

Additional School Bus Drivers – 2026-2027 School Year — Ratified hiring the additional ABC Transit, Inc., drivers from the list effective for the 2026-2027 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

Disbursements (Fund 10) – September 2026 — The general fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$12,638,662.14 from September 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026, were approved.

Disbursements (Fund 31) – September 2026 — The capital reserves fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$49,662.75 from September 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026, were approved.

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

Budget Transfers — Several budget transfers for 2026-2027 were approved.

Bond Refinance – Resolution 2026-9 — Approved Resolution 2026-9, as prepared by district bond counsel, authorizing the issuance of bonds for the refunding of the district's outstanding Series of 2017 Bonds, in order to achieve debt service savings, so long as a minimum local debt service savings of \$2,000,000 can be achieved.

Allegheny Intermediate Unit Joint Purchasing Program – Resolution 2026-10 — Approved Resolution 2026-10 authorizing the participation of the Fox Chapel Area School District in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Joint Purchasing Program through the 2027-2028 school year, and authorizing the appointment of **Ryan Manzer**, director of finance, and **Daniel Breitreutz**, director of ancillary services, as representatives of the district. **This is a renewal of participation.**

Advanced Machine and System Technologies Inc. (AMASTI) – Integrated Mailing System – Service Contract — Approved the service contract between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Advanced Machine and System Technologies Inc. (AMASTI) for an integrated mailing system, effective October 13, 2026, through January 13, 2032, at a cost of \$413.65 per month. **This is a renewal of services at a 15% cost increase.**

Instruction

Magic School LLC – Agreement, Custom Data Privacy Agreement, and Price Quote — Approved the agreement, custom data privacy agreement, and price quote from Magic School LLC for services to support educators and students when using artificial intelligence effective from October 13, 2026, through October 12, 2027, at a total cost of \$29,342.25. **This is a new service and will be funded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) School Safety Grant.**

Legislation/Policy

Policies – Revised – First Reading — Approved the first reading of the following revised policies: No. 140 – Charter Schools, No. 221 – Dress and Grooming, No. 325 – Dress and Grooming, No. 332 – Working Periods, No. 716 – Integrated Pest Management, and No. 810 – Transportation.

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

Educational Support — Accepted the following personal care assistant resignation:

- **Stefanie Meyers**, personal care assistant at Kerr Elementary School, due to personal reasons, effective September 14, 2026.

Custodial/Maintenance — Accepted the following maintenance resignation:

- **Christopher A. Skwartz**, 10-month, 8 hours per day athletic maintenance employee for Fox Chapel Area School District, due to retirement, effective October 5, 2026.

Appointments

Professional — Approved the following professional appointment:

- **Jessica A. Wilson** as a certified school nurse at Hartwood Elementary School with an effective date to be determined. Salary was set based on Step 7, B+0, with fringe benefits as per the collective bargaining agreement. This is a new position due to district needs.

Food Services — Approved the following food services appointments:

- **Michaela Penn** as a permanent, part-time (5.75 hours per day) food services employee in the Dorseyville Middle School cafeteria. Hourly wage was set based on the wage scale for food services employees, General Food Worker – 2, with no fringe benefits, effective date to be determined, pending the fulfillment of pre-employment requirements. This position is available due to the resignation of **Christine Weber**.
- **Umedakhon Sharipova** as a permanent, part-time (4.5 hours per day) food services employee in the Dorseyville Middle School cafeteria. Hourly wage was set based on the wage scale for food services employees, General Food Worker – 2, with no fringe benefits, effective date to be determined, pending the fulfillment of pre-employment requirements. This position is available due to the resignation of **Amber Eddy**.
- **Genevieve Stout** as a permanent, part-time (4 hours per day) food services employee in the Fox Chapel Area High School cafeteria. Hourly wage is set based on the wage scale for food services employees, General Food Worker – 2, with no fringe benefits, effective date to be determined, pending the fulfillment of pre-employment requirements. This position is available due to the resignation of **Michelle Kondas**.

Supplemental Contracts – Non-Athletic — The following non-athletic supplemental contracts were ratified, effective for the 2026-2027 school year: **Erin Rowlands** – Planetarium Director, **Ashley Wickert** – Yearbook Sponsor – MS, and **Monica Gralewski** – Overnight Camp Counselor.

Leaves

Professional — Approved the following professional leaves:

- **Meredith Z. Brown**, elementary teacher at Hartwood Elementary School, for a second semester medical sabbatical, effective January 15, 2027, with return scheduled for the first day of the 2027-2028 school year.
- **Rebecca L. Grzebyk**, elementary teacher at Hartwood Elementary School, for childrearing/adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective January 28, 2027, with return scheduled for the first day of the 2027-2028 school year.
- **Gabriella E. Haberman**, elementary teacher at O'Hara Elementary School, for childrearing/adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective January 22, 2027, with return scheduled for the first day of the 2027-2028 school year.
- **Emily L. Turner**, French teacher at Fox Chapel Area High School, for childrearing/adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective December 22, 2026, with return scheduled for April 1, 2027.

Custodial/Maintenance — Ratified the following maintenance leave:

- **Theodore W. Polanowski Jr.**, 12-month, 8 hours per day maintenance employee for the Fox Chapel Area School District, for a special sick leave, worker's compensation (non-contributing), effective October 12, 2026.

Salary Correction

Professional — Ratified the following professional salary correction:

- **Alexandra A. Czerski**, previously approved as a leave replacement reading support teacher at Fairview Elementary School, with (prorated) salary, based on step 1.5, M+0 of the salary schedule, now approved as (prorated) salary, based on step 1, M+0 of the salary schedule.

Volunteer

Athletic — The following athletic volunteer was ratified, effective October 12, 2026: **Jacob Donovan** – Strength and Conditioning – HS.

Appointment

Supplemental Contract – Athletic — The following athletic supplemental contract was ratified effective October 12, 2026: **Timothy Frank** – Softball, MS Head.

Operations/Cooperative Services

Fox Chapel Area School District Comprehensive Emergency Management (CEM) Plan — Approved the district's Comprehensive Emergency Management (CEM) Plan. This multi-hazard plan is in compliance with state and federal emergency guidelines under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). This plan must be approved annually.

Walsworth Publishing Company, Inc. – Yearbook Purchase Agreement — Approved the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Walsworth Publishing Company, Inc. for the production of the 2027 Fox Chapel Area High School yearbook at a cost of \$45,562. **This is a new agreement that provides cost savings for the district and for high school families.**

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 7:41 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