

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMBINED AGENDA STUDY SESSION
AND REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

SEPTEMBER 14, 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 p.m. on September 14, 2026, in the LGI Room at Fox Chapel Area High School. Prior to tonight's public meeting, members of the Board met in executive session to discuss information related to the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement and a safety and security matter. The Board also discussed with counsel pending civil litigation matters and tax assessment appeal litigation and reviewed agency business that, if conducted in public, would lead to disclosure of information or confidentiality protected by law.

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

ROLL-CALL

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

GUESTS

Certificates of Merit

- A team of Dorseyville Middle School students won first place in the sixth- through eighth-grade division of the 2026 Allegheny County Envirothon. The first-place team members were 2025-2026 seventh-graders **Zoey Guinn, Hugo Gutowski, Ellie Huh, Prisha Jhanji, and Christina Randtke**. The team won a plaque for its first-place win. Additionally, Hugo and Ellie won the top score on the wildlife exam, and Prisha attained the highest score on the current environmental issues exam.

For the Allegheny County Envirothon, teams test their knowledge in five topic areas – aquatic ecology, forestry, soil and land use, wildlife, and current environmental issues. The event fosters leadership, problem-solving, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) principles.

The competition for middle schoolers was held May 27 at the South Park Fairgrounds.

- A Hartwood Elementary School student was named a winner in the 2026 WQED Writers Contest. Hartwood Elementary School 2025-2026 third-grader **Emmerson McCormick** was named a first-place winner for her story "The Mystery of the Midnight Gym."

Nearly 3,000 entries were submitted and 26 students won awards in this year's contest. The students competed against others in their own grade levels, and the contest was open to children in kindergarten-grade five from the greater Pittsburgh area. The winning students were honored at an award ceremony at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh on May 30 as part of Pgh Book Fest.

All the winners' stories are available to see and listen to (read by the authors) through WQED's Writers Contest page at <https://www.wqed.org/education/writers-contest/writers-contest-2026-winning-stories/>.

FOX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE(S)

Senior Ish Conklin, Fox Leadership Council president, gave a report.

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 high school's QUEST department.

High school QUEST facilitator Lisa Gibson shared a presentation. Her presentation showcased outreach opportunities for all students to help them excel during their time at Fox Chapel Area High School.

•PSBA's Honor Roll of School Board Service Program

Fox Chapel Area School Board members **Katie Findley** and **Ariel Zych** earned certificates of appreciation as part of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association's (PSBA) Honor Roll of School Board Service program. The honor roll celebrates school board directors for their years of dedicated service to their districts, communities, and public education. Both Ms. Findley and Ms. Zych have served on the Board for five years.

•FCAHS Students Place in National FBLA Competition

Fox Chapel Area High School 2025-2026 juniors **Noelle Fournon** and **Ainsley Goode** placed at the 2026 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) National Leadership Conference. They won seventh place in the nation while competing as a team in the financial planning category.

The FBLA National Leadership Conference was held in San Antonio, Texas, June 29-July 2. More than 13,000 students from high schools across the United States and Canada participated in various business, technology, and presentation events at the competition.

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 August 10, 2026. On motion by Mr. Frank and seconded by Ms. Findley, the minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Academic Committee Report

Dr. Haselkorn, academic committee chairperson, gave a report.

B. Governance Committee Report

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

C. Projects and Planning Committee Report

Mrs. Lynch, projects and planning committee member, gave a report.

NEW BUSINESS

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

FACILITIES/TRANSPORTATION

A. Facilities/Transportation

There was no business.

FINANCE

B. Finance

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

1. Disbursements (Fund 10) – August 2026

General fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$7,206,658.66 from August 1, 2026, through August 31, 2026, are approved.

2. Disbursements (Fund 31) – August 2026

Capital reserves fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$124,882.05 from August 1, 2026, through August 31, 2026, are approved.

3. Finance Report – July 2026

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

4. Bond Refinance Appointment – Resolution 2026-8

Approve Resolution 2026-8 appointing PNC Capital Markets as the district's investment banker and Dinsmore & Shohl as the district's bond counsel to explore the opportunity to refinance the Bond Series of 2017.

5. Authorization to Advertise for Bids – Industrial Laser Machine

Authorize the advertisement of bids for an industrial laser machine at the high school.

INSTRUCTION

C. Instruction

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

1. Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Title I Services Addendum

Ratify the Title I services addendum, pursuant to the Allegheny Intermediate Unit 2026-2027 comprehensive services agreement, to provide Title I services to Christ the Divine Catholic Teacher Academy for eligible Title I students residing within the Fox Chapel Area School District effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. **This is a new addendum.**

2. The Watson Institute – The Education Center-Sewickley – Letter of Agreement

Ratify the letter of agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and The Watson Institute for one student enrolled in The Education Center-Sewickley for the 2026-2027 school year at an annual cost of \$69,148 (prorated) beginning August 26, 2026, and authorize the superintendent to execute the letter of agreement on behalf of the district. **This is a renewal of services at a 3.36% cost increase.**

3. The Watson Institute – WISCA-Sharpsburg – Letter of Agreement

Ratify the letter of agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and The Watson Institute for one student enrolled in The Watson Institute Social Center for Academic Achievement (WISCA-Sharpsburg) for the 2026-2027 school year at a cost of \$67,412 (prorated) beginning August 31, 2026, and authorize the superintendent to execute the letter of agreement on behalf of the district. **This is a renewal of services at a 3.36% cost increase.**

**4. Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania – Agreement
K-4 Environmental Program**

Approve the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania to provide the kindergarten through grade four environmental educational program for the 2026-2027 school year at a cost of \$35,908. **This is a renewal of services at a 3% cost increase.**

**5. Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania – Agreement
Fifth-Grade Environmental Program**

Approve the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania to provide the grade five environmental educational program for the 2026-2027 school year at a cost of \$94,556. **This is a renewal of services at a 3% cost increase.**

LEGISLATION/POLICY

D. Legislation/Policy

There was no business.

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. Findley and seconded by Mr. Frank, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Personnel items 1 – 7:

1. Resignations

a. Professional

- (1) The resignation of Heather R. Fontana, elementary teacher at Fairview Elementary School, due to retirement, is accepted effective August 14, 2026.
- (2) The resignation of Jessica J. O'Shea, mathematics teacher at Dorseyville Middle School, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective August 17, 2026.

b. Food Services

- (1) The resignation of Christine Weber, food services employee at O'Hara Elementary School, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective August 25, 2026.

c. Supplemental Contracts – Athletic

- (1) The resignation of Reed Bursic, baseball, MS head, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective August 11, 2026.
- (2) The resignation of Emily Grychowski, intramurals, MS activity sponsor 12, MS ski club, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective August 17, 2026.
- (3) The resignation of Emily Grychowski, track, MS head, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective August 12, 2026.
- (4) The resignation of Michelle Stiller, softball, HS JV head, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective August 12, 2026.

d. Supplemental Contracts – Non-Athletic

- (1) The resignation of Joshua A. Bryan-Branker, overnight camp counselor, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective August 20, 2026.
- (2) The resignation of Chrystal J. Sircely, band 2nd assistant director – marching (20%), due to personal reasons, is accepted effective August 20, 2026.

2. Appointments

a. Educational Support

- (1) Denise M. Durkt is approved as the library / media clerk at Fairview Elementary School, effective September 28, 2026. Salary is set based on the salary scale for 10-month secretaries / clerks, Step 3, with benefits as per the Fox Chapel Area Education Support Professionals Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. This position is available due to the retirement of Anita Kucharski.
- (2) Dawn M. Jackson is approved as the library / media clerk at Dorseyville Middle School, effective September 15, 2026. Salary is set based on the salary scale for 10-month secretaries / clerks, Step 3, with benefits as per the Fox Chapel Area Education Support Professionals Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. This position is available due to the transfer of Jennifer Rosenwald.
- (3) Tammy M. Lynes is approved as the 10-month building secretary at Fox Chapel Area High School, effective September 15, 2026. Salary is set based on the salary scale for 10-month secretaries / clerks, Step 3, with benefits as per the Fox Chapel Area Education Support Professionals Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. This position is available due to the resignation of Katharine Vavpetic.
- (4) Sean M. Tuell is approved as the pupil services secretary for the Fox Chapel Area School District, effective September 15, 2026. Salary is set based on the salary scale for 12-month secretaries, Step 3, with benefits as per the Fox Chapel Area Education Support Professionals Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. This position is available due to the resignation of Sydney Boss.

b. Food Services

- (1) Cleve Cook is approved as a permanent, part-time (5.25 hours per day) food services employee in the O'Hara Elementary School cafeteria. Hourly wage is set based on the wage scale for food services employees, General Food Worker – 2, with no fringe benefits, effective September 28, 2026, pending the fulfillment of pre-employment requirements. This position is available due to the resignation of L. Christine Pfeffer.

c. Supplemental Contracts – Athletic

- (1) The following athletic contracts are approved for the 2026-2027 school year effective September 15, 2026:

Neena Pietropaolo	Softball, HS JV Head	\$4,191
Molly Stallard	Intramurals, MS Activity Sponsor 12, MS Ski Club	\$2,146

d. Supplemental Contracts – Non-Athletic – 2026-2027 School Year

- (1) The non-athletic supplemental contracts are ratified / approved for the 2026-2027 school year.

3. Leave

a. Professional

- (1) Ashley L. Henny, elementary teacher at O'Hara Elementary School, is approved for a second semester educational sabbatical, effective January 18, 2027, with return scheduled for the first day of the 2027-2028 school year.

4. Leave Replacement

a. Professional

- (1) Alyssa L. Cuddy is ratified as a leave replacement elementary teacher at Fairview Elementary School. This position is available due to the retirement of Heather Fontana.

Certification: Instructional I
Education: M.Ed., The Pennsylvania State University, 2023
B.S., The Pennsylvania State University, 2022
Experience: 3 years, Canon-McMillan School District
Effective: August 26, 2026, through the day after the last day for students
for the 2026-2027 school year
Salary: \$69,138 (prorated) based on Step 4, M+0
Fringe Benefits: As per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

5. Changes of Status

a. Professional

- (1) Sarah L. Giuffre, a first-semester leave replacement elementary teacher at O'Hara Elementary School, is additionally approved as a second-semester leave replacement elementary teacher at O'Hara Elementary School, effective January 18, 2027, through the day after the last day of school for students for the 2026-2027 school year. This position is available due to the second semester educational sabbatical of Ashley Henny.

b. Educational Support

- (1) Jennifer L. Rosenwald, library/media clerk at Dorseyville Middle School, is approved as the 10-month school counseling secretary at Fox Chapel Area High School, effective date to be determined. There is no change in salary or benefits. This position is available due to the transfer of Maria Helgert.

6. Homebound Instruction

a. Teacher

- (1) Alison C. Francis is ratified as a homebound instruction teacher for the 2026-2027 school year, effective September 1, 2026, at a rate of \$32.82 per hour.

7. Volunteers – Athletic

- a. The following athletic volunteer is approved, effective September 15, 2026:

Ellisyn Knapo	Flag Football – HS
Cassidy Starr	Volleyball – MS

Personnel Information Item

8. Salary Crossovers – Information

a. Professional

- (1) The professional employees listed below are eligible to cross over on the salary scale for the 2026-2027 school year based on verification of additional credits earned. This change is effective as of September 1, 2026, in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement.

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Brinling, Lucas	B+24	M+0
Clarke, Hanna	B+0	B+15
Dirkmaat, Mary	B+15	M+0
Gordon, Audrey	M+0	M+15
Gralewski, Monica	B+0	B+15
Murslack, Matthew	B+0	B+24
Poellnitz, Alexander	B+15	B+24
Puntil, Julia	B+24	M+0
Stewart Vasquez, Sarah	M+0	M+15

OPERATIONS/COOPERATIVE SERVICES

F. Operations/Cooperative Services

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

1. Donation – Elementary Band Program

Accept the donation of a Bach TR300 Bb trumpet with a value of \$250 and a Conn 4D single French horn with a value of \$350 to the elementary band program from an anonymous donor.

2. Clinical Internship Affiliation Agreement

Approve the following clinical internship affiliation agreement:

University of Pittsburgh – Of The Commonwealth System of Higher Education

3. Safety Incentive Program

Approve the Fox Chapel Area School District safety incentive program for the period October 1, 2026, through May 31, 2027, for district employees at an estimated cost of \$8,000.

4. Choral Program Accompanist – Agreement

Approve the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Corinne Adkins for choral program accompanist services at a total cost of \$3,000 effective September 15, 2026, through June 30, 2027. **This is a renewal of services.**

PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (PSBA) 2027 OFFICER ELECTIONS

G. Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) 2027 Officer Elections

On motion by Mr. Goode and seconded by Ms. Findley, and after a discussion, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following item:

1. Slate of Candidates

Approve the slate of candidates for the PSBA 2027 officer elections and authorize the board secretary to electronically cast the votes on behalf of the Board of School Directors, as attached:

a. PSBA Leadership Positions:

- 2027 President-Elect (one-year term)

***Matt Vannoy**, Sharon City School District

- 2027 Vice President (one-year term)

***Kristy Bolte**, Northwestern School District

- 2027-2029 Treasurer (three-year term)

***David Hein**, Parkland School District

b. PSBA Insurance Trustees:

- Trustee (three-year term)

Marianne L. Neel
Dr. Michael Faccinetto

**Indicates a PSBA endorsed candidate.*

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was one comment.

1. Dr. Vladislav Shick, community resident, commented on remote learning, school closure official policy, and snow days official policy.

FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

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

BOARD COMMENTS

There were four comments. Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Hamilton, Dr. Haselkorn, and Mrs. Lynch commented.

ADJOURNMENT

It was unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kathleen Anuszek", is written over a horizontal line.

Kathleen Anuszek
Board Secretary

Voting receipt – 2027 PSBA Officer Election

Voting receipt:

2NT38

Time of vote:

2026-09-15 10:33:40
America/New_York

IP address:

192.124.34.30

PSBA Officer Elections

Voting Procedure

2027 President-Elect

Matt Vannoy*

2027 Vice President

Kristy Bolte*

2027-2029 Treasurer

David Hein*

PSBA Insurance Trust Trustees

Trustee (term ends Dec. 31, 2029)

Seat 1

Marianne L. Neel

Seat 2

Dr. Michael Faccinetto

School Board Secretaries Forum

Forum Steering Committee (term ends
Dec. 31, 2028)

Lauryn Weaver

Betsy Gates