

**March 9, 2020**  
**Regular Business Meeting**

**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 March 9, 2020. President Somer Obernauer Jr. called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Also in attendance were Vice President Marybeth Dadd; Assistant Secretary Edith L. Cook, Ph.D.; Treasurer Eric G. Hamilton; Amy B. Cooper, Ronald P. Frank; Adam G. Goode; Vanessa K. Lynch; and Dharmesh Vyas, M.D., Ph.D.

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

• **K-8 Second Step Social Emotional Learning Program Pilot Update** — A presentation on the results of the pilot program given by **Ashley Constantine**, Ed.D., Executive Director of Elementary Education and Instruction; **Matthew Harris**, Ed.D., Executive Director of Secondary Education and Instruction; **Craig Reinhard**, middle school counselor; and **Sue Douglas** and **Stephanie Lipke**, elementary counselors. This pilot program was previously approved on August 12, 2019, and will be presented for adoption on April 13, 2020.

• **Video – Preparing for the Coronavirus** — Video produced by Community Engagement Specialist **Jill Leonard** and high school multimedia teacher **Ryan Devlin** detailing the school district’s efforts to prepare for the potential spread of coronavirus in our community.

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

**Information**

• **Students Candidates in Presidential Scholars Program**

Five Fox Chapel Area High School seniors have been named candidates in the 2020 United States Presidential Scholars Program. The students are **Hanna Chen, J. Oliver Choo, Rajeev Godse, Sina Shaikh, and Aaron Wu**. More than 4,500 students from across the U.S., from nearly 3.6 million students expected to graduate from the nation’s high schools in 2020, have been named candidates in this year’s program. A total of 118 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 superior academic achievements. They are then also evaluated on their leadership qualities, strong character, and involvement in community and school activities.

About 600 students will be selected as Semifinalists in the program, and then students chosen as Scholars will be notified this spring. Each year, up to 161 students are named U.S. Presidential Scholars. Scholars will be invited to Washington, D.C., in June for an expense-paid trip to the National Recognition Program, featuring various events and enrichment activities, and culminating in the presentation of the Presidential Scholars Medallion during a White House-sponsored ceremony.

• **Students Named 2020 National Merit<sup>®</sup> Finalists**

Thirteen Fox Chapel Area High School seniors have been designated as National Merit Finalists in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). The Finalists from Fox Chapel Area High School are **Paige Asbury, Amelia Bothe, Hanna Chen, J. Oliver Choo, Hazel Cline, Claire Fenton, Rajeev Godse, Noah Hertzman, Christiana Paljug, Sina Shaikh, Jake Sperry, Felix Veser, and Aaron Wu**.

These Fox Chapel Area High School students were named Semifinalists in September 2019 and have met all the requirements to advance to Finalist standing in the competition for National Merit Scholarships which will be announced this spring. The students are selected as Finalists based on their Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) scores and other factors, including SAT scores, a student essay, a school recommendation, and having an outstanding academic record throughout high school.

Each year college-bound 11<sup>th</sup> grade students complete the PSAT/NMSQT. All the students who take this test are automatically enrolled in the National Merit Scholarship Program and approximately 15,000 advance to become Finalists. The Finalists represent less than one percent of the nation’s high school seniors and compete for some 7,500 Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million to be offered in the spring of 2020.

The NMSC is a privately financed, not-for-profit corporation.

### •Student Magazine Wins First-Place National Award

Fox Chapel Area High School's 2018-2019 literary arts magazine "Tapestry" received a national award. The magazine was named a first-place winner in the magazine portion of the 2019 American Scholastic Press Association's Annual Contest/Review for Scholastic Yearbooks, Magazines and Newspapers.

The 2018-2019 student editors of "Tapestry" were 2019 graduates **Noah Fritsch, Arnav Gupta, Emma Kazmierczak, Alyssa Melani, Demi Rymer, Seo Yeon "Christina" Wang, and Chloe Yofan** (editor-in-chief); current 2019-2020 seniors **Claire Cummings, Gwendolyn Davison, Emma Lusk, Navjot Pabla, and Olivia Tang**; and current 2019-2020 juniors **Molly Dean, Nora McDougall, and Xavier Perry**. The students' advisor is Fox Chapel Area High School English teacher **Jessica Green**.

### •Students to be Inducted into National Technical Honor Society

Five Fox Chapel Area High School and A.W. Beattie Career Center juniors will be inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) this year. The Fox Chapel Area students are **Isaiah Charapp** – Culinary Arts, **Matthew Ebel** – Automotive Technology, **Kevin Fornaser** – Automotive Technology, **Ashton Monroe** – Culinary Arts, and **Matthew Sheeler** – Computer Systems Technology. The students will be inducted at an invitation-only induction ceremony at A.W. Beattie April 7, 2020.

To be considered for the honor, students must maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale, have a grade of at least 93% in their career training programs, and miss no more than five days of school. Candidates also must have a clear disciplinary record and belong to a service organization or participate in an extracurricular activity. The NTHS provides scholarships for ongoing education and works to improve the skilled workforce.

"We have 800 students, and we have 63 on that list to be inducted and they represent the best of their class," Beattie Student Ethics Coordinator and NTHS Advisor Scott Scariot said. "I'm proud of them for how hard they work and how they've met difficult standards to be nominated by their teachers for induction into the NTHS."

### •Students Win Regional PJAS Awards

Several Fox Chapel Area students won second-place and special awards at the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Region 7 Meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS).

Fox Chapel Area second-place winners were: juniors **Catherine Heidenreich, Anthony Nguyen, Elizabeth Schwartzman, and Victor Yang**; eighth grader **Adhitya Thirumala**; and seventh graders **Anna Delale-O'Connor, Alex Kim, and Varad Sant**.

The following Fox Chapel Area High School students received these special awards in addition to their first-place awards: senior **Rajeev Godse** received a PJAS Perseverance Award; senior **Ameya Velankar** won a PJAS Perseverance Award and a Carnegie Mellon University Civil and Engineering Department – Chi Epsilon Award; junior **Amulya Garimella** won a Duquesne University School of Pharmacy Award and a University of Pittsburgh Excellence in Biology Award; junior **Jackson Romero** won a PJAS Perfect Score Award and a PJAS Director's Award; junior **Vinisha Sant** received a PJAS Perfect Score Award; junior **Sanjay Seshan** won a PJAS Director's Award and a Sister Maze Award; junior **Dong Hyun "Simon" Shin** was awarded a Duquesne University Program in Forensic Science and Law Award; sophomore **Mona Gerges** received a PJAS Director's Award; sophomore **Janise Kim** won a Society of Women Engineer's Award, a University of Pittsburgh Center for Energy – Swanson School of Engineering Award, an Innovation Works Award, and an American Nuclear Society – Pittsburgh Section Award; sophomore **Zoe Lakkis** was awarded a Duquesne University School of Health Sciences Award and a Duquesne University Biomedical Engineering Award; sophomore **Theodor Urban** won an Innovation Works Award; and freshman **Arvind Seshan** received a PJAS Perfect Score Award, a PJAS Director's Award, and a Duquesne University Biomedical Engineering Award.

The following Dorseyville Middle School students received these special awards in addition to their first- and second-place awards: eighth grader **Jillian Stahl** received a Pittsburgh Society of Women Engineers Award; seventh grader **Rohit Velankar** received a Duquesne University Award for Excellence; and eighth graders **Lakshanya Rajaganapathi** and Jillian Stahl, and seventh graders Adhitya Thirumala, Anna Delale-O'Connor, Varad Sant, and Rohit Velankar were all awarded a Bayer School of Excellence in Science 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 give an oral presentation on his or her science project in front of a panel of judges. The regional competition was held at Duquesne University February 1, 2020.

### •Students Win Regional 2020 Scholastic Art Awards

Several Fox Chapel Area School District students won second place and honorable mention awards for their entries in the Pittsburgh Region of the Scholastic Art Awards 2020.

The Fox Chapel Area Silver Key winners were seniors **Macey Balk, Amelia Bothe** (3 Silver Keys and a portfolio Silver Key for “Animal Caricature and Design”), **William Carnevale, Nicholas Guy, Grace Han, Anzu Sekikawa** (2 Silver Keys), **Kavya Soman** (2 Silver Keys), **Shane Susnak, William Urso** (4 Silver Keys), **Alexis Vivino**, and **Yervant Yeterian**; juniors **Kristian Kerschbaumer, Jing McCann** (2 Silver Keys), **Amara Ostroff**, and **Wenyu Zuo**; sophomores **Sarah Giuffre** and **Noah Snider**; and eighth grader **Isabella White** (2 Silver Keys).

The Fox Chapel Area Honorable Mention winners were seniors Amelia Bothe (5 Honorable Mentions), **Edward Farrell**, Nicholas Guy, Grace Han, **Emily Noonan, Nicholas Perico**, Anzu Sekikawa (2 Honorable Mentions), Kavya Soman, and Shane Susnak; juniors Kristian Kerschbaumer (2 Honorable Mentions), **Anabel Kirk**, Jing McCann (4 Honorable Mentions), and Amara Ostroff (2 Honorable Mentions); sophomores **Iain Condron, Matthew Marquette**, and **Julia Stutzman**; and eighth grader Isabella White (2 Honorable Mentions).

The regional award winners were selected by a panel of distinguished judges which included artists, art educators, and art professionals. A show featuring the works of all of the winners was held February 7-22 at Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) North. All of the Fox Chapel Area students were also honored at a special ceremony, along with some of the other Pittsburgh Region winners, February 22 at the college.

The Fox Chapel Area High School art teachers are **Joan Marangoni, Mary Jo Montgomery, Christine Smith, Sarah Stewart**, and **Amy Wickman**. The Dorseyville Middle School art teachers are **Cheryl Eppers, Nanci Goldberg**, and **Mackenzie Seymour**.

### •Students Finalists in Bethel Park Black Hawk Forensic Tournament

Two Fox Chapel Area High School students were octofinalists in the Bethel Park Black Hawk Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament. The Public Forum Debate team of seniors **Boomba Nishikawa** and **Felix Veser** advanced to the octofinal round and finished in the top 16 teams at the tournament.

The competition was held February 7 and 8, 2020, at Bethel Park High School. Approximately 432 students from 46 public and private high schools from six states participated in the tournament.

### •Students Place at Hampton Forensic Tournament

Two Fox Chapel Area High School students and two Dorseyville Middle School students placed at the annual Hampton Talbot Invitational Forensic Tournament. Sophomore **Patrick Alexander** was named the “Superior Speaker” (second place) in Student Congress. Eighth graders **Camryn Eisner** and **Isabella White** won fourth place in Public Forum Debate. Junior **Suparna Agrawal** won sixth place in Extemporaneous Speaking. Additionally, all of the Fox Chapel Area participants contributed to the team winning second place in the team sweepstakes in the small school division. The other participating Fox Chapel Area students were senior **Boomba Nishikawa**; juniors **Hannah Jahnke** and **Mary Knoblock**; sophomores **Ian Mackey-Piccolo** and **Omar Shalaby**; freshmen **Davina Chang, Lawrence Liu, Silas Owens**, and **Martin Stanton**; and eighth graders **Emmett Gillespie, Emily Torbert**, and **Gabriella Urso**.

The tournament was held February 1, 2020, at Hampton High School. Approximately 275 students from 18 public and private high schools from Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia participated in the tournament.

### •High School Students Place at Duquesne Model UN Conference

Four Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the Duquesne University High School Model United Nations (DuqMUN) Conference. “Excellent Delegation” (second-place) awards went to senior **Jackson Boychuk**, junior **Aidan Ireland**, and sophomores **Patrick Alexander** and **Lance Wilhelm**.

The conference was held January 31, 2020, at Duquesne University, and 312 students from 22 Western Pennsylvania private and public high schools participated in the event.

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

**•FCAHS & Beattie Students Place in SkillsUSA Competition**

Two Fox Chapel Area High School and A.W. Beattie Career Center students won third and fourth place in the district-level SkillsUSA Competition. Junior **Ashton Monroe** won a third place in culinary arts and is in Beattie’s culinary arts program, and senior **Jennifer Blackwell** was awarded a fourth place in medical math and is in Beattie’s veterinary sciences program.

Skills USA is part of a national student organization that develops leadership skills to complement what students learn in career and technical education programs. District 8 competitions were held January 20, 2020, at various locations in Pittsburgh.

**•Students Honorable Mention Winners in Shakespeare Contest**

Five Dorseyville Middle School students received honorable mentions as part of the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Shakespeare Monologue & Scene Contest. Dorseyville Middle School eighth graders **Eric Pil**, **Liviya Rubin**, and **Abraham White** received honorable mentions in the Upper Division Monologue category. Additionally, seventh graders **Devon McDonald** and **Sophie Thorne** received an honorable mention in the Lower Division Scene category.

The contest was held in February 2020 at the Pittsburgh Public Theater. More than 1,000 students in grades four-12 from 110 schools from across the greater Pittsburgh area participated. The contest is underwritten by the EQT Foundation.

**•Fox Chapel Area School Board Upcoming Meetings**

April 13, 2020 – 7 p.m. – Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Business Mtg. – High School LGI Room  
May 4, 2020 – 7 p.m. – Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Bus. Mtg. – Dorseyville MS Auditorium  
June 1, 2020 – 7 p.m. – Agenda Study Session – O’Hara Elementary School Auditorium  
June 8, 2020 – 7 p.m. – Regular Business Meeting – Fox Chapel Area High School LGI Room

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** — Approved the minutes of the regular business meeting dated February 10, 2020.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** — Anyone wishing to make a public comment was asked to complete the sign-in sheet.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Superintendent Search Update** — Approved payments of \$500.00 per day plus travel and lodging expenses for the consultant from McPherson & Jacobson, L.L.C. for the interviews associated with the superintendent search on March 26 and 27, 2020.

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

**Facilities/Transportation**

**School Bus Driver Approval – 2019-2020 School Year** — Ratified the drivers to operate school buses for the Fox Chapel Area School District for the 2019-2020 school year. All drivers’ credentials meet the requirements of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**Finance**

**Disbursements (A)** — The general fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$6,444,847.61 from February 1, 2020, through February 29, 2020, were approved.

**Disbursements (B)** — The GO Bond Series 2017 Construction Fund disbursements (Fund 33) in the amount of \$9,968.62 for February 2020 were approved. These disbursements were reviewed and recommended for approval by the Fox Chapel Area School Authority.

**Disbursements (C)** — The GO Bond Series 2017 Construction Fund disbursements (Fund 33) in the amount of \$296,636.27 for March 2, 2020, were approved. These disbursements were reviewed and recommended for approval by the Fox Chapel Area School Authority.

**Disbursements (D)** — The capital projects fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$3,955.30 for March 2, 2020, were approved. These disbursements were reviewed and recommended for approval by the Fox Chapel Area School Authority.

**Finance Report** — The finance report for January 2020 was acknowledged and filed for audit.

**Budget Transfers** — The budget transfers for 2019-2020 were approved.

**Allegheny Intermediate Unit – 2020-2021 Program of Services Budget** — Upon the recommendation of the administration, the Board approved the proposed 2020-2021 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services Budget in the amount of \$2,202,973.00. The Allegheny County (AIU3) school districts' total contribution to the budget is \$1,811,545.00. The Fox Chapel Area School District contribution to the program of services budget is estimated to be \$99,872.00 and will be determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education according to the District Aid Ratio and Weighted Average Daily Membership (WADM).

**Asset Control Solutions, Inc. – Agreement** — Approved the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Asset Control Solutions, Inc., for the management of fixed assets effective March 9, 2020, at an annual cost of \$10,900.00. **This is a renewal of services.**

#### **Instruction**

**2020-2021 School District Calendar** — Approved the 2020-2021 school district calendar. The calendar can be viewed on the district's website at [www.fcasd.edu](http://www.fcasd.edu).

**Stipulated Adjudication** — Approved the stipulated adjudication for an unnamed student dated March 6, 2020.

#### **Legislation/Policy**

**Policies and Attachment – Revised** — Approved the following revised policies and attachment: No. 233 – Suspension and Expulsion, No. 610 – Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation, and Procurement – Federal Programs (Attachment to Policy 626 – Federal Fiscal Compliance).

#### **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**

**Food Services** — Accepted the following food services resignation:

- **Emily S. Markel**, food services employee at Kerr Elementary School, due to personal reasons, effective February 7, 2020.

**Supplemental Contracts – Athletic** — Accepted the following athletic supplemental contract resignations:

- **Matthew J. Iannazzo**, baseball 2<sup>nd</sup> assistant coach at Fox Chapel Area High School, due to personal reasons, effective January 29, 2020.
- **Ruth Jean Kirk**, girls lacrosse 2<sup>nd</sup> assistant coach at Fox Chapel Area High School, due to personal reasons, effective February 11, 2020.

**Ancillary Services** — Accepted the following ancillary services resignation:

- **Jeffrey E. Iannuzzi**, facilities shift supervisor at Fox Chapel Area School District, due to retirement, effective immediately.

#### **Appointment**

**Supplemental Contract – Athletic** — Ratified the following athletic supplemental contract, effective February 14, 2020: **Sean L. Wilson** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Baseball Coach – HS.

**Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ – Collective Bargaining Agreement** — The Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ Collective Bargaining Agreement was approved, effective July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2025.

**Volunteers – Athletic** — The following athletic volunteers were ratified: **Robert W. Beining** – Softball – HS (effective January 29, 2020) and **Patricia A. Panos** – Track and Field – DMS (effective March 2, 2020).

**Settlement Agreement and Release**

**Superintendent** — Approved the settlement agreement and release between the Fox Chapel Area School District and **Gene Freeman**, Ed.D., as presented, and approved Dr. Freeman’s retirement with an effective retirement date of March 31, 2020, contingent upon final execution of the settlement agreement and release.

**Operations/Cooperative Services**

**Representative to the Tri-COG Land Bank – Appointment** — Approved the appointment of Edith L. Cook, Ph.D., as a delegate to the Tri-COG Land Bank School District Advisory Committee.

**Donation – Art Department** — Accepted the donation of various matboards, glass sheets, and panorama frames with mats to the Fox Chapel Area High School art department with a current value of \$1,000.00 from Kevin Perez.

**Change Orders – Kerr Elementary School Project** — Approved change orders GCD-001, GCD-002, GCD-003, GCD-004, GCD-005, GCD-006, GCD-007, GCD-008, GCD-009, GCD-010, GCD-011, GCD-012, GCD-013, GCD-014, GCD-015, GCD-016, GCD-017, GCD-018, and TDC-016 at a total cost of \$169,990.00 for the Kerr Elementary School project pending PDE approval of Plancon Part I. These change orders were reviewed and recommended for approval by the Fox Chapel Area School Authority.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** — Anyone wishing to make a public comment was asked to complete the sign-in sheet.

**FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE**

**BOARD COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT** — The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

*The Fox Chapel Area School District is an equal rights and opportunity school district. The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, or handicap/disability. The district shall make reasonable accommodations for identified physical and mental impairments that constitute disabilities, consistent with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations.*

*Additional information pertaining to civil rights, school district policies, and grievance procedures can be obtained by contacting the compliance officers listed below between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. This notice is available from the compliance officers in large print, on audiotape, and in Braille.*

Title IX: David P. McCommons, Ed.D. (412/967-2456)  
Section 504 and ADA: Timothy A. Mahoney (412/967-2435)  
Address: Fox Chapel Area School District, 611 Field Club Road, Pgh., PA 15238