

**May 4, 2020**  
**Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Business Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** — The Board of School Directors of the Fox Chapel Area School District held a combined agenda study session & regular business meeting via a remote platform May 4, 2020. President Somer Obernauer Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:08 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.

**GUESTS**

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

• **Kerr Elementary School Construction Update** — **Daniel Breitreutz**, Director of Ancillary Services

• **Video – New District Superintendent** — Video produced by Community Engagement Specialist **Jill Leonard** and high school multimedia teacher **Ryan Devlin** highlighting Mary Catherine Reljac, Ed.D., Fox Chapel Area School District's new superintendent.

**Enrollment** — The Board received the enrollment report.

**Information**

• **District Wins Awards in State Communications Contest**

The Fox Chapel Area School District won state awards in the 2019 Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association (PenSPRA) Excellence in Education Communications Contest. The district received Awards of Merit for the 2018-2019 Fox Chapel Area School District State of the Schools and the winter 2019 IN Fox Chapel Area Community Magazine in the publications category, for the Superintendent's Spotlight "A Car for Khaleesia" in the videos category, and for the district's website ([www.fcasd.edu](http://www.fcasd.edu)) in the website and apps category.

A total of 230 entries from educational institutions from throughout Pennsylvania were submitted for the 2019 PenSPRA contest. Fox Chapel Area School District's winning entries were coordinated by **Bonnie Berzonski**, the district's coordinator of communications, and **Jill Leonard**, the district's community engagement specialist.

PenSPRA is a nationally-recognized professional organization. PenSPRA supports student achievement through responsible school and community relations, fosters the continual development of its members, and strengthens the leadership role of school public relations professionals.

• **Elementary Music Teacher Wins State Award**

Fox Chapel Area School District elementary instrumental music teacher **Dennis Emert** was selected as the 2020 recipient of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) James R. Stewart Distinguished Service Award. The award was created to recognize outstanding service to the PMEA, reflecting the dedication and commitment demonstrated by PMEA past President Jim Stewart.

According to a letter from PMEA Executive Director Abigail Young, the award is a small token of gratitude for Mr. Emert's support and commitment to the PMEA throughout the years. Mr. Emert will be retiring at the end of the current school year after 20 years of service in the Fox Chapel Area School District. He is in his 33<sup>rd</sup> year of teaching.

"It was no surprise to me that the vote was unanimous – your dedication to PMEA and your hard work on PMEA's behalf is well known," Ms. Young said.

Fox Chapel Area School District's Executive Director of Elementary Education and Instruction, Ashley Constantine, Ed.D., said Mr. Emert's dedication to students is second-to-none.

"He is a shining example for our district, and this award is certainly well deserved," Dr. Constantine said.

Mr. Emert teaches band at Fairview and Kerr Elementary schools. He has served the PMEA as president, president-elect, and past-president of the state organization, as well as for Districts 1 and 3. He has served on the board of the PMEA for a total of 17 years. Mr. Emert was also instrumental in starting the PMEA's composition contest and served on the Eastern Division Board of the National Association for Music Education

(NAfME). He also served as the 2019 All-East Ensemble general chair for the Eastern Division NAfME Conference.

The PMEA is the Pennsylvania state-level affiliate of the NAfME. It is a nonprofit organization of more than 4,500 members dedicated to promoting the musical development of all Pennsylvanians. The NAfME is among the world's largest arts education organizations and is the only association that addresses all aspects of music education. The NAfME advocates at the local, state, and national levels; provides resources for teachers, parents, and administrators; hosts professional development events; and offers a variety of opportunities for students and teachers. The association orchestrates success for millions of students nationwide and has supported music educators at all teaching levels for more than a century.

• **Students Place in Forensic Tournaments/Some Qualify for National & State Tournaments**

—Four Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the annual M & M Forensic Tournament in Erie, Pennsylvania. The team of junior **Jackson Romero** and sophomore **Siddharth Yende** won first place in Policy Debate. The team of juniors **Hannah Jahnke** and **Annabella Zgurzynski** were awarded first place in Duo Interpretation.

The tournament, sponsored by Mercyhurst Preparatory School and McDowell High School, was held November 2, 2019, at Penn State Behrend. Approximately 140 students from 11 high schools from across Western Pennsylvania participated in the event.

—Two Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the North Allegheny Invitational Forensic Tournament. The Public Forum Debate team of senior **Boomba Nishikawa** and sophomore **Ian Mackey-Piccolo** won first place overall.

The North Allegheny Invitational Forensic Tournament was held January 11, 2020, at North Allegheny Intermediate and Senior High schools. More than 400 students representing 26 public and private high schools from Pennsylvania and West Virginia competed at the event.

—Three Fox Chapel Area High School students won first-place at the annual Michael Quinn Memorial Forensic Tournament. The Public Forum Debate team of senior **Boomba Nishikawa** and sophomore **Ian Mackey-Piccolo** won first place. Another first-place award went to sophomore **Alaina Kaslewicz** in Commentary.

The Michael Quinn Memorial Forensic Tournament was held February 15, 2020, at West Allegheny High school. More than 280 students representing 25 public and private high schools from Western Pennsylvania competed at the tournament.

—Several Fox Chapel Area High School students placed in the Pennsylvania High School Speech League's District 2 state championship-qualifying tournament. The Policy Debate team of senior **Rajeev Godse** and junior **Jackson Romero** placed second; sophomore **Siddharth Yende** won second place in Lincoln Douglas Debate; and the team of senior **Hanna Chen** and junior **Hannah Jahnke** was awarded third place in Duo Interpretation. All five of these students qualified to participate in the state tournament that was to be held March 13 & 14, 2020, at Bloomsburg University.

Approximately 160 students representing 10 public and private high schools from the northern Pittsburgh region competed in the District 2 state-qualifying tournament. The tournament was held February 22 at Pine-Richland High School.

—Eight Fox Chapel Area High School students qualified for the National Catholic Forensic League Grand National Championship Tournament.

The team of senior **Boomba Nishikawa** and sophomore **Ian Mackey-Piccolo** won first place in Public Forum Debate, the team of senior **Rajeev Godse** and junior **Jackson Romero** won second place in Policy Debate, the team of senior **Hanna Chen** and junior **Hannah Jahnke** won third place in Duo Interpretation of Literature, and the team of freshmen **Dawson Krisky** and **Marie Romero** won third place in Policy Debate. All eight of these students have advanced to represent the Pittsburgh Diocese at the Grand National Championship Tournament that was to be held in Chicago Memorial Day weekend.

The Pittsburgh Diocese Catholic Forensic League national-qualifying tournament was held February 29, 2020, at Fort Couch Middle School and was hosted by the Upper St. Clair High School Forensic Team. A total of 207 students from 18 public and private high schools from the Pittsburgh region participated in the tournament.

### •Students Place in Model UN Competitions

—Five Fox Chapel Area High School students won awards at the Annual University of Pittsburgh High School Model United Nations (UN) Conference. Senior **Zeynep Ozkaya** won a Best Delegate (first-place) award. Additionally, the team of seniors **Noah Hertzman** and **Ameya Velankar**, and juniors **Cecilia Rike** and **Abigail Rickin-Marks** were named the Best Small Delegation (first place).

Approximately 500 students from 27 public and private high schools from Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Eastern Ohio competed at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual University of Pittsburgh High School Model UN Conference. The conference was held November 4, 2019, at the University of Pittsburgh.

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.

—Seven Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the Duquesne University High School Model United Nations (DuqMUN) Conference. Junior **Jackson Romero** was one of three students to be named a “Best Delegate” from the entire competition. The Best Delegates each received scholarships to attend Duquesne University. “Outstanding Delegation” (first-place) awards went to seniors **Rajeev Godse**, **Boomba Nishikawa**, **Aaron Santilli**, and **Felix Vesper**; junior **Abigail Rickin-Marks**; and sophomore **Janise Kim**.

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

### •Students Qualify for FBLA State Competition

Several Fox Chapel Area High School students placed in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Regional Leadership Conference and qualified for the state competition. Fox Chapel Area first-place regional winners were: seniors **Jackson Boychuk**, **Samantha Dockey**, **Blair Echnat**, **Gunnar Loeffler**, **Luke O’Connor**, **Michael Prato**, and **Aaron Santilli**; juniors **Arda Akinci**, **Erin Doherty**, **Zane Gavazzi**, **Nathaniel Lazzara**, **Isabella Liberto**, and **Vivian Shao**; and sophomores **Alicia Gu**, **Paris Wohlgemuth**, and **Siddharth Yende**. Second-place regional winners were: juniors **Kaya Akinci**, **Kent Baldauf**, and **Elena Bradley**; and sophomores **Russell Fenton**, **Sydney Kennedy**, **Nathaniel Mueller**, and **Omar Shalaby**. Third-place regional winners were: senior **Shane Susnak**; sophomores **Thomas Healy**, **Kaitlyn Legge**, and **Alex Zatman**; and freshman **Sophie Shao**. Fourth-place regional winners were: senior **Gavin Hitchens**; junior **Vinisha Sant**; sophomores **Charlie Barnett**, **Louise “Elle” Coleman**, **Iona Clark**, **James Dockey**, **Elia Gillespie**, **Ashish Subedi**, and **Ryan Zatman**; and freshmen **Christopher Ernhardt**, **Molly McNaughton**, **Thomas Selwood**, **Daniel Uhl**, and **Mert Yanar**. All of these students qualified to participate in the FBLA State Leadership Conference that was to be held April 6-8, 2020, in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Also at the regional competition, Fox Chapel Area High School junior **Zoey Zoschg** was elected as the FBLA Region 13 president for the 2020-2021 school year.

The FBLA Regional Leadership Competition was held December 11, 2019, at The Fez in Hopewell Township. Approximately 400 students from schools from 14 school districts participated in the regional competition.

### •Boys Basketball Team Wins Section Title

The Fox Chapel Area High School Boys Varsity Basketball Team won the WPIAL Class 6A Section 3 championship. The team was undefeated in its section and the team members were seniors **Sam Brown**, **Will Livingston**, **Shane Susnak**, and **Arnold Vento**; juniors **Kent Baldauf**, **Alex Blaylock**, **Aaron Turner**, and **Cameron Wilson**; sophomores **Jacob DeMotte**, **James Dockey**, **Russell Fenton**, **Lorenzo Jenkins**, **Rooney McManus**, **Finn Munroe**, **John Neal**, **Samuel Slember**, and **Eli Yofan**; and freshman **William Fera**. The team’s regular season record was 21 wins and 1 loss.

### •Swimmers & Diver Excel During Regular Season and at WPIALs and States

The Fox Chapel Area High School Girls Swimming & Diving Team won the WPIAL Class AAA Section 3 championship. The team members were seniors **Gwendolyn Cullen**, **Grace Gackenbach**, **Margaret Gaddess**, **Bryn Gerlach**, **Leia Ross**, and **Angelique Uku**; juniors **Zoe Boychuk**, **Maggie Kelly**, and **Vivian Shao**; sophomores **Rachel Chang**, **Alicia Gu**, **Francesca Heidinger**, **Ariana Pasquella**, **Rei Sperry**, **Julia Stutzman**, **Mira Tramontina**, and **Lydia Turnquist**; and freshmen **Eden Brush**, **Talia Bugel**, **Davina Chang**, and **Sophie Shao**. The team was undefeated in its section.

Additionally, seven members of the Fox Chapel Area High School Swimming and Diving Team qualified for the 2020 PIAA Class AAA Swimming and Diving Championships. Sophie was named the WPIAL Class AAA champion in the 100 butterfly and qualified for the PIAA Swimming Championships, where she won another

gold medal in the 100 butterfly. The other PIAA qualifiers were the 200 medley relay team of Vivian, Rei, Talia, and Sophie; the 400 free relay team of Grace, Vivian, Talia, and Sophie; and Leia and Talia both qualified as individuals in the 100 backstroke. Additionally, junior **David Manelis** won first place at the WPIAL Class AAA Diving Championship and qualified for the PIAA championships. The WPIAL Diving Championships were held February 22 at North Allegheny High School. The WPIAL swimming championships were held February 28 & 29, at Trees Pool at the University of Pittsburgh. The PIAA Class AAA Swimming and Diving Championships were held in March at Bucknell University.

•**Indoor Track Members Qualify for States**

Six members of the Fox Chapel Area High School Indoor Track Team qualified for the Pennsylvania Track & Field Coaches Association (PTFCA) Indoor State Championships. Senior **Christian Fitch** qualified in the 3,000 meters; senior **Grace Sisson** qualified in the mile; seniors **Abigail Kieffer, Madolyn Kieffer, Brooke Krally,** and Grace qualified in the distance medley relay event; and sophomore **Nele Frank** qualified in the long jump. The state indoor championships were held March 1, 2020, at Penn State University, main campus. The students qualified based on their times/marks during the indoor track season.

•**Wrestler Wins Section Championship**

Fox Chapel Area High School wrestler, senior **Alex Wecht**, was named the 160-pound WPIAL Class AAA Section 3 champion. The section meet was held February 22, 2020, at Fox Chapel Area High School.

•**Basketball Players Chosen for Big 56 Teams/Coach Named Coach of the Year**

Four members of the boys basketball team and two members of the girls basketball team were chosen for Big 56 all-section basketball teams. Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Arnold Vento** and sophomore **Eli Yofan** were selected for the WPIAL Class 6A Section 3 boys first team; senior **Will Livingston** was named to the boys second team; and senior **Shane Susnak** received an honorable mention to the boys team. Junior **Ellie Schwartzman** was named to the WPIAL Class 6A Section 1 girls first team, and junior **Domenica Delaney** was named to the second team. The all-section teams were voted on by the coaches. Additionally, Coach **Zach Skrinjar** was named boys section coach of the year.

•**Basketball Players Selected for All-Star Teams**

Four Fox Chapel Area High School basketball players have been chosen for Valley News Dispatch all-star teams. Sophomore **Eli Yofan** was selected for the boys first team, and senior **Arnold Vento** was chosen for the second team. Junior **Ellie Schwartzman** was selected for the girls first team, and junior **Domenica Delaney** was chosen for the third team. The teams were selected by the Valley News Dispatch sports staff.

•**Student Chosen for Roundball Classic**

Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Arnold Vento** was selected for the 20<sup>th</sup> Roundball Classic. Seven games (five boys games and two girls games) make up the Roundball, and include top seniors from the WPIAL, City League, and other parts of Western Pennsylvania. The event, which is held annually at Geneva College, was canceled for this year.

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

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

August 10, 2020 – 7 p.m. – Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Business Mtg. – High School LGI Rm.

September 14, 2020 – 7 p.m. – Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Business Mtg. – HS LGI Room

October 5, 2020 – 7 p.m. – Agenda Study Session – A.W. Beattie Career Center Student Conference Center

October 12, 2020 – 7 p.m. – Regular Business Meeting – High School LGI Room

November 2, 2020 – 7 p.m. – Agenda Study Session – Kerr Elementary School Multipurpose Room

November 9, 2020 – 7 p.m. – Regular Business Meeting – High School LGI Room

Dec. 1, 2020 (Tues.) – 7 p.m. – Reorg. Mtg./Combined Agenda Study Sess. & Reg. Business Mtg. – HS LGI Rm.

## SOLICITOR’S REPORT

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** — Approved the minutes of the combined agenda study session and regular business meeting dated April 13, 2020, and the minutes of the special meeting dated April 28, 2020.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** — Anyone wishing to make a public comment was asked to connect to the remote meeting platform.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Special Counsel** — Ratified an additional payment of \$10.15 to Weiss Burkardt Kramer, LLC, special counsel to the district for a personnel matter. They were previously approved on February 10, 2020, at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.00.

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

**Finance**

**Disbursements (A)** — The general fund disbursements (Fund 10) in the amount of \$5,525,461.44 from April 1, 2020, through April 30, 2020, were approved.

**Disbursements (B)** — The GO Bond Series 2017 Construction Fund disbursements (Fund 33) in the amount of \$515,038.69 for April 2020 were approved.

**Disbursements (C)** — The capital projects fund disbursements (Fund 31) in the amount of \$1,800.00 for April 2020 were approved.

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

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

**Student Activity Financial Reports** — The third quarter 2019-2020 middle school and high school student activity financial reports were acknowledged and filed for audit.

**DQE Communications – Increased Services** — Approved the increased services to the agreement dated March 14, 2014, between the Fox Chapel Area School District and DQE Communications for additional Internet bandwidth.

**Finance Information Item** — The Board held a discussion on the 2020-2021 budget.

**Instruction**

**June 2020 Candidates for Graduation** — Approved the list of candidates for June 7, 2020, graduation submitted by the Fox Chapel Area High School principal. Candidates must meet all graduation requirements by June 6, 2020, in order to graduate and receive their diplomas.

**Legislation/Policy**

**Policy – Revised** — Approved the following revised policy: No. 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**

**Professional** — Accepted the following professional resignation:

- **Alexis F. Bergau**, elementary teacher at Kerr Elementary School, due to personal reasons, effective June 15, 2020.

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

- **Bryan J. Deal**, boys tennis assistant coach at Fox Chapel Area High School, due to personal reasons, effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school term.
- **Bryan J. Deal**, boys basketball assistant coach at Dorseyville Middle School, due to personal reasons, effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school term.
- **James M. Hastings**, football 7<sup>th</sup> assistant coach at Fox Chapel Area High School, due to personal reasons, effective March 31, 2020.
- **Ryan P. Logue**, wrestling 2<sup>nd</sup> assistant coach (50%) at Fox Chapel Area High School, due to personal reasons, effective April 21, 2020.
- **Jennifer C. Slezak**, girls tennis assistant coach at Fox Chapel Area High School, due to personal reasons, effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school term.
- **Melissa A. Spirnock**, intramurals activity sponsor 14 (25%) at Dorseyville Middle School, due to personal reasons, effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school term.
- **Robert A. Sporio**, football 5<sup>th</sup> assistant coach at Fox Chapel Area High School, due to personal reasons, effective March 31, 2020.

- **Peter A. Verhaeghe**, intramurals activity sponsor 14 (50%) at Dorseyville Middle School, due to personal reasons, effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school term.

**Leave**

**Professional** — Approved the following professional leave:

- **Sarah S. Dixon**, art teacher at Fairview Elementary School, for childrearing/ adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective May 5, 2020, with return scheduled for August 13, 2020.

**Contract**

**Extension/Retirement Agreement** — Approved a contract extension for **Nicholas Townsend**, network systems manager, for the period of July 1, 2020, through August 31, 2020, under the same terms and conditions of the contract approved on June 12, 2017, and accepted the resignation of Mr. Townsend, due to retirement, pursuant to the retirement agreement, as presented, effective September 1, 2020.

**Approve Additional Compensation** — Approved additional compensation to **Mary Catherine Reljac**, Ed.D., for training, orientation, or onboarding activities, prior to August 1, 2020, at a per diem rate, with a maximum total cost.

**Operations/Cooperative Services**

**A.W. Beattie Career Center Operating Budget Resolution** — The Fox Chapel Area School District’s share of the 2020-2021 A.W. Beattie Career Center Operating Budget was approved as set forth below, and the Board secretary was authorized to record each Board member’s vote and sign on their behalf. The A.W. Beattie Career Center Operating Budget for 2020-2021 is \$10,266,710.

	<u>Total Members Share</u>	<u>Fox Chapel Area SD Share</u>
Operating Budget	\$6,443,560	\$449,732
Debt Service Budget	<u>1,387,650</u>	<u>215,918</u>
	\$7,831,210	\$665,650

**School Board Treasurer – Appointment** — Approved the appointment of **Eric G. Hamilton** as School Board Treasurer.

**Athletic Summer Camps/Activities** — The following teams were approved to hold summer camps/activities in 2020 for athletes in the Fox Chapel Area School District, once restrictions are lifted regarding COVID-19: Fox Chapel Area Boys Baseball, Fox Chapel Area Boys/Girls Basketball, Fox Chapel Area Cheerleading, Fox Chapel Area Cross Country, Fox Chapel Area Diving, Fox Chapel Area Field Hockey, Fox Chapel Area Football, Fox Chapel Area Boys/Girls Lacrosse, Fox Chapel Area Boys/Girls Soccer, Fox Chapel Area Girls Softball, Fox Chapel Area Strength and Conditioning, Fox Chapel Area Boys/Girls Volleyball, and Fox Chapel Area Wrestling.

**Kennywood – School Picnic Date Change** — Approved the new date of Sunday, August 16, 2020, for the school picnic. The school picnic was previously approved for Wednesday, May 27, 2020, at the September 9, 2019, Board meeting.

**Approved Resuming the Kerr Construction and High School Paving Projects** — Approved resuming the Kerr construction and high school paving projects as essential projects and directed the administration and construction manager to notify contractors that they are to resume construction activities in accordance with the Guidance for Businesses in the Construction Industry Permitted to Operate During the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency issued on April 23, 2020, or such other governmental guidance or directives subsequently issued.

**Resolution 2020-5** — Approved Resolution 2020-5 authorizing the filing of an Act 13 of 2020 Mandate Waiver Request with the Pennsylvania Department of Education for compliance with Sections 1071, 1079, 1517(a), and 1517(d) of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** — Anyone wishing to make a public comment was asked to connect to the remote meeting platform.

**FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE**

**BOARD COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT** — The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 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*