



Fox Chapel Area SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 28, 2020

Dr. Lisa Rendall

Dear Dr. Rendall,

I wanted to reach out to respond to your questions pertaining to the approval of Dr. Orosz during the January 13, 2020, School Board Meeting. Dr. Orosz is a fully credentialed and qualified school psychologist that has worked with the Fox Chapel Area School District as a purchase of service employee since 2005. This item was a renewal of service agreement containing language and rates consistent with years past. Additionally, the hours worked are monitored by our Director of Special Education and Pupil Services and are only one-third of the billable time in comparison to the 2018-2019 school year. As we continue to evaluate our service offerings, we remain cognizant of not only our staffing needs, but also the quality of services provided within our district and feel that Dr. Orosz provides the highest quality given her role in the district.

As for how the contract was presented, this is due to a recommendation for future planning within the district. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, contracted services including, but not limited to, Psychological Services are not only billable but also an approved expenditure through the School-Based Medical ACCESS program. By approving school psychologist contracts as a "Health Services," we have the ability to allocate some of that cost differently in the future so that we are remaining fiscally responsible to our taxpayers.

To your final point, you are correct in the statement that our school psychologists' primary responsibility is evaluation; however, those responsibilities are continuously evolving. One example is how we are currently utilizing our school psychologists as part of the district Crisis Response Team in the role of providing direct support services for individual student or staff needs. The crisis response is specifically within our emergency response protocols in the event of some type of critical incident. This response is separate from those mandated by Safe2Say Something, as our district and building response teams are much larger than those required within that specific mandate.

Thank you for taking the time to advocate for our district, and I hope that this information provides you with the clarification you were seeking, and evidence that our intentions are to continue the highest-quality programs in the best interest of our Fox Chapel Area community.

Sincerely,

Gene Freeman, Ed.D.
Superintendent

cc: School Board

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