

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

MARCH 12, 2018

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular business meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fox Chapel Area School District was called to order by President, Terry L. Wirginis, at 7:04 p.m. on March 12, 2018, in the LGI Room at the Fox Chapel Area High School.

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

**ROLL-CALL**

The Board members present at roll call were Messrs. Mauro, Obernauer, Schmidt, Vyas, and Wirginis, Dr. Cook, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Garbisch, and Mrs. Rutkowski. Mr. Schmidt was present via telephone. Also present were Dr. Freeman, Dr. McCommons, Mr. Giuffre, and Mrs. Anuszek. Other members of the public were present.

**GUESTS**

There were no guests.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**• Seniors Candidates in Presidential Scholars Program**

Fox Chapel Area High School seniors **Alyssa DiPaolo** and **Bridget Wang** have been named candidates in the 2018 United States Presidential Scholars Program. Approximately 4,000 students from across the U.S., and 103 from Pennsylvania, have been named candidates in this year's program.

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 initially selected for the program based on academic achievement and having scored exceptionally well on the SAT or the ACT. The candidates must then complete an application which includes essays, self-assessments, and secondary school reports and transcripts. Candidates are evaluated based on their academic achievement, personal characteristics, leadership and service activities, and the quality and content of their essay.

About 800 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 expenses-paid trip to meet with government officials, educators, and other accomplished people. They will also receive the Presidential Scholars medallion at a special recognition ceremony sponsored by the White House.

**• Student Places Second in PSA Contest**

Fox Chapel Area High School sophomore **Grace Han** recently won second place in the FBI Pittsburgh's annual HOPE (Heroin Outreach Prevention and Education) PSA Contest. The competition was sponsored by the Penguins Foundation and the FBI Citizens Academy Alumni Association. For the contest, Grace created a PSA-awareness video on the dangers of choosing to use opioids in an effort to combat the crisis confronting our region. Her PSA, entitled "Know More to No More," won second place in the "People's Choice" category and featured Fox Chapel Area High School students giving facts and statistics about heroin, fentanyl, and opioid addiction. Grace was awarded a \$2,500 grant to support Fox Chapel Area High School's multimedia program, along with five VIP party suite tickets to attend the January 30 Pittsburgh Penguins' game.

Grace's award-winning video can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3fbRWTHVg&t=66s>.

The goal of the Penguins' and the FBI's partnership is to challenge youth to find creative and innovative ways to raise awareness on the dangers of fentanyl and prescription opioid abuse and heroin use. More than 40 entries were submitted from students from schools across the Pittsburgh area.

#### • Students Win Regional Scholastic Writing Awards

Nine Fox Chapel Area High School students recently won awards for their submissions to the 2018 Pittsburgh Regional Scholastic Writing Awards competition. The Silver Key winners were seniors **Cara Levicoff** and **Claudia Simon**, juniors **Margaret Fletcher** and **Emma Kazmierczak**, sophomore **Gwendolyn Davison**, and freshmen **Amara Ostroff**. The Honorable Mention winners were junior **Margaret Fletcher**, sophomores **Annika Gleason** and **Zeynep Ozkaya** (two Honorable Mentions), and freshmen **Allison Carey**.

More than 400 entries, spanning a variety of different genres of writing, were received from students from across Allegheny County. The winning students were recognized at the Regional Writing Awards Ceremony February 24 that was held in the Frick Fine Arts Auditorium at the University of Pittsburgh. Excerpts from their work were also displayed at the ceremony.

The local competition is sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Writing Project. The Project is a non-profit, teacher-centered professional development program serving area schools and students for nearly 30 years. It is hosted by the University of Pittsburgh's School of Education and is a long-standing affiliate of the National Writing Project. The group partners with schools and community organizations in its efforts to strengthen academic and public literacy.

#### • Students Win Scholastic Art Awards

Several Fox Chapel Area School District students recently won awards for their entries in the regional Scholastic Art Awards of 2018.

The Fox Chapel Area High School Silver Key winners were seniors **Elizabeth Kauma** (two Silver Keys), **Sydnee Pilarski**, **Kezia Rebeiz**, and **Cara Sauers**; juniors **Victoria Brokaw** (two Silver Keys), **Emma Kazmierczak** (two Silver Keys), **Sofia Porter Bacon** (two Silver Keys), **Madeline Richards**, **Sarah Sinnott**, **Chelsea Taylor**, **Seo Yeon Wang**, **Ziya Xu**, and **Hosoo Yoo**; sophomores **Leia Ross** and **Anzu Sekikawa**; and freshmen **Madelyn Francis** and **Maximus McQuarrie**. Silver Keys were also won by Dorseyville Middle School eighth graders **Alexa Berman** (two Silver Keys) and **Uma Muzumdar**.

The Fox Chapel Area Honorable Mention winners were seniors **Madelyn Flanagan**, **Taylor Grandizio**, **Madeline Macek**, **Lea Prato**, and **Kezia Rebeiz**; juniors **Paige Johnson**, **Emma Kazmierczak**, **Madeline Richards**, **Seo Yeon Wang**, and **Hosoo Yoo**; sophomores **Hannah Drum** (two Honorable Mentions) and **Adam Whysong**; and freshmen **Ava Kazmierczak** (three Honorable Mentions), **Emily Li**, **Jessica McCann**, and **Wenyu Zuo**.

The regional award winners were selected by a panel of distinguished judges which included artists, art educators, and art professionals.

The Fox Chapel Area High School art teachers are **Ron Frank**, **Joan Marangoni**, **Jody Shell**, **Christine Smith**, **Sarah Stewart**, and **Amy Wickman**.

#### • Student Places Third at Hampton Forensic Tournament

A Fox Chapel Area High School student recently placed at the inaugural Hampton Talbot Forensic Tournament. Junior **Jonah Green** was recognized as the "Merit Speaker" (equivalent to third place) in Student Congress.

The tournament was held February 3, 2018, at Hampton High School. Approximately 290 students from 24 high schools from across Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia participated in the tournament.

• **Students Place at Duquesne Model UN Conference**

Six Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the Duquesne University Model United Nations (UN) Conference. Second-place awards went to juniors **Isabella Boleng**, **Tristan McClelland**, and **Ziya Xu** and sophomores **Hanna Chen**, **Rajeev Godse**, and **Olivia Tang**.

The conference was held January 26, 2018, at Duquesne University and 350 students from 21 high schools in the greater Pittsburgh area 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.

• **Students Named to All-Star Basketball Teams**

Five Fox Chapel Area High School students have been named to all-section basketball teams. Seniors **Carson Cohen** and **Dom McGriff** were named to the WPIAL Class 6A Section 3 First Team. Junior **Ben Kelly** was named to the second team. Senior **Claudia Guerrieri** was named to the WPIAL Class 6A Section 2 First Team and senior **Sarah Sheerer** was named to the second team.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

There was no report.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Wirginis asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the regular business meeting dated February 12, 2018. On motion by Mrs. Garbisch and seconded by Mr. Obernauer, the minutes were approved as submitted, with Mrs. Foster abstaining.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Wirginis stated that the Board has taken into consideration all concerns from the community regarding the proposed Dorseyville Middle School schedule changes.

There were 10 comments.

1. Janine Cody, 945 Old Mill Road, Cheswick, PA, 15024, commented on the proposed Dorseyville Middle School schedule changes. She shared positive support for the plan and talked about how she does not support how the community is reacting to the plan. She said she has concerns about several aspects of the plan, but wants success and a positive experience for the kids.
2. Kezia Rebeiz, 400 Brilliant Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA, 15215, a senior at Fox Chapel Area High School, commented on the proposed Dorseyville Middle School schedule changes. She talked about her positive experiences in high school and middle school. She said there should not be more focus on standardized testing. She said she hopes the Board will reconsider the schedule changes and make a decision that represents the whole community.
3. Robert Sroufe, 132 Riverwatch Drive, Pittsburgh, PA, 15238, commented on the proposed Dorseyville Middle School schedule changes. He said he needs more evidence and trust to be able to support the changes. He said if this moves forward, he asks for more transparency so that people can be better informed and get behind the Board instead of being adversarial.

4. Luke Patsey, 118 Westchester Place, Pittsburgh, PA, 15215, a parent of two children in the district, commented on the proposed Dorseyville Middle School schedule changes. He said he is not opposed to adding more time for math and science but does oppose of moving forward because of the process that has taken place. He said the proposed schedule change is not ready to move forward and asked the Board to slow down and leverage people in the district to reach a better solution.
5. Will Adams, 75 Dietrich Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15238, a parent of two children, one at Dorseyville Middle School and one at Fairview Elementary School, commented on the proposed Dorseyville Middle School schedule changes. He said he is concerned about the content and the process of the proposal. He said some changes are needed but spoke about the basic philosophy of what a middle school should provide and does not want the children to lose out. He said it would be better to slow down, and said this is not just a schedule change but a curriculum change.
6. Elia Gillespie, 212 Falconhurst Drive, Pittsburgh, PA, 15238, an eighth grader at the middle school, commented on the proposed Dorseyville Middle School schedule changes. She said 80 minutes for math was too long and intervention is, overall, not a positive experience. She talked about her positive experiences at the middle school. She said she hopes the Board reconsiders so that students are not closed off from experiences she has had.
7. Serena Smith, 251 Clifford Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA, 15238, a senior at Fox Chapel Area High School, commented on the proposed Dorseyville Middle School schedule changes. She said she has always been very proud to be from Fox Chapel, but has recently lost some of her pride in the district. She spoke about the equal amount of exposure to classes students receive at the middle school, and that this should continue. She also spoke about the amazing music program at the district and hopes it is not taken away.
8. Deborah Brenner Brown, 218 E Waldheim Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15215, a parent of an eighth grader, a rising sixth grader, and a son who will be entering kindergarten, commented on the proposed Dorseyville Middle School schedule changes. She thanked the Board for their service to the community but asked for more time to consider the proposed changes. She spoke about concerns regarding the 80-minute class time, whether there is a need for growth in test scores, and the loss of time in social studies.
9. Kelly Caracciolo, 127 Woodshire Drive, Pittsburgh, PA, 15215, commented on the proposed Dorseyville Middle School schedule changes. She said the community's trust in the administration and Board has been strained, but it isn't too late to repair that. She said the process is broken, and that the parents should be involved. She asked the Board to delay the proposed change and bring in all stakeholders to work together.
10. Alison Persichetti, 3112 Westchester Drive, Pittsburgh, PA, 15238, commented on the proposed Dorseyville Middle School schedule changes. She talked about the wonderful class memories that her seventh grade daughter will have from the middle school, and that her fifth grade daughter will not have these. She said the proposed changes will reduce exposure for students to make these memories, and that students will not remember taking standardized tests. She asked the Board to slow down the process and examine options from a broader group.

#### **FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION**

Mrs. Lang said FCEA will be working with Dorseyville Middle School teachers and administration regarding the proposed schedule changes. She said the association will openly and honestly share their opinions and thoughts about what is best for the students and asked the public to trust them. She said the concerns of the parents, the teachers, and the administration will all be part of the developmental process from this point on. She asked the parents to give the process time to move forward in the right direction.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Dorseyville Middle School Schedule**

Dr. Cook moved that action be taken to set up a Board review and vote on the planned changes in instructional time, in order to assess their impact on all of our educational offerings and to consider the community concerns. Dr. Cook clarified that by instructional time, she is going from the presentation materials that were given about the schedule changes bundled up with the curricular changes. There was no second. There being no second, the motion failed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

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

**FACILITIES/TRANSPORTATION**

**A. Facilities/Transportation**

No action is requested.

**FINANCE**

**B. Finance**

On motion by Mr. Mauro and seconded by Mrs. Garbisch, it was resolved to approve the following Finance items, with 8 in favor and 0 opposed, and Dr. Cook abstaining:

**1. Disbursements (A)**

General fund disbursements (Fund 10), in the amount of \$6,272,646.55 from February 1, 2018, through February 28, 2018, are approved.

**2. Disbursements (B)**

GO Bond Series 2013 Construction Fund disbursements (Fund 33) in the amount of \$811,040.88 for February 2018 are approved.

**3. Finance Report**

The finance report for January 2018 is acknowledged and filed for audit.

**4. Budget Transfers**

The budget transfers for 2017-2018 are approved.

**5. 2018-2019 Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium Rates – Information**

The Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium approved rates are effective July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019. The Community Blue Flex PPO and EPO rate increase is 1.9%. The United Concordia Flex and Davis Vision rate increase is 0%.

<u>Monthly Coverage</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Parent/Child</u>	<u>Parent/Children</u>	<u>Employee/Spouse</u>	<u>Family</u>
Community Blue Flex PPO	\$597.12	\$1,338.77	\$1,472.65	\$1,622.14	\$1,686.58
Community Blue Flex EPO	\$557.82	\$1,251.21	\$1,376.30	\$1,515.38	\$1,575.67
United Concordia Flex	\$ 26.71				\$ 87.81
Davis Vision	\$ 4.88				\$ 11.92

## INSTRUCTION

### C. Instruction

#### **New Instruction Motion – Follow Board Policy 107**

Dr. Cook moved that we follow Board Policy 107 Adoption of Planned Instruction which instructs that the Board shall provide a comprehensive program of planned instruction to enable district students to strive for educational goals and attain academic standards. There was no second. There being no second, the motion failed.

#### **New Instruction Motion – Separate Item C. 1.**

Mr. Mauro moved that Instruction Item C. 1. be moved first, be seconded, discussed, and voted upon, and that Instruction Items C. 2., 3., 4., and 5. be moved together as a second motion. Mrs. Garbisch seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

On motion by Mr. Obernauer and seconded by Mrs. Garbisch, it was resolved to approve the following Instruction Item C. 1., with 8 in favor and 1 opposed, Dr. Cook voting No:

#### **1. Dorseyville Middle School Schedule**

Authorize the superintendent or his designee to modify the Dorseyville Middle School schedule for the 2018-2019 school year.

On motion by Mr. Obernauer and seconded by Mrs. Garbisch, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Instruction Items C. 2., 3., 4., and 5.:

#### **2. 2018-2019 School District Calendar**

Approve the 2018-2019 school district calendar.

#### **3. Allegheny Intermediate Unit – 2018-2019 Services Agreement**

Approve the 2018-2019 services agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for specialized educational services.

#### **4. Allegheny Intermediate Unit Notice of Adoption of Policies, Procedures, and Use of Funds**

Approve the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Notice of Adoption of Policies, Procedures, and Use of Funds.

#### **5. Allegheny Intermediate Unit – IDEA-Part B Use of Funds Agreement**

Approve the subgrant agreement for Implementation of Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) – Part B between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the period July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019.

## LEGISLATION/POLICY

### D. Legislation/Policy

No action is requested.

**PERSONNEL**

**E. Personnel**

On motion by Mrs. Rutkowski and seconded by Mrs. Garbisch, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Personnel items:

*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.*

**1. Resignations**

**a. Professional**

- (1) The resignation of Katelyn R. Deet, elementary teacher at O'Hara Elementary School, due to personal reasons, is accepted with the effective date to be determined.

**b. Supplemental Contracts – Athletics**

- (1) The resignation of Geoff Dutelle, high school girls' lacrosse 2nd assistant coach, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective March 5, 2018.
- (2) The resignation of Scott Vensel, football middle school assistant coach, due to personal reasons, is accepted effective February 21, 2018.

**2. Leaves**

**a. Professional**

- (1) Gabrielle R. Abati, elementary teacher at O'Hara Elementary School, is approved for childrearing/adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective March 22, 2018, with return scheduled for the first day of the 2018-2019 school term.
- (2) Katelyn A. Werner, elementary teacher at O'Hara Elementary School, is approved for childrearing/adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective April 2, 2018, with return scheduled for the first day of the 2018-2019 school term.

**3. Appointment**

**a. Supplemental Contract – Athletics**

- (1) The following athletic supplemental contract is ratified for the 2017-2018 school term:

Abigail Dorrance	Girls' Lacrosse 2nd Assistant – HS	\$3,255
------------------	------------------------------------	---------

**4. Change of Status**

**a. Educational Support**

- (1) Marcy L. Klaas, personal care assistant at Dorseyville Middle School, is ratified as an instructional assistant at Dorseyville Middle School, effective March 5, 2018. Salary is set at \$18.91/hour based on the salary scale for instructional assistants, 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 Nanette Campbell.

**5. Summer Programs**

**a. Elementary**

- (1) Audrey Marie Masci is approved as the Elementary Summer Learning Academy program facilitator at a rate of \$30.00 per hour not to exceed 170 hours.

**b. Middle School**

- (1) Breanne DeComo is approved as the Middle School Summer Learning Academy program facilitator at a rate of \$30.00 per hour not to exceed 170 hours.
- (2) Joseph Eisel is approved as the Middle School Summer Learning Academy project-based learning facilitator at a rate of \$30.00 per hour not to exceed 150 hours.

**c. STEAM Camp**

- (1) Susan Kreit is approved as the Summer STEAM Camp program facilitator at a rate of \$30.00 per hour not to exceed 115 hours.

**6. Athletics – Substitute Athletic Trainer**

- a. Melissa Ebig is ratified as a substitute certified athletic trainer, effective February 28, 2018, at rate of \$25.00 per hour.

**OPERATIONS/COOPERATIVE SERVICES**

**E. Operations/Cooperative Services**

On motion by Mrs. Garbisch and seconded by Mrs. Foster, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Operations/Cooperative Services items:

**1. Change Order – Dorseyville Middle School Alterations Project**

Approve change order GC-010 at a cost of \$22,674.99 for the Dorseyville Middle School alterations project pending PDE approval of Plancon Part I. This change order was reviewed and approved by the Fox Chapel Area School Authority Board.

**2. Change Order – Fairview Elementary School Alterations Project**

Approve change order GC-008 at a cost of \$1,647.95 for the Fairview Elementary School alterations project. This change order was reviewed and approved by the Fox Chapel Area School Authority Board.

**3. Authorization to Advertise for Bids – Kerr Elementary School Project**

Authorize the advertisement of bids for the Kerr Elementary School project.

**4. Fox Chapel Killer Whales, Inc. – Agreement and Lease**

Approve the agreement and lease between the Fox Chapel Area School District and the Fox Chapel Killer Whales, Inc. effective September 1, 2018. The annual rent shall be \$18,000.00, plus the lessee shall reimburse the district for additional custodial costs if needed.



**5. Donation – Indoor Cycle**

Accept the donation of a Keiser M3 Plus indoor cycle to the Fox Chapel Area School District athletic training room with a current value of \$1,090.00 from the Livingston family.

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE**

There was no report.

**FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE**

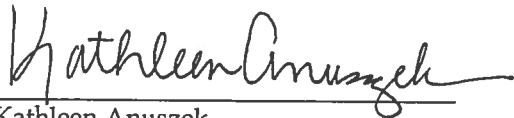
Mr. Frank echoed the comments of Mrs. Lang. He said FCEA welcomes the public comments and praise. He thanked the Board and administration for inviting FCEA into the process, and said they take that responsibility very seriously.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Five Board members commented. Dr. Cook said it is great to see parents, community members, and students at the meeting, and that moving forward she hopes we can invite student input so that they have a say in what happens in the district. Dr. Vyas agrees with Dr. Cook and welcomes student comments. Mrs. Garbisch agrees with Dr. Vyas, loves to hear the kids talk, and that they should have more input than anyone else. Mr. Mauro thanked Mrs. Lang and Mr. Frank for their comments and good work moving forward. Mrs. Foster thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She said the Board appreciates and listens to their input, has full faith in the administration to do what is best for the students in the district, appreciates that the teachers will be working with the administration, and looks forward to developing a great program moving forward.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.



Kathleen Anuszek  
Board Secretary