

April 9, 2018

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** — The Board of School Directors of the Fox Chapel Area School District held its combined agenda study session and regular business meeting at Fox Chapel Area High School April 9, 2018. President Terry L. Wirginis called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Also in attendance were Vice President Nancy B. Foster; Assistant Secretary Sandra M. Garbisch; Treasurer Robert Mauro; Edith L. Cook, Ph.D.; Somer Obernauer Jr.; Lisa M. Rutkowski; Eric C. Schmidt; and Dharmesh Vyas, M.D., Ph.D.

## GUESTS

**Certificates of Merit** — The Board presented certificates of merit to the following students:

•Nine Fox Chapel Area School District elementary students were recently selected to perform at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 Elementary String Festival. The participating Fox Chapel Area students were Fairview Elementary School fifth grader **Jeremy Lee**; Hartwood Elementary School fifth graders **Rayna Huang** and **JinLiang Zhang**; Kerr Elementary School fifth graders **Malik Choset**, **Daniel Kwiatkowski**, and **Mya Wilson**; and O'Hara Elementary School fifth graders **Anna Delale-O'Connor**, **Hyunoh Ro**, and **Sarah Voigt**.

The festival included more than 130 of the best fifth and sixth grade string players from Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties. The students practiced together, participated in master classes, and performed a concert March 2, 2018, at North Hills Middle School under the direction of guest conductor Dr. Stephen Benham. Dr. Benham is an associate professor of music education and director of graduate studies at the Mary Pappert School of Music at Duquesne University.

•Six members of the Fox Chapel Area High School Swimming and Diving Team qualified for the 2018 PIAA Swimming and Diving Championships. Senior **Joslyn Filo** qualified in the girls 100 butterfly and the team of Joslyn, senior **Molly Wiese**, and sophomores **Jaclyn Filo** and **Grace Gackebach** qualified in the 200-medley relay. Additionally, junior **Jonah Cagley** won first place in the WPIAL Diving Championships and freshman **David Manelis** won third place and both qualified for PIAAs. The PIAA championships were held March 14-17 at Bucknell University.

•The Fox Chapel Area High School Boys' Varsity Basketball Team recently qualified to participate in the PIAA Class 6A Playoffs. The team members were seniors **Carson Cohen**, **Domanic McGriff**, **Micah Morris**, **Justin Supsura**, **Sai Yarlagadda**, and **Joseph Zappala**; juniors **Bennett Kelly**, **Ryan Kerr**, **Noah Marks**, and **Kenyon Weis**; sophomores **Samuel Brown**, **William Generett**, **Brendan Kelly**, **Will Livingston**, **Matthew Mattioli**, **Shane Susnak**, **Brevin Urso**, and **Arnold Vento**; and freshmen **Kent Baldauf** and **Lyle Blaylock**. The team's overall record was 17 wins and seven losses.

•The Fox Chapel Area High School Girls' Fencing Team recently won first place at the Pittsburgh Interscholastic Fencing Association (PIFA) Championships. The team members were senior **Bridget Wang**, junior **Katherine Palumbo**, and sophomores **Hanna Chen** and **Serena Fisher**. Other members of the team were sophomore **Christiana Paljug** and freshmen **Suparna Agrawal**, **Ilhaam Husain**, and **Emily Li**. The championships were held March 2, 2018, at Oakland Catholic High School.

•A member of the Fox Chapel Area High School Varsity Wrestling Team recently won section honors. Sophomore **Donovan Cutchember** was named the WPIAL Class AAA Section 3 champion in the 220-pound weight class.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**School Board Safety Representative** — Mr. Schmidt

**Enrollment and Fire Drills** — Received the enrollment and fire drills report.

**Textbooks for Review** — The following textbooks will be recommended for approval at the May 7, 2018, Board meeting. They will be available for review until May 7, 2018, in the administrative offices:

- Fox Chapel Area High School – Updated copyright of current textbook: “The Americans” by Gerald A. Danzer, Jorge J. Klor de Alva, Larry S. Krieger, Louis E. Wilson, and Nancy Woloch; Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; updated Copyright 2017; for US History III Grade 11.
- Fox Chapel Area High School – New textbooks for adoption: “American Government and Politics Today” by Steffen W. Schmidt, Mack C. Shelley II, and Barbara A. Bardes; Publisher: Cengage Learning, Inc.; Copyright 2018-2019; for Modern American Society Grade 12 and “Essential Speech” by Rudolph F. Verderber, Kathleen S. Verderber, and Deanna D. Sellnous; Publisher: South-Western Cengage Learning; Copyright 2011; for Public Speaking Grades 10-12.

## Information

### •Students Win Awards at Regional PJAS Competition

Several Fox Chapel Area students recently won second- and third-place awards at the 84th Annual Region 7 Meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS).

Fox Chapel Area second place winners were: junior **Ji-Yool Moon**, sophomores **Hanna Chen** and **Serena Fisher**, freshmen **Dong Hyun Shin** and **Nishi Thawani**, and eighth graders **Nathaniel Mueller** and **Shrivardhan Thada**. The Fox Chapel Area third place winner was eighth grader **Connor Zakin**.

The following Fox Chapel Area High School students received these special awards in addition to their place awards: junior **Kathryn Schwartzman** received a Perfect Score Award and a Duquesne University Provost Merit Award; junior **Gina Wang** won a Duquesne University School of Health Sciences Award; Hanna Chen received a Society of Women Engineers' Award; sophomore **Rajeev Godse** won a Duquesne University Program in Forensic Science and Law Award; and freshman **Sanjay Seshan** won an Innovation Works Award, an American Vacuum Society–Western PA Chapter Award, and an American Society of Civil Engineers–Pittsburgh Section Award.

The following Dorseyville Middle School students received these special awards in addition to their first-place awards: eighth grader **Mona Gerges** received a Perfect Score Award, a PJAS Directors Award for Middle School Biology, and an Allegheny-Erie Society for Toxicology Award; eighth grader **Zoe Lakkis** won a Carnegie-Mellon Chapter of Sigma Xi Middle School Researcher Award; and seventh grader **Arvind Seshan** received a Perfect Score 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 3.

### •DMS Students Place in Science Bowl

A team of Dorseyville Middle School eighth grade students recently placed first in its division at the 2018 Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Science Bowl. The division-winning team included **Janise Kim**, **Nathaniel Mueller**, **Shrivardhan Thada**, **Theodor Urban**, and **Siddharth Yende**. The team went on to the finals where they finished fourth among all middle school teams in Southwestern Pennsylvania and received a \$500 prize.

Additionally, the DMS sixth and seventh grade teams also placed. The sixth-grade team placed second in its division. The team members were **Lucas Gravina**, **Eric Pil**, **Lakshanya Rajaganapathi**, **Claudia Smith**, and **Aditya Thirumula**. The DMS seventh grade team placed fifth in its division. The team members were **Elijah Conklin**, **Sonny Hur**, **Ananth Kashyap**, **Kevin Quinn**, and **Arvind Seshan**.

The Science Bowl, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) in South Park, was held at Community College of Allegheny County–South Campus on March 3, 2018. The DMS students competed against a total of 32 teams in four divisions and the winner of each division advanced to the finals.

### •Students Place in Pittsburgh Diocesan Tournament

Two Fox Chapel Area High School students recently placed in their events at the Pittsburgh Diocesan Qualifying Tournament for the National Catholic Forensic League Grand National Championship Tournament. The team of senior **Albert Liu** and sophomore **Hanna Chen** won seventh place in Duo Interpretation of Literature and they are the second alternates to the national tournament. The Grand National Championship Tournament will be held May 26 & 27, 2018, in Washington, D.C.

The Pittsburgh Diocese Catholic Forensic League national-qualifying tournament was held March 3 at Fort Couch Middle School in the Upper St. Clair School District. Approximately 215 students from 20 high schools from the Pittsburgh region participated in the tournament.

### •High School Students Place in State-Qualifying Forensic Tournament

Eleven Fox Chapel Area High School students placed in the Pennsylvania High School Speech League's (PHSSL) District 2 state championship-qualifying tournament. The following students served as alternates to the state championships: sophomore **Rajeev Godse** placed third in Lincoln-Douglas Debate and was the first alternate to the state tournament; sophomore **Hanna Chen** placed fourth in Extemporaneous Speaking and

was the second alternate to states; junior **Jonah Green** won fifth place in the Senate and was the second alternate to the state championships; and the team of seniors **Karissa Becer** and **Tom Ng** and sophomore **Boomba Nishikawa** placed fifth in Parliamentary Debate and was the second alternate team to states. The state tournament was held March 16 & 17, 2018, at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania.

The following five students also placed at the tournament: junior **Grace Stasolla** won fifth place in Poetry; sophomore **Evan Gu** placed fifth in Extemporaneous Speaking; freshman **Jackson Romero** won fifth place in Lincoln-Douglas Debate; and the team of sophomores **Jackson Boychuk** and **J. Oliver Choo** won fifth place in Public Forum Debate.

Approximately 180 students representing 14 high schools from Allegheny, Beaver, and Butler counties competed in the District 2 state-qualifying tournament. The tournament was held February 24 at Pine-Richland High School.

**•Student Selected for Charity Basketball Game**

Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Carson Cohen** was chosen to play in a charity basketball game. Carson was selected for the ITPS Cancer Sucks Charity Classic. The games, played at Chatham University March 31, 2018, pitted Pennsylvania players against West Virginia players and raised money for cancer research.

**•School District to Hold Safety Meeting – April 16**

The Fox Chapel Area School District is hosting a meeting to address school safety. The meeting will include information from administrators, local police chiefs, and the district's school resource officers. Topics discussed will include the training the district utilizes and programs the district has in place to keep students safe.

The meeting will be held Monday, April 16, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fox Chapel Area High School large group instruction room. All parents and interested district residents are encouraged to attend.

**•Transfinder Bell Time Study**

The school district was asked by some parents to explore later start times for high school students. The results of a study that was conducted by an independent party (Transfinder) related to the impact that a later start time would have on district busing are posted on the district's website ([www.fcasd.edu](http://www.fcasd.edu)) under "Feature Stories."

**•March 21 Resource Planning Committee Meeting Report**

The Fox Chapel Area School District Resource Planning Committee met on March 21, 2018. A review of the budget summary was presented. This included:

—For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the district ended with a positive \$760,943 between total revenue and total expenditures. While the original budget for 2016-2017 estimated a deficit of \$2 million, the district was able to end with a positive due to a number of factors including utilization of ACCESS funds, alternative revenue streams, and initiating stricter protocols in purchasing mid-year.

—For 2017-2018, the district is projecting ending the year with a positive \$416,867. This is a result of another utilization of ACCESS funds, continued tightening of purchasing protocols, and alternative revenue streams. The 2017-2018 expenditures include a one-time textbook adoption cost of over \$1 million and there will be a \$500,000 drawdown from the PSERS (Public School Employees' Retirement System) committed fund balance at year end.

The Fox Chapel Area School District Resource Planning Committee is a group of district residents and employees with expertise and interest in financial matters that meets several times a year, especially around budget time. This group reviews the budget with district administrators and they make a recommendation to the School Board on the yearly budget. The group includes district administrators, School Board members, teachers, and community members.

**•School Authority Board Recommends Repaving**

The Fox Chapel Area School Authority Board has recommended repaving some of the school parking lots. The parking lots that will be repaved are Fairview Elementary School and the Hartwood Elementary/Dorseyville Middle School lots. The work will be done this summer.

The Fox Chapel Area School Authority Board is a group of district residents with construction, management, business, legal, and finance backgrounds. The group works very closely with the administration and Board of School Directors to help manage any renovation and construction processes.

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

May 7, 2018 – 7 p.m. – Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Business Meeting – DMS Auditorium

June 4, 2018 – 7 p.m. – Agenda Study Session – O’Hara Elementary School Auditorium

June 11, 2018 – 7 p.m. – Regular Business Meeting – High School LGI Room

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** — Approved the minutes of the regular business meeting dated March 12, 2018.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**Finance**

**Disbursements (A)** — General fund disbursements (Fund 10), in the amount of \$10,448,232.62 from March 1, 2018, through March 31, 2018, were approved.

**Disbursements (B)** — GO Bond Series 2013 Construction Fund disbursements (Fund 33) in the amount of \$476,851.41 for March 2018 were approved.

**Finance Report** — The finance report for February 2018 was acknowledged and filed for audit.

**Budget Transfers** — Several budget transfers for 2017-2018 were approved.

**Tax Collectors’ Depositories** — The following depositories for real estate elected tax collectors were approved as recommended by the appropriate elected official: Aspinwall Borough – Dawn Eastley – Farmers National Bank, Blawnox Borough – Kathleen Ulanowicz – Standard Bank, Indiana Township – Julie Leventry – PNC Bank, and Sharpsburg Borough – Patricia Hyatt – North West Savings Bank. The Board of School Directors must approve the depositories for real estate elected tax collectors annually.

**Deputy Tax Collectors** — In accordance with Act 164 of 2014, approved the appointment of the following deputy tax collectors effective immediately: Blawnox Borough – Robert Ulanowicz, Indiana Township – Marion Carson, and Sharpsburg Borough – Robert E. Brose Jr.

**Award of Bids – Athletic** — The administration was authorized to award the following bids for the 2018-2019 school year:

- Athletic Supplies Bids – Fall and Winter – BSN Sports, P.O. Box 49, Jenkintown, PA 19046 – \$2,559.09; Century Sports, 115 E. McMurray Road, McMurray, PA 15317 – \$26,881.16; Pyramid School Products, 6510 N. 54th Street, Tampa, FL 33610 – \$1,319.35; and VS Athletics, ATTN: Nash Oven, 101 West Wind Drive, Moon Township, PA 15108 – \$64.00.
- Athletic Medical Supplies Bids – Medco Supply, 500 Fillmore Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150 – \$1,821.77 and Henry Schein, 135 Duryea Road, Melville, NY 11747 – \$547.95.

**Instruction**

**Wesley Spectrum – Agreement** — Ratified the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Wesley Spectrum for the child/adolescent partial hospital program effective March 19, 2018, through June 30, 2018.

**Cares of Western PA – Transition Services Agreement** — Approved the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Cares of Western PA for transition services for an unnamed student effective May 1, 2018.

**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 resignations:

- **René B. Mills**, speech and language impaired teacher at O’Hara Elementary School, due to personal reasons, effective May 14, 2018.

- **Megan M. Reid**, elementary teacher at O'Hara Elementary School, due to personal reasons, effective March 26, 2018.

**Custodial/Maintenance** — Accepted the following custodial resignation:

- **Karon J. Henderson**, 10-month custodian at Fairview Elementary School, due to personal reasons, effective March 20, 2018.

**Nutrition Center** — Accepted the following nutrition center resignation:

- **Deborah S. Stiokis**, nutrition center employee at Fox Chapel Area High School, due to retirement, effective March 23, 2018.

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

- **Sallie A. Kaan**, Back On Track sponsor at Dorseyville Middle School, due to retirement, at the end of the 2017-2018 school term.
- **Aleta M. McBriar**, middle school fall/winter cheerleading head coach (50%), due to personal reasons, effective March 21, 2018.
- **Shelley A. Zottola**, middle school fall/winter cheerleading head coach (50%), due to personal reasons, effective March 21, 2018.

**Supplemental Contract – Non-Athletic** — Accepted the following non-athletic supplemental contract resignation:

- **Sallie A. Kaan**, mathematics department head at Dorseyville Middle School, due to retirement, effective at the end of the 2017-2018 school term.

**Leaves**

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

- **Christina E. Congalton**, business education teacher at Fox Chapel Area High School, for child-rearing/adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective April 13, 2018, with return scheduled for January 18, 2019.
- **Breane M. DeComo**, mathematics teacher at Dorseyville Middle School, for child-rearing/adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective May 18, 2018, with return scheduled for July 2, 2018, for the middle school Summer Learning Academy.
- **Sarah R. Jones**, elementary teacher at Fairview Elementary School, for child-rearing/adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective May 18, 2018, with return scheduled for August 16, 2018.
- **Marguerite A. Kistler**, reading specialist at Kerr Elementary School, for a first-semester educational sabbatical, effective August 16, 2018, with return scheduled for January 18, 2019.
- **Jessica M. Papariello**, biology teacher at Fox Chapel Area High School, for child-rearing/adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective April 21, 2018, with return scheduled for October 26, 2018.
- **Kelli L. Schneider**, literacy teacher at Dorseyville Middle School, for a one-year educational sabbatical, effective August 16, 2018, with return scheduled for the first day of the 2019-2020 school year.

**Appointments**

**Educational Support** — Ratified the following appointments:

- **Michelle J. Couch** as a personal care assistant at Dorseyville Middle School, effective March 19, 2018. Hourly salary was set based on the salary scale for Personal Care Assistants, Step 1, with benefits as per the Fox Chapel Area Education Support Professionals Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. This position is available due to the transfer of **Marcy Klaas**.
- **LaKayla J. Irish** as a personal care assistant at Fairview Elementary School, effective March 22, 2018. Hourly salary was set based on the salary scale for Personal Care Assistants, Step 1, with benefits as per the Fox Chapel Area Education Support Professionals Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. This position is available due to increased enrollment.

**Change of Status**

**Leave Replacement – Professional** — Ratified the following professional change of status:

- **Maria C. Ricci**, elementary leave replacement teacher at O'Hara Elementary School, previously approved effective August 21, 2017, through April 2, 2018, for an extension effective April 3, 2018, through the day after the last day for students for the 2017-2018 school term. This position is available due to the resignation of **Megan Reid**.

## Extra Innings

**Substitute Teacher** — Ratified the following Extra Innings substitute teacher:

- **Katelyn Werner** as an Extra Innings substitute teacher for the 2017-2018 school term at an hourly rate.

**Volunteer – Athletic** — The following athletic volunteer was ratified, effective March 5, 2018: **Julia Paule** – Boys’ and Girls’ Track – HS.

## Operations/Cooperative Services

**District Comprehensive Plan** — Authorized the superintendent or his designee to engage the Hill Group, Inc., as consultants on developing the Pennsylvania Department of Education-required District Comprehensive Plan for July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2023.

**Change Orders – O’Hara Elementary School Alterations Project** — Approved change orders EC-003 and EC-004 at a total cost of \$7,087.00 for the O’Hara Elementary School alterations project pending PDE approval of Plancon Part I. These change orders were reviewed and approved by the Fox Chapel Area School Authority Board.

**Authorization to Advertise for Bids – Fairview Elementary School Exterior Doors** — Authorized the advertisement of bids for the replacement of all exterior doors at Fairview Elementary School. This was reviewed and approved by the Fox Chapel Area School Authority Board.

**Authorization to Advertise for Bids – Fairview Elementary School Campus Parking Lots, Sidewalks, Related Storm Water Drains, and Lighting Improvements** — Authorized the advertisement of bids for the replacement of parking lots, sidewalks, related storm water drains, and lighting improvements at the Fairview Elementary School campus. This was reviewed and approved by the Fox Chapel Area School Authority Board.

**Authorization to Advertise for Bids – Hartwood Elementary School and Dorseyville Middle School Campus Parking Lots, Sidewalks, Related Storm Water Drains, and Lighting Improvements** — Authorized the advertisement of bids for the replacement of parking lots, sidewalks, related storm water drains, and lighting improvements at the Hartwood Elementary School and Dorseyville Middle School campus. This was reviewed and approved by the Fox Chapel Area School Authority Board.

**Fox Chapel Area School Authority Board – Resignation** — Accepted, with regret, the resignation of **Jeffrey Klamut, Esq.**, Fox Chapel Area School Authority Board member, due to personal reasons, effective March 16, 2018.

**IN Community Magazines, Inc. – Agreement** — Approved the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and IN Community Magazines, Inc. beginning July 1, 2018, and ending on June 30, 2020.

**Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium School Board Trustee Position** — Approved the vote for **Patrick Stewart** to serve as a school board trustee for the northern region, for a two-year period, effective April 30, 2018, for the Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium.

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE

## FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

## BOARD COMMENTS

**ADJOURNMENT** — The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 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