

October 17, 2016

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 October 17, 2016. President Terry L. Wirginis called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Also in attendance were Vice President Nancy B. Foster, Treasurer Joel R. Weinstein, Robert Mauro, Somer Obernauer Jr., Lisa M. Rutkowski, and Eric C. Schmidt.

GUESTS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

Information

•District Accepted into National Network of Innovative School Districts

The Fox Chapel Area School District is one of 19 new school districts from across the nation that has been accepted into the League of Innovative Schools. The League is a national coalition of forward-thinking school districts organized by Digital Promise, an independent, bipartisan nonprofit organization authorized by Congress to accelerate innovation in education.

Fox Chapel Area was selected from a competitive and national pool of applicants based on its leadership, evidence of results, innovative vision for learning, and commitment to collaboration. Specifically, the Fox Chapel Area School District was accepted into the League based on its innovative programs, including the comprehensive K-12 computer science curriculum with digital badging at the elementary level, the district's infusion of Maker-education and project-based learning, and the various educational technology and research partnerships it has developed with institutes of higher education and local entrepreneurs.

Megan Cicconi, Fox Chapel Area School District's Director of Instructional and Innovative Leadership, attributes the honor to the district's teachers. "Simply put, our teachers are willing to evaluate students' needs and take the necessary steps to ensure student growth. In this day and age, that means creating innovative opportunities to demonstrate mastery and work in authentic roles," she said. "We are thrilled to be recognized for their dedication and for our administration's visionary leadership."

In addition to the Fox Chapel Area School District, the Montour School District has also been accepted into the League of Innovative Schools this year. The Avonworth, Elizabeth Forward, and South Fayette Township school districts are also current members of the League and have been accepted within the last few years.

According to Fox Chapel Area School District Superintendent, Gene Freeman, Ed.D., "The Pittsburgh region is the only region nationally to have such a high induction rate into Digital Promise's prestigious League of Innovative Schools. The Fox Chapel Area School District is grateful to the Remake Learning Network and our local foundations for their dedication to creating a culture of innovation in our city. We are honored to be identified as one of the top 19 most innovative schools in the nation and we look forward to sharing our expertise and gaining valuable insight from other national leaders."

The League of Innovative Schools, launched in late 2011, accepts new members through an open application process once per year. With the new members, the League now includes 87 school districts in 33 states, representing nearly 3.3 million students.

"The League of Innovative Schools connects and rallies the most dynamic leaders of the nation's school districts in order to advance positive change in public education," said Sara Schapiro, senior director of the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools. "As Digital Promise celebrates its fifth anniversary, we're excited to welcome our new League members and amplify their insights to help others support teaching and learning with technology."

League members are represented by their superintendent, who commits to:

- attend biannual League meetings, which feature classroom visits, collaborative problem-solving, and relationship-building with peers and partners;
- join working groups on a broad range of topics relevant to the changing needs of school districts;
- engage with entrepreneurs to advance product development and meet district needs;
- support research that expands what we know about teaching and learning; and
- participate in the League's professional learning community by connecting with other members online, in person, and at each other's school districts.

In addition to the superintendents' participation, there are also opportunities for other school administrators, principals, and teachers to participate in League and Digital Promise initiatives.

The League will officially welcome new members at its fall 2016 meeting November 2-4 in Baltimore, Maryland. The meeting will host about 200 national school leaders and prominent education experts, entrepreneurs, and officials, with the goal of addressing shared priorities and setting goals that district leaders will pursue throughout the year.

•Fairview Elementary School Named One of the Best in the Nation

Fairview Elementary School has been named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School. United States Secretary of Education, John B. King Jr., announced September 28 that Fairview is one of among 279 public and 50 private schools from across the nation selected to receive this honor.

Fairview was one of 18 schools in the state nominated for the award by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Once nominated, schools then completed a comprehensive application. Schools applied for status as Exemplary High Performing Schools (among the top schools in a state), or Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools (schools making the fastest progress in their state in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups). Fairview's application, completed by parents, teachers, and Principal Rebecca Stephan, addressed how Fairview uses collaboration and flexible grouping, as well as how the use of differentiated instruction sets it apart in helping students succeed. Fairview is being honored for the high performance of its students.

"You are a shining example for your communities, your state, and the nation," Dr. King stated, speaking in a video message to the National Blue Ribbon Schools honorees. "National Blue Ribbon Schools are proof that we can prepare every child for college and meaningful careers. Your schools are on the cutting edge, pioneering innovative educational practices..."

According to Mrs. Stephan, the award would not have been possible without the combined efforts of many people, including all of the Fairview staff, students, and parents, as well as School Board members and district administrators.

"We are so honored to receive this recognition. It demonstrates the commitment of the Fox Chapel Area School District to maximize student learning through rigorous curriculum and instruction," Mrs. Stephan said. "Our Fairview community is simply fabulous! We are so fortunate to have a dedicated and highly-qualified staff and active parent support and involvement, and our students are such eager learners!"

Fairview Elementary School will be honored at a two-day awards ceremony November 7 and 8, along with the other National Blue Ribbon School Honorees. Mrs. Stephan and a Fairview teacher will represent Fairview Elementary at the ceremony which will be held in Washington, D.C.

This is the second time Fairview Elementary School has been named a National Blue Ribbon School. Fairview last received this recognition for the 1998-1999 school year. All six Fox Chapel Area School District schools (Fairview, Hartwood, Kerr, and O'Hara elementary schools, Dorseyville Middle School, and Fox Chapel Area High School) have received this national honor in the past between 1991-2000. The high school has also received Blue Ribbon recognition twice. Now in its 34th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed this coveted award on fewer than 8,500 schools.

•Superintendent Named to the Frick Pittsburgh Board of Trustees

Superintendent Gene Freeman, Ed.D., was recently elected to the Frick Pittsburgh Board of Trustees. The board includes Family Trustees (descendants of Henry Clay Frick) and Term Trustees. Dr. Freeman was elected to serve as a Term Trustee at the September 14, 2016, meeting of the Frick's Board.

Located on the Pittsburgh estate of late-19th-century industrialist Henry Clay Frick, The Frick Pittsburgh is the steward of collections left as a legacy to the people of Pittsburgh by Frick's daughter, Helen Clay Frick. The permanent collections include fine and decorative arts, cars, carriages, historic objects, and buildings. The Frick experience includes The Frick Art Museum, the Car and Carriage Museum, Clayton, the Frick family Gilded Age mansion, and six acres of beautifully landscaped lawns and gardens. Also included are an Education Center, the Frick children's playhouse, a large working greenhouse, The Café at the Frick, and the Grable Visitor Center which houses the Frick Museum Store.

•DMS Art Teacher Chosen for Study Trip in Poland

Dorseyville Middle School art educator **Nanci Goldberg** was selected for and went on a special summer study seminar to Poland. The 76 teacher and student participants studied history where it happened as part of "Poland Personally – A Study Seminar to Poland." Goldberg spent 10 days in Poland with Classrooms Without Borders and the group, accompanied by a Holocaust survivor, focused on the history of the Holocaust. They were able to see Poland, its people, its government, and socioeconomics in unique ways that increased their understanding of the value of diversity and the results of prejudice. Goldberg traveled to Poland with the group June 26-July 4, 2016.

As a result of the trip, Goldberg is working with other educators at Dorseyville Middle School to bring her experiences and the lessons she learned on the trip to life for students. The school's eighth graders learn about the Holocaust as part of their regular studies.

Classrooms Without Borders is a nonprofit educational organization founded in 2011 in association with the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh. The group is dedicated to unique professional development programs.

•High School Receives Accolades

For the seventh year, Fox Chapel Area High School received a Silver Medal rank from U.S. News & World Report. The annual rankings identify the country's top-performing high schools. The school was also ranked among America's Top High Schools in 2016 by Newsweek and was ranked among the top 250 high schools in the nation and also received an "A+ Overall Niche Grade" on niche.com.

•High School Blood Drive – October 25

Fox Chapel Area High School is holding a community blood drive October 25, 2016. The blood drive will be held in the high school's large group instruction room from 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and all people 16 and older are encouraged to donate blood. Each donor will receive a free limited edition Central Blood Bank T-shirt.

Additionally, the Central Blood Bank is, once again, offering several scholarships to area high school students. To qualify for these scholarships, Fox Chapel Area High School is hosting three blood drives throughout the 2016-2017 school year. The scholarships will be awarded for the highest percent participation and largest number of registered donations for the year. Also, anyone who donates blood at a local donor center can also ask for the donation to count toward Fox Chapel Area High School's total. Just specify for the donation to count toward Fox Chapel Area High School (code HS010025).

If you are interested in donating blood for the drive, please contact Rachel Machen, Fox Chapel Area High School Community Outreach Sponsor, at Rachel_Machen@fcasd.edu, or call 412/967-2445. Walk-ins are also welcome. Fox Chapel Area High School's blood drive is being coordinated by the community outreach committee of the Fox Chapel Area High School Student Government.

•Fox Chapel Area School Board Upcoming Meetings

November 7, 2016 – 7 p.m. – Agenda Study Session – Kerr Elementary – Multipurpose Room

November 14, 2016 – 7 p.m. – Regular Business Meeting – High School LGI Room

December 5, 2016 – 7 p.m. – Combined Agenda Study Sess. & Reg. Bus. Mtg. – High School LGI Room

The reorganization meeting will be held December 5 immediately following the combined agenda study session and regular business meeting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES — Approved the minutes of the special meeting dated September 12, 2016, and the combined agenda study session and regular business meeting dated September 12, 2016.

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 \$10,445,526.94 from September 1, 2016, through September 30, 2016, were approved.

Disbursements (B) — GO Bond Series 2013 Construction Fund disbursements (Fund 33) in the amount of \$543,716.36 for September 2016 were approved.

Disbursements (C) — Athletic capital projects fund disbursements (Fund 32) in the amount of \$1,500.00 for September 2016 were approved.

Finance Report — The finance report for August 2016 was acknowledged and filed for audit.

Budget Transfers — Several budget transfers for 2016-2017 were approved.

Instruction

PHASE 4 Learning Center, Inc. – ACT 48 Program Agreement for Services — Ratified the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Phase 4 Learning Services, Inc. for services to unnamed students for the 2016-2017 school year at a cost of \$7,500 per student.

Wesley Spectrum – Individual Student Enrollment Agreement — Ratified the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Wesley Spectrum for one unnamed student enrolled in Wesley Spectrum High School Private Academic School for the 2016-2017 school year at a cost of \$30,000.

Course Approval – Fox Chapel Area High School — Approved the following secondary pilot program for the fall semester of the 2017-2018 school year, with implementation in the fall semester of the 2018-2019 school year: German 6.

The Buck Institute for Education – Consultant — Approved an additional cost of \$3,800 for consultation services from the Buck Institute for Education for professional development services in regard to project-based learning for the 2016-2017 school year.

Stipulated Adjudication — Approved the stipulated adjudication for an unnamed student dated October 14, 2016.

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

Administration — Accepted the following administrative resignation:

- **Jeffrey C. Campbell**, custodial/maintenance supervisor for Fox Chapel Area School District, due to personal reasons, effective October 31, 2016.

Educational Support Staff – Accepted the following educational support staff resignations:

- **Kelly A. Caro**, instructional assistant at Hartwood Elementary School, due to retirement, effective October 5, 2016.
- **Paul J. Contento**, 12-month secretary for the Fox Chapel Area School District, due to personal reasons, effective October 21, 2016.
- **Cody E. Henry**, instructional assistant at Fox Chapel Area High School, due to personal reasons, effective October 17, 2016.
- **Joan L. Poutous**, instructional assistant at Fairview Elementary School, due to retirement, effective October 7, 2016.

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

- **John C. Anderson**, intramurals boys' basketball, Fairview Elementary School, due to personal reasons, effective September 23, 2016.
- **Jason M. Deal**, boys' high school lacrosse assistant coach, due to personal reasons, effective September 14, 2016.
- **Sean D. Mawhinney**, high school track 5th assistant coach, due to personal reasons, effective October 13, 2016.
- **Kristi E. Vacanti**, girls' middle school volleyball head coach, due to personal reasons, effective September 14, 2016.

Volunteer – Athletics – Accepted the following athletic volunteer resignation:

- **Thomas Brush**, girls' basketball volunteer, due to personal reasons, effective August 14, 2016.

Leaves

Administration – Approved the following administrative leave:

- **Megan M. Cicconi**, director of instructional and innovative leadership for the Fox Chapel Area School District, for child-rearing leave, effective November 17, 2016, with return scheduled for February 8, 2017.

Professional – Approved the following professional leave:

- **Sherrie L. Reuter**, reading support teacher at Kerr Elementary School, for a second-semester educational sabbatical, effective January 23, 2017, with return scheduled for the first day of the 2017-2018 school term.

Appointments

Educational Support Staff – Ratified/approved the following educational support staff appointments:

- **Brandi N. David** as a personal care assistant at Hartwood Elementary School, effective October 13, 2016. 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 **Karen Whitehead**.
- **Elizabeth M. Dessell** as administration/business office secretary/receptionist for the Fox Chapel Area School District, effective October 25, 2016. Hourly salary was set based on the salary scale for 12-month secretaries, step 3, with benefits as per the Fox Chapel Area Education Support Professionals Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. This position is available due to the transfer of **Avyn Israel**.
- **Susan D. Johnson** as business office accounts payable/purchasing secretary for the Fox Chapel Area School District, effective October 17, 2016. Hourly salary was set based on the salary scale for 12-month secretaries, step 3, with benefits as per the Fox Chapel Area Education Support Professionals Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. This position is available due to the resignation of **Paul Contento**.
- **Sharon L. Long** as secretary to the director of elementary education and instruction for the Fox Chapel Area School District, effective October 24, 2016. Hourly salary was set based on the salary scale for 12-month secretaries, 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 **JoAnn Liebert**.

Supplemental Contracts – Athletic – The following athletic supplemental contracts were approved/ratified for the 2016-2017 school term: **Kati E. Altieri** – Boys’ Basketball Intramural – Fairview; **Jeffery J. Bonifate** – Flag Football Intramural – O’Hara; **Kevin Devinney** – Head Coach, Boys’ Lacrosse – HS; **Ian Ferguson** – Assistant Coach, Boys’ Wrestling – MS; **Evan E. Ingram** – Assistant Coach, Girls’ Soccer – MS; **Sara J. Kirsch** – Head Coach (50%), Girls’ Volleyball – MS; and **Cara E. Reese** – Head Coach (50%), Girls’ Volleyball – MS.

Supplemental Contract – Non-Athletic – The following non-athletic supplemental contract was ratified for the 2016-2017 school term: **Brian E Yanizeski** – Business Department Chair – HS.\

Administration – Authorized the administration to offer an employment contract for the position of Dorseyville Middle School assistant principal, to be ratified at the November 14, 2016, School Board meeting.

Changes of Status

Custodial/Maintenance – Ratified the following custodial change of status:

- **Jeffrey E. Iannuzzi**, 12-month custodian at Fox Chapel Area High School, as the facilities shift supervisor for Fox Chapel Area School District, effective October 10, 2016, as per the employment agreement.

Support Staff – Ratified the following support staff changes of status:

- **Renee A. Fanning**, personal care assistant at Hartwood Elementary School, as an instructional assistant at Hartwood Elementary School, effective October 13, 2016. Hourly salary was set 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 **Kelly Caro**.
- **Amy G. Ruane**, personal care assistant at Fairview Elementary School, as an instructional assistant at Fairview Elementary School, effective October 10, 2016. Hourly salary was set 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 **Joan Poutous**.
- **Karen A. Whitehead**, personal care assistant at Hartwood Elementary School, as an instructional assistant at Hartwood Elementary School, effective October 13, 2016. Salary was set 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 transfer of **Susan Young**.

Volunteers

Athletic – The following athletic volunteers were approved/ratified for the 2016-2017 school term: **Alison C. Francis** – Girls’ Field Hockey – MS and **Jon Fanto** – Football Equipment & Video – HS.

Employment Agreement

Technology – The employment agreement for **Walter M. Santa II**, technology maintenance/repair specialist for the Fox Chapel Area School District, was ratified, effective October 17, 2016.

Operations/Cooperative Services

Change Orders – Fox Chapel Area High School Construction – Approved change orders GC-021 and GC-022 at a total cost of \$500,000 for the high school construction project pending PDE approval of Plancon Part I. These change orders were reviewed and approved by the Fox Chapel Area School Authority Board.

Change Order – O’Hara Elementary School Roof Replacement – Approved change order GC-1 at a cost of \$8,580 for the O’Hara Elementary School roof replacement. This change order was reviewed and approved by the Fox Chapel Area School Authority Board.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE

FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

BOARD COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 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.

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