

October 9, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** — The Board of School Directors of the Fox Chapel Area School District held its regular business meeting at Fox Chapel Area High School October 9, 2017. 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, Robert Mauro, Somer Obernauer Jr., Lisa M. Rutkowski, and Eric C. Schmidt.

**GUESTS (October 2, 2017)**

**High School Spanish Foreign Exchange Students** – Fox Chapel Area High School Program Principal **Dan Lentz**, Ed.D., and High School Spanish Teacher **Myriam Fontes** – Fox Chapel Area High School is hosting 11 students and their English teacher, Mr. David Walters, from Colegio Virgen de Europa (CVE) from Madrid, Spain, September 30-October 14, 2017. These visiting eight girls and three boys (ages 14-16) are living with families in the Fox Chapel Area School District community and attending school with their host “brothers/sisters” for two weeks. Besides shadowing their host families through their normal activities, they are participating in day-field trips to Niagara Falls, New Wilmington/Volant, and downtown Pittsburgh.

The students’ whose families are hosting will get to travel to Spain for two weeks in March 2018 and participate in similar activities with their host families. This is the first-time that Fox Chapel Area High School has participated in an exchange of this type with students from Spain.

According to Fox Chapel Area High School Spanish teacher Myriam Fontes, the “true reciprocal exchange will enable the students to share their culture with one another. It will open students to globalization and they’ll have the opportunity to perfect their language skills, as well as make friends for life.”

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

- Three Fox Chapel Area High School seniors have been designated as National Merit® Semifinalists and 13 have been named Commended Students in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). The Semifinalists from Fox Chapel Area High School are **Albert Liu, Elizabeth Mountz, and Jordan Taxay**. The Commended Students from Fox Chapel Area High School are **Emilia Bianchini, Christopher Bonavita, Emelyn Broniek, Theodore Faucher, Nicholas Fennell, Wonho Kang, Shania Khatri, Jacob Klein, Margaret Lazzara, Adam Mattioli, Rebekah Polcyn, Lucy Stone, and Jorgen Wu**.

All of these students were selected based on their 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) scores. Each year college-bound 11<sup>th</sup> grade students complete the PSAT/NMSQT. About 1.6 million juniors who take the test are automatically enrolled in the National Merit Scholarship Program and approximately 16,000 advance to become Semifinalists and about 34,000 are Commended. The Semifinalists represent less than one percent of the nation’s high school seniors and the Commended Students represent the top five percent. A Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT® scores that confirm the student’s earlier performance on the qualifying test. The Commended Students are recognized for their exceptional academic promise. The Semifinalists now have the opportunity to advance to the Finalist level and compete for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarship® awards worth more than \$32 million to be offered in the spring of 2018.

The NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

**GUESTS (October 9, 2017)**

**Certificates of Recognition** — The Board presented a certificate of recognition to the following teacher:

- Fox Chapel Area School District teacher **Alison Francis** has been named a first-place winner in The Henry Ford’s Innovation Nation Teacher Innovator Awards. Mrs. Francis, who is the facilitator of the district’s Creativity and Literacy Program, was one of 10 first place winners from across the nation in this contest that recognizes America’s most innovative teachers. There was a total of 10 grand prize winners and 10 first-place winners in the contest which is open to pre-K-12<sup>th</sup> grade educators from across the nation.

The Henry Ford Awards recognize teachers who are using the classroom to inspire innovation, creativity, problem solving, and critical thinking among students. Mrs. Francis was the only teacher from Pennsylvania to be recognized as part of The Henry Ford Awards this year. Earlier in 2017, Mrs. Francis was named the winner of the Carnegie Science Center’s Elementary Educator Award for her innovative teaching in STEM and maker education.

The Henry Ford Award winners were selected by a team of judges that included a past Teacher Innovator Award winner, as well as industry experts. Judges selected the winners based on their original and creative approach to teaching, their demonstrated resourcefulness, and the positive impact they made. Student engagement, learning goals, and evidence of achieving those goals were also taken into consideration.

As a first-place winner, Mrs. Francis received an innovation teaching kit that includes “The Henry Ford’s Innovation Nation” Season Two DVD set, merchandise from The Henry Ford, and more. The awards are sponsored by The Henry Ford and Litton Entertainment, in conjunction with the Emmy-winning television show “The Henry Ford’s Innovation Nation” on CBS as part of the “CBS Dream Team, It’s Epic!” Saturday morning block.

• **Mobile Fab Lab Presentation and Tour – Justin Papariello**, Fab Lab manager and Fox Chapel Area High School technology education teacher and high school students seniors **Sean Ellis** and **Christian Reiber** and juniors **Nathaniel Good** and **Trevor Klatt**.

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

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

### **Information**

#### • **High School Student Named Finalist in National STEM Competition**

Fox Chapel Area High School freshman **Sanjay Seshan** has been selected as a finalist in the 2017 Broadcom MASTERS®, the nation’s premier and most prestigious STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) competition for middle school students. Sanjay is one of only 30 students from across the United States to be named a finalist. The Broadcom MASTERS (Math, Applied Science, Technology and Engineering for Rising Stars) is a program founded and produced by the Society for Science & the Public and it seeks to inspire young scientists, engineers, and innovators who will solve the grand challenges of the future.

The finalists were selected by a panel of distinguished scientists and engineers from a record-high of 2,499 applicants in 37 states, Puerto Rico, and the Department of Defense overseas. Sanjay will next compete in Washington, D.C., October 19-25 in a rigorous competition that will test the participants’ abilities in STEM, critical thinking, communication, creativity, and collaboration. The winners of the competition will be named October 24 and more than \$100,000 in awards, including a top prize of \$25,000, will be given. Because he is a finalist, Sanjay will receive \$500 and an all-expense paid trip to the Washington, D.C., competition, and Dorseyville Middle School will receive a \$1,000 to use toward STEM activities.

Sanjay’s project is titled “Keeping Our Heads Above Water: Early Detection of Stress in Buried Water Pipes.” When Sanjay traveled through a poor area in India, he was dismayed by the drinking water system. It was basically “one community pipe and leaking water everywhere,” he recalled. Then he investigated the United States’ system for getting drinking water to communities. “I was stunned to learn that the water infrastructure in the U.S. was deteriorating,” he said. Moreover, water main breaks and leaks were wasting huge amounts of clean water. Sanjay wanted to find a way to detect leaks early as that would save precious water from going to waste. An out-of-tune clarinet inspired him to experiment with the acoustic properties of pipe.

Prior to being named a finalist, Sanjay was among the Top 300 Broadcom MASTERS. This list also included Fox Chapel Area High School freshman **Amulya Garimella**. Both students were originally selected based on the projects they completed in eighth grade and presented as part of the Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair held in the spring of 2017.

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

November 6, 2017 – 7 p.m. – Agenda Study Session – Kerr Elementary School Multipurpose Room

November 13, 2017 – 7 p.m. – Regular Business Meeting – High School LGI Room

December 4, 2017 – 7 p.m. – Combined Agenda Study Session & Reg. Business Mtg. – High School LGI Room

## **SOLICITOR’S REPORT**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** — Approved the minutes of the combined agenda study session and regular business meeting dated September 11, 2017.

## **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 \$10,002,363.55 from September 1, 2017, through September 30, 2017, were approved.

**Disbursements (B)** — GO Bond Series 2013 Construction Fund disbursements (Fund 33) in the amount of \$2,132,503.70 for September 2017 were approved.

**Finance Report** — The finance report for August 2017 was acknowledged and filed for audit.

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

## Instruction

**Settlement** — Approved settlement of claim by parents of student as presented.

## 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

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

- **Sarah J. DiMatteo**, nutrition center employee at Kerr Elementary School, due to personal reasons, effective October 2, 2017.

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

- **Maxwell A. DePellegrini**, boys' middle school volleyball head coach, due to personal reasons, effective September 7, 2017.
- **Geoffrey M. Dutelle**, boys' middle school basketball assistant coach, due to personal reasons, effective September 7, 2017.

**Supplemental Contract – Nonathletic** — Accepted the following nonathletic supplemental contract resignation:

- **Nancy W. Stewart**, spring musical costume design, due to personal reasons, effective September 5, 2017.

## Leaves

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

- **Megan L. Glies**, elementary teacher at Kerr Elementary School, for child-rearing/adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective November 8, 2017, with return scheduled for the first day of the 2018-2019 school year.
- **Kristen L. Quinlisk**, science teacher at Dorseyville Middle School, for child-rearing/adoption leave, under Article Eleven (D) of the Fox Chapel Educators Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective November 6, 2017, with return scheduled for the first day of the second nine weeks of the 2018-2019 school year.

## Appointments

**Educational Support** — Ratified the following secretarial appointment:

- **Elisa A. Vagnozzi** as business office accounts payable/purchasing secretary for Fox Chapel Area School District, effective October 2, 2017. 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 **Susan Johnson**.

**Custodial/Maintenance** — Ratified/approved the following custodians:

- **Arthur G. Beckas** as a 10-month, 8-hour/day custodian at Fox Chapel Area High School, effective October 9, 2017. Salary and benefits were set as per the Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ Collective Bargaining Agreement. This position is available due to the retirement of **Dolores Gould**.
- **Timothy R. McNally** as a 10-month, 8-hour/day custodian at Fox Chapel Area High School, effective October 2, 2017. Salary and benefits were set as per the Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ Collective Bargaining Agreement. This position is available due to the retirement of **James Thompson**.

**Supplemental Contracts – Athletic** — The following athletic supplemental contracts were approved/ratified for the 2017-2018 school term: **John T. Alerich** – Assistant Wrestling Coach – MS, **Geoffrey M. Dutelle\*** – Girls' Assistant Basketball Coach – MS, **Aleta M. McBriar** – Head Cheerleading Coach (Winter) – MS (50%), and **Shelley A. Zottola** – Head Cheerleading Coach (Winter) – MS (50%). \**One-year position*

**Supplemental Contracts – Nonathletic** — The following nonathletic supplemental contracts were approved/ratified for the 2017-2018 school term: **Stacie L. Dojonovic-Schutzman** – Best Buddies Coordinator (50%) – HS, **Anne E. Englert** – Musical Costume Design, **Anna L. Hopper** – Best Buddies Coordinator (50%) – HS, **James W. Jones** – Overnight Camp Counselor (Hartwood), **Richard G. Mathieu** – Overnight Camp Counselor (O’Hara), and **Jennifer V. Squeglia** – Overnight Camp Counselor (O’Hara).

**Changes of Status**

**Educational Support** — Ratified the following secretarial changes of status:

- **Susan D. Johnson**, 12-month business office accounts payable/purchasing secretary for the Fox Chapel Area School District, as a 12-month nutrition center/ancillary services secretary for Fox Chapel Area School District, effective August 31, 2017. There is no change in salary or benefits. This position is available due to the transfer of **Robin McAnulty**.
- **Robin L. McAnulty**, 12-month nutrition center/ancillary services secretary for the Fox Chapel Area School District, as a 10-month library clerk for Fairview Elementary School, effective September 11, 2017. Hourly salary was set, based on Group II, 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 **Karen Claus**.

**Volunteer**

**Athletic** — The following athletic volunteer was ratified, effective September 11, 2017: **David Neely** – Girls’ Volleyball – HS.

**Operations/Cooperative Services**

**Change Orders – Dorseyville Middle School Alterations Project** — Approved change orders PC-004, PC-005, HC-011, and HC-012 at a total cost of \$14,758.05 for the middle 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.

**Change Orders – O’Hara Elementary School Alterations Project** — Approved change orders GC-005 and GC-006, at a total cost of \$4,463.56 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.

**Change Order – Fairview Elementary School Alterations Project** — Approved change order HC-001 at a cost of \$2,618.00 for the Fairview Elementary School alterations project. This change order was reviewed and approved by the Fox Chapel Area School Authority Board.

**Special Olympics Pennsylvania – Memorandum of Understanding** — Approved the memorandum of understanding between the Fox Chapel Area School District and Special Olympics Pennsylvania to provide an Interscholastic Unified Sports Indoor Bocce program effective immediately, through June 30, 2018.

**ALICE Training Institute LLC – Master Service Agreement** — Approved the agreement between the Fox Chapel Area School District and ALICE Training Institute LLC to provide services for certain training programs for the term October 15, 2017, through October 14, 2019, at an annual cost of \$4,000.00.

**Donation – O’Hara Elementary School Music Education Fund** — Accepted an anonymous donation to the O’Hara Elementary School Music Education Fund in the amount of \$1,000.00 in honor of teachers **Shawn Funk** and **Alex Sackandy**.

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**FOX CHAPEL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE**

**BOARD COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT** — The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 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, Pittsburgh, PA 15238*