

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Directors Fort Cherry School District

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Fort Cherry School District was held Monday, March 24, 2025, beginning with Executive Session at 6:00 PM, with the Regular Meeting at 7:00 PM via Zoom electronic meeting/held in the Learning Commons at the High School located at 110 Fort Cherry Road, McDonald, PA 15057.

The following members were present:

Mr. Paul Bianchini	Mrs. Cynthia Gaskill
Ms. Amanda Herforth	Mrs. Leslie Maxin
Mrs. Jodi McKay	Mrs. Jeanine Miles
Mr. Chase Ogburn	Ms. Beverly Schwab
Mrs. Julie Sepesy	

The following non-members were present:

Mr. Thomas Samosky, Superintendent
Mrs. Mary Burford, Business Manager
Mrs. Reneé Miller, Assistant Business Manager
Mr. Russell Lucas, Solicitor, Andrews and Price

The following community members were present:

Adam Lohr, McDonald Borough
Philip Boggs, Mt. Pleasant Township
Tracy Kuhn, McDonald Borough
Maura Boggs, Mt. Pleasant Township
Greg Matyuf, Mt. Pleasant Township

List of all members that attended in person and via virtual session will be filed with official Board minutes

I. Executive Session (6:00pm)

Executive Session was held starting at 6:00 pm. Personnel, Contracts and Student items were discussed.

II. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

By Whom: President McKay

Time: 7:26 pm

- III. **Approval of Agenda** – Regular Meeting of March 24, 2025
1st: Ms. Schwab 2nd: Mrs. Sepesy Motion: 9-0

Ms. Schwab made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Sepesy, to approve the agenda of the Regular Meeting of March 24, 2025. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

- IV. **Remarks by Visitors**
(As per Fort Cherry School District Policy for Conducting Meetings of the Board of School Directors)

Adan Lohr, Chief of Mt. Pleasant Township VFC, addressed the Board regarding the recent lithium battery malfunction in a Chromebook at the Junior/Senior High School. He also discussed the importance of taking care of the devices to try to prevent this from happening again and offered to train all Fort Cherry School District employees regarding lithium battery safety.

Philip Boggs, Chief of McDonald VFD, also addressed the Board regarding the recent lithium battery fire and safety concerns and offered to assist as well.

- V. **Presentations**

- A. Dr. Katelyn Willyerd – Anatomage Table

Dr. Willyerd discussed and demonstrated the Anatomage Table for the Board and attendees. The Anatomage Table was secured via a grant from the Washington County LSA and provides extended classroom capabilities for a variety of classes at the high school.

- B. Mr. Sel Edor – BAI Renewables, BAI Group LLC

Mr. Edor discussed the solar array Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) being voted on tonight and answered questions from the Board. Projections for gathering and usage of solar power from the array is specific to historic weather patterns in our area. This is a 29-year initial term agreement with BAI carrying the responsibility for the maintenance of the solar panels.

- VI. **Action on the approval of Minutes** – Regular Meeting of February 24, 2025.
1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Mrs. Maxin Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Maxin, to table the approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 24, 2025. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

VII. Secretary's Correspondence

Mrs. Burford informed the Board that Mr. Eugene Briggs, Boys Basketball coach is being inducted into the Washington-Greene County Athletic Hall of Fame in June.

VIII. Treasurer's Actions

- A. Action on the approval of Bills for Payment
1st: Mrs. Gaskill 2nd: Ms. Schwab Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Gaskill made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Schwab, that the Board approve the Bills for Payment. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

- B. Action on the approval of the Treasurer's Report Account Summaries
1st: Mrs. Gaskill 2nd: Ms. Schwab Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Gaskill made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Schwab, that the Board approve the Treasurer's Report Account Summaries. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

- C. Action on the approval of the Budget Control Reports
1st: Mrs. Gaskill 2nd: Ms. Schwab Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Gaskill made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Schwab, that the Board approve the Budget Control Reports. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

IX. Reports

A. Board Reports

Mrs. Sepesy reported that she attended the Future Family Focus night at the high school, the Elementary Art Show and Mr. Fort Cherry and that all did a wonderful job at each event.

Mrs. Miles thanked Mrs. Maxin for the CTC report which was sent to the Board.

Mr. Bianchini reported that the Education Foundation recently awarded grants to six teachers and received funding from All Ways Safe to be distributed in support of various activities at the District.

B. Solicitor's Report

No Solicitor's Report

C. Superintendents Report

The Superintendent's Report is posted on the website and has been made part of the official minutes. Mr. Samosky talked about the Fort Cherry Flight School that recently finished and which was presented at the IU showcase. He thanked the elementary staff, especially Keara Welsh, Kiley Zibert and Matt Parson for their involvement.

X. Personnel and Curriculum

- A. Action on the approval to hire Ms. Leann Minton as an eight (8) hour cleaner per the Fort Cherry ESPA Collective Bargaining Agreement contingent upon the final receipt and review of any and all new hire paperwork.

1st: Mrs. Sepesy

2nd: Ms. Schwab

Motion: 9-0

Ms. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Schwab, that the Board approve hiring Ms. Leann Minton as an eight (8) hour cleaner per the Fort Cherry ESPA Collective Bargaining Agreement contingent upon the final receipt and review of any and all new hire paperwork. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

- B. Acknowledge the resignation of Mrs. Rachel Nelson, Elementary Music Teacher and Assistant High School Marching Band Director, effective June 6, 2025.

Mrs. McKay acknowledged Mrs. Nelson's resignation and thanked her for her service.

XI. Buildings and Grounds

- A. Action on the approval to award the Stadium Field and Track Renovation project to Force Turf Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$2,782,250.00, including the concrete stabilization option.

1st: Ms. Schwab

2nd: Mrs. Miles

Mr. Brian Force of Force Turf Solutions, Inc addressed the Board and answered questions regarding the field and track renovation project. He stated that he does not see a concern with the timeline for completion of the project as long as the necessary permits are in place. He stated that all offered products meet the warranty requirements in the project

specifications. They can mobilize right away to get the project underway. Stabilization is the only question, and the answer will be determined on the first day when they will perform a proof roll which will determine if the concrete stabilization is needed.

Mr. Chris Siegel of AstroTurf addressed the Board regarding the field and track renovation project, as one of two turf options being proposed by Force Turf Solutions. He discussed maintenance and grooming of the field along with the warranty. He stated that proper care of the turf can extend the lifespan of the field to between ten and twelve years. Mr. Siegel said that AstroTurf services their own fields, they do not outsource.

Mr. Shamus of TenCate addressed the Board regarding the field and track renovation project, as one of two turf options being proposed by Force Turf Solutions. He discussed the history of TenCate along with maintenance, grooming and the warranty. He stated that service calls after installation are handled by either him or Brian Force.

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Ogburn, to move the Building and Grounds Item A to the end of the agenda. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

1st: Mrs. Sepesy

2nd: Mr. Ogburn

Motion: 9-0

XII. Transportation

- A. Action on the approval of the First Amendment to the Transportation Agreement with Bish Transportation and Monark Student Transportation Corporation.

1st: Mrs. Miles

2nd: Ms. Herforth

Motion: 8-0-1

Mrs. Miles made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Herforth, that the Board approve the First Amendment to the Transportation Agreement with Bish Transportation and Monark Student Transportation Corporation. Motion passed, 8-0-1, Mrs. Sepesy abstained.

- B. Action on the approval of the following additional Bish Transportation driver for the 2024-2025 school year, contingent upon the receipt, review and final approval of any and all clearances and new driver paperwork:
- Lori Schaub

1st: Mrs. Miles

2nd: Mr. Ogburn

Motion: 8-0-1

Mrs. Miles made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Ogburn, that the Board approve Ms. Lori Schaub, additional Bish Transportation driver, for the 2024-2025 school year, contingent upon the receipt, review and final approval of any and all clearances and new driver paperwork. Motion

passed, 8-0-1, Ms. Schwab abstained.

- C. Action on the approval of the following additional G G & C Bus driver for the 2024-2025 school year, contingent upon the receipt, review and final approval of any and all clearances and new driver paperwork:
- Tracy Haggerty

1st: Ms. Schwab 2nd: Ms. Herforth Motion: 9-0

Ms. Schwab made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Herforth, that the Board approve Ms. Tracy Haggerty, additional G G & C Bus driver, for the 2024-2025 school year, contingent upon the receipt, review and final approval of any and all clearances and new driver paperwork. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

XIII. Finance

- A. Action on the approval to adopt Resolution #3 - 2025-03-24, prepared and presented by Bond Counsel and reviewed by the Solicitor, authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.00, for the purpose of funding the costs of renovations and improvements to various School District facilities, as further set forth in the Resolution.

1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Ms. Herforth Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Herforth, that the Board approve to adopt Resolution #3 - 2025-03-24 authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.00, for the purpose of funding the costs of renovations and improvements to various School District facilities, as further set forth in the Resolution. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

XIV. Technology

none

XV. Athletics

Motion to combine and approve Items XV. A. through E.

1st: Ms. Schwab 2nd: Mr. Bianchini Motion: 9-0

Ms. Schwab made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Bianchini, to combine and approve Miscellaneous Items XV. A – E as a group. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

- A. Action on the approval of Mr. Zachary Skrabski as a Volunteer Assistant Varsity Cross Country Coach.
- B. Action on the approval of Mr. Zachary Skrabski as a Volunteer Assistant Varsity Track and Field Coach.
- C. Action on the approval of Ms. Haley Felton as a Volunteer Assistant Varsity Track and Field Coach, contingent upon the receipt and final review of all required clearances.
- D. Action on the approval of Mr. Joseph Washinski as a Volunteer Assistant Varsity Softball Coach, contingent upon the receipt and final review of all required clearances.
- E. Action on the approval of Ms. Chloe Smith as a Volunteer Assistant Varsity Softball Coach, contingent upon the receipt and final review of all required clearances.

XVI. Activities

None

XVII. Policy

None

XVIII. Miscellaneous

Motion to combine and approve Items XVIII. A. through F.

1st: Mrs. Miles

2nd: Ms. Herforth

Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Miles made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Herforth, to combine and approve Miscellaneous Items XVIII. A – F as a group. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

- A. Action on the approval of the corrective action from the APTE monitoring a Fort Cherry high schools vocational agriculture program as attached.
- B. Action on the approval of the Intermediate Unit 1 IDEA policy acknowledgment as attached.
- C. Action on the approval to decline the use of IDEA part B funds to provide CEIS.
- D. Action on the approval of an affiliation agreement between Fort Cherry School District and Robert Morris University.
- E. Action on the approval to execute a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) letter of intent with BAI Group, LLC subject to final review and approval of the District Solicitor.
- F. Action on the approval of the Student Assistance Program (SAP) agreement between Fort Cherry School District and Center for Community Resources for the 2025-2026 school year.

XIX. Public Comment

(As per Fort Cherry School District Policy for Conducting Meetings of the Board of School Directors)

Ms. Tracy Kuhn of McDonald Borough addressed the Board regarding the bus situation where GG&C Bus Company was short a driver on March 21 and two bus runs were adjusted on timing. Ms. Kuhn said that the bus her son was to ride never arrived and no notification was received.

Ms. Maura Boggs of McDonald Borough addressed the Board regarding the stadium field and asked if there was a state grant to fund the field work. Ms. Boggs also asked about Chromebook replacements and if the actual threat from last week was going to be shared. Mr. Samosky addressed her questions.

Mr. Greg Matyuf of Mt. Pleasant Township asked how many acres are involved in the solar array and if the panels are manufactured in China.

XX. Executive Session

Ms. Schwab made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Ogburn, that the Board adjourn and move into Executive Session, with the plan to resume the voting meeting upon completion of the Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0, at 10:03 PM.

1st: Ms. Schwab

2nd: Mr. Ogburn

Motion: 9-0

The Board came out of Executive Session and the Meeting resumed at 10:25 PM

XXI. Buildings and Grounds

- A. Action on the approval to amend the motion to award the Stadium Field and Track Renovation project to Force Turf Solutions, Inc. with the AstroTurf surface in the amount of \$2,806,850.00, including the concrete stabilization option

1st: Mr. Ogburn

2nd: Ms. Schwab

Motion: 9-0

Mr. Ogburn made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Schwab, to amend the motion to award the Stadium Field and Track Renovation project to Force Turf Solutions, Inc. with the AstroTurf surface in the amount of \$2,806,850.00, including the concrete stabilization option. Motion to amend the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

- B. Action on the approval to award the Stadium Field and Track Renovation project to Force Turf Solutions, Inc. with the AstroTurf surface in the amount of \$2,806,850.00, including the concrete stabilization option.

1st: Ms. Schwab

2nd: Mrs. Miles

Motion: 8-0-1

Ms. Schwab made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Miles, to award the Stadium Field and Track Renovation project to Force Turf Solutions, Inc. with the AstroTurf surface in the amount of \$2,806,850.00, including the concrete stabilization option. Motion passed, 8-0-1, Mrs. Gaskill abstained.

XXII. Adjournment

1st: Ms. Schwab

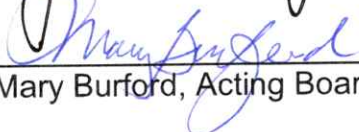
2nd: Mrs. Maxin

Motion: 9-0

Ms. Schwab made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Maxin, that the Board approve the adjournment of the Regular Meeting of March 24, 2025. Motion passed, 9-0, and the meeting adjourned at 10:27 PM.



Mrs. Jodi McKay, Board President



Mrs. Mary Burford, Acting Board Secretary