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, January 26, 2026, 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:

Mrs. Jodi McKay
Ms. Amanda Herforth
Mrs. Julie Sepesy
Mr. Chase Ogburn
Mr. Paul Bianchini
Mr. RJ Diaz
Mrs. Leslie Maxin
Mr. Chris Salvini
Mrs. Cynthia Gaskill

The following non-members were present:

Mr. Thomas Samosky, Superintendent
Mrs. Reneé Miller, Business Manager
Mr. Russ Lucas, Solicitor, Andrews and Price

The following community members were present:

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

I. **Executive Session** (6:00 PM)

Executive Session was held starting at 6:00 PM. Contracts, personnel, and student matters were discussed.

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

By Whom: President McKay Time: 7:17 PM

III. **Approval of Agenda** – Regular Meeting of January 26, 2026
1st: Mr. Diaz 2nd: Mrs. Sepesy Motion: 9-0

Mr. Diaz made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Sepesy, to approve the agenda of the Regular Meeting of January 26, 2026.

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

none

V. Presentations

Bad weather prevented the teachers and students from attending in person.

A. Staff Recognition - 3rd Grade: Tiffany Biagini, Maureen Cortese, Sue Gilbert; 6th Grade: Jackie Newman, Keara Welsh; Jr./Sr High School: Louise Hilty

Mrs. McKay and Mr. Samosky thanked these teachers for their accomplishments and contributions to the District. Many of them attended the meeting via Zoom.

B. Fort Cherry Musical - Mrs. Andrea Garry and student performers: Jack Longstreth, Cadence O'Brien

Mrs. Garry spoke via Zoom about the musical this year and went on to thank the Board for their hard work and many contributions to the District.

VI. Action on the approval of Minutes –

A. Regular/Reorganization Meeting of December 1, 2025
1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Mr. Diaz Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Diaz, to approve the minutes of the Regular/Reorganization Meeting of December 1, 2025. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

VII. Secretary's Correspondence

none

VIII. Treasurer's Actions

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

Mrs. Gaskill made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Maxin, 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: Mrs. Maxin Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Gaskill made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Maxin, 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: Mrs. Maxin Motion: 9-0

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

IX. Reports

A. Board Reports

Mr. Bianchini reported that the Fort Cherry Foundation is preparing to award the Annual Teacher Grant 2026 at the end of February. The Foundation established the grant to provide six (6) $500.00 grants for teacher initiatives each year.

Mrs. Maxin reported that WACTC meeting is coming up and will provide updates following.

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.

X. Personnel and Curriculum

Motion to combine Personnel and Curriculum Items X. A. through H. as a group.
1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Mr. Diaz Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Diaz to combine Personnel and Curriculum Items X. A. through H. as a group. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

Motion to approve the previously combined Personnel and Curriculum Items X. A. through H. as a group.
1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Mr. Diaz Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Diaz to approve the previously combined Personnel and Curriculum Items X. A. through H. as a group. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

A. Acknowledge the resignation of Mrs. Sally Cowden, Food Service Director, effective January 2, 2026.

B. Acknowledge the resignation of Mr. Robert Sterling, part-time cleaner, effective December 19, 2025.

C. Action on the approval of the Food Service Director/Assistant Transportation Director job description as attached, subject to final review and approval of the District Solicitor.

D. Action on the approval to hire Mr. Anthony Campoll as a full-time Cleaner, per the Fort Cherry ESPA Collective Bargaining Agreement, contingent upon the final receipt and review of any and all new hire paperwork.

E. Action on the approval of Ms. Sydney Weaver, Long Term Substitute, Elementary teacher, per the FCEA Collective Bargaining Agreement at Bachelor's Level, Step 1, commencing on January 20, 2026 through the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

F. Action on the approval to hire Mr. John Cowden as a part-time Cleaner, per the Fort Cherry ESPA Collective Bargaining Agreement, contingent upon the final receipt and review of any and all new hire paperwork.

G. Action on the approval to hire Mrs. Malia Dybzinski as Food Service & Assistant Transportation Director, per the attached employment agreement, contingent upon the final receipt and review of any and all new hire paperwork.

H. Action on the approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Fort Cherry School District and the Fort Cherry Secretaries/Aides ESPA regarding the position consolidation of the Pennsylvania Information Management System (PIMS) and the administrative Payroll Clerk position. MOU is subject to final review and approval of the District Solicitor.

XI. Buildings and Grounds

A. Action on the approval of the five (5) year Service Agreement between Fort Cherry School District and Johnson Controls Fire and Security for Fire Alarm monitoring, pending Solicitor's final review and approval. First year, February 1, 2026-January 31, 2027 charge is $1,440.00.
1st: Mr. Diaz 2nd: Mr. Bianchini Motion: 9-0

Mr. Diaz made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Bianchini, to approve the five (5) year Service Agreement between Fort Cherry School District and Johnson Controls Fire and Security for Fire Alarm monitoring, pending Solicitor's final review and approval. First year, February 1, 2026-January 31, 2027 charge is $1,440.00. Motion passed unanimously 9-0.

XII. Transportation

A. Action on the approval to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for transportation services. The RFP is subject to review and approval of the District Solicitor.
1st: Mr. Diaz 2nd: Mr. Salvini Motion: 9-0

Mr. Diaz made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Salvini, to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for transportation services. The RFP is subject to review and approval of the District Solicitor. Motion passed unanimously 9-0..

B. Action to retroactively approve the following additional GG&C Bus Company monitor, contingent upon receipt and final review of any and all paperwork; Nancy Popich
1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Mr. Diaz Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Diaz, to retroactively approve the following additional GG&C Bus Company monitor, contingent upon receipt and final review of any and all paperwork; Nancy Popich. Motion passed unanimously 9-0.

XIII. Finance

Motion to combine Finance Items XIII. A. through C. as a group.
1st: Mr. Diaz 2nd: Mr. Bianchini Motion: 9-0

Mr. Diaz made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Bianchini to combine Finance Items XIII. A. through C. as a group. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

Motion to approve the previously combined Finance Items XIII. A. through C. as a group.
1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Mr. Bianchini Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Bianchini to approve the previously combined Finance Items XIII. A. through C. as a group. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

A. Action to adopt Resolution #2-2026-01-26- Appointment of Mrs. Reneé Miller, Tax Collector for Borough of Midway

B. Action to adopt Resolution #3-2026-01-26- Appointment of Mrs. Reneé Miller, Tax Collector for Borough of McDonald

C. Action to adopt Resolution #4-2026-01-26- Appointment of Mrs. Reneé Miller, Tax Collector for Borough of Robinson

D. Action to adopt Resolution #5 - 2026-01-26 - Act 1 Taxpayer Relief Act for Budget Year 2026-2027.
1st: Mr. Diaz 2nd: Mr. Salvini Motion: 9-0

Mr. Diaz made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Salvini, to adopt Resolution #5 - 2026-01-26 - Act 1 Taxpayer Relief Act for Budget Year 2026-2027. Roll call was taken and the motion passed unanimously 9-0.

Motion to combine Finance Items XIII. E. through F. as a group.
1st: Mr. Salvini 2nd: Mr. Diaz Motion: 9-0

Mr. Salvini made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Diaz to combine Finance Items XIII. E. through F. as a group. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

Motion to approve the previously combined Finance Items XIII. E. through F. as a group.
1st: Mr. Salvini 2nd: Mr. Ogburn Motion: 9-0

Mr. Salvini made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Ogburn to approve the previously combined Finance Items XIII. E. through F. as a group. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

E. Action to adopt Resolution #6 - 2026-01-26- Setting the Bond for the Real Estate Tax Collectors for Mt. Pleasant Township

F. Action to adopt Resolution #7 - 2026-01-26 - Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) Joint Purchasing Agreement for the 2026-2027 school year

XIV. Technology

none

XV. Athletics

Motion to combine Athletics Items XV. A. through H. as a group.
1st: Mr. Ogburn 2nd: Mr. Diaz Motion: 9-0

Mr. Ogburn made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Diaz to combine Athletics Items XV. A. through H. as a group. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

Motion to approve the previously combined Athletics Items XV. A. through H. as a group.
1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Mr. Bianchini Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Bianchini to approve the previously combined Athletics Items XV. A. through H. as a group. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

A. Acknowledge the resignation of Ms. Rebecca Belhy, Cross Country Assistant Coach, effective immediately.

B. Action on the approval to hire Mr. Zachary Skrabski as the High School Varsity Cross Country Coach per the FCEA Collective Bargaining agreement, contingent upon the receipt and final review of any and all paperwork.

C. Action on the approval to hire Mr. Ben Maxin as the High School Varsity Cross Country Assistant Coach per the FCEA Collective Bargaining agreement, contingent upon the receipt and final review of any and all paperwork.

D. Action on the approval to hire Mr. Jack Merckle as the High School Weight Room Coordinator per the FCEA Collective Bargaining agreement, contingent upon the receipt and final review of any and all paperwork.

E. Action on the approval of Ms. Jacelyn Alberts as a volunteer Varsity Cross-Country coach, contingent on the final receipt and review of all paperwork.

F. Action on the approval of Mr. Michael Cappelli as a volunteer Varsity Track coach, contingent on the final receipt and review of all paperwork.

G. Action on the approval for Mr. Thomas Scarpone, Athletic Director, to attend the Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association (PSADA) conference in Hershey, PA from March 17 - March 20, 2026.

H. Action on the approval of the Boys Basketball Team to attend an overnight trip to Cleveland, Ohio on March 7-8, 2026 to attend a Cleveland Cavalier's game.

XVI. Activities

none

XVII. Policy

none

XVIII. Miscellaneous

A. Action on the approval to accept a $500.00 donation from Jake G.Schneider Bus Contractor to be used to partially fund a new stadium AED.
1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Mr. Diaz Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Diaz, to retroactively approve to accept a $500.00 donation from Jake G.Schneider Bus Contractor to be used to partially fund a new stadium AED. Motion passed unanimously 9-0.

B. Action on the approval of the District Budgetary Planning Meetings for the 2026-2027 school year.
1st: Mr. Ogburn 2nd: Mr. Diaz Motion: 9-0

Mr. Ogburn made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Diaz, to retroactively approve the District Budgetary Planning Meetings for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion passed unanimously 9-0.

C. Action on the approval to nominate _____ as a candidate to serve on the Intermediate Unit I Board of Directors for (up-to) a three (3) year term. The IU1 Board of Directors will be elected at the March 24, 2026 IU1 Annual Convention held at the Penn West Convocation Center.

No motion was made to nominate a candidate.

D. Action on the approval of an agreement with Amergis Educational Staffing to provide nursing/staffing services as needed, at the discretion of the District. There will be no charge unless services are used.
1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Mr. Diaz Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Diaz, to approve the agreement with Amergis Educational Staffing to provide nursing/staffing services as needed, at the discretion of the District. There will be no charge unless services are used. Motion passed unanimously 9-0.

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

none

XX. Executive Session

none

XXI. Adjournment
1st: Mr. Diaz 2nd: Mr. Bianchini Motion: 9-0

Mr. Diaz made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Bianchini, that the Board approve the adjournment of the Regular Meeting of January 26, 2026. Motion passed, 9-0, and the meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Jodi McKay

Mrs. Jodi McKay, Board President

Pam Staley

Mrs. Pam Staley, Board Secretary