

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Directors Fort Cherry School District

A Reorganization/Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Fort Cherry School District was held Monday, December 2, 2024, 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	Mrs. Jeanine Miles
Ms. Amanda Herforth	Mrs. Leslie Maxin
Mrs. Julie Sepesy	Ms. Beverly Schwab
Mr. Chase Ogburn	Mrs. Cynthia Gaskill
Mr. Paul Bianchini	

The following members were excused/absent:
none

The following non-members were present:

Mr. Thomas Samosky, Superintendent
Mrs. Mary Burford, Business Manager
Mrs. Renee' Miller, Assistant Business Manager
Mrs. Pam Staley, Board Secretary
Mr. Salvatore Bittner, 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 (6:00pm)

Executive Session was held starting at 6:00 pm. Personnel, legal issues, and student matters were discussed.

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

By Whom: President McKay

Time: 7:13 pm

III. Reorganization of Board

A. Election of a Temporary Chairperson

Mrs. McKay nominated Mrs. Sepesy as the Temporary Chairperson. There were no other nominations.

Ms. Schwab made a motion to close the nominations. Mrs. Miles seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

B. Nominations for Board President for 2025

Ms. Schwab nominated Mrs. McKay as Board President for 2025. There were no other nominations.

Ms. Schwab made a motion to close nominations, Ms. Herforth seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

C. Election of Board President for 2025

Roll call was taken. There was unanimous support for the nomination of Mrs. McKay for President for 2025; Mr. Ogburn, Mrs. Sepesy, Mrs. Maxin, Mr. Bianchini, Ms. Herforth, Mrs. Miles, Mrs. Gaskill, Ms. Schwab and Mrs. McKay.

Motion passed 9-0, with Mrs. McKay as Board President for 2025.

D. Nominations for Board Vice President for 2025

Ms. Schwab nominated Mrs. Sepesy as Board Vice President. There were no other nominations.

Ms. Herforth made a motion to close nominations, Ms. Schwab seconded the motion. Motion passed, 9-0.

E. Election of Board Vice President for 2025

Roll call was taken. There was unanimous support for the nomination of Mrs. Sepesy for Vice President in 2025; Mr. Ogburn, Mrs. Sepesy, Mrs. Maxin, Mr. Bianchini, Mrs. Gaskill, Ms. Herforth Mrs. McKay, Ms. Schwab and Mrs. Miles.

Motion passed 9-0, with Mrs. Sepesy as Board Vice President for 2025.

IV. Approval of Agenda – Reorganization/Regular Meeting of December 2, 2024

1st: Ms. Schwab

2nd: Ms. Herforth

Motion: 9-0

Ms. Schwab made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Herforth, to approve the agenda of the Reorganization/Regular Meeting of December 2, 2024. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

V. Remarks by Visitors

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

none

VI. Presentations –

A. Retiree Recognition - Dr. Trisha Craig, Mr. James McDonald, Mrs. Rebecca Mroz

Our retirees were recognized with cards and traditional cherry pies and Thanked for their many combined years of dedication and service.

B. Curriculum Update - Dr. Eric Lauver and Mrs. Jackie Artim

Dr. Lauver and Mrs. Artim discussed the math curriculum. They commented that our students are very capable and we are looking to align the curriculum for maximum student success. Dr. Lauver said Mrs. Artim, the Department chairs and the whole department are taking this very seriously and doing a great job. He thanked the Board for their support and also commented that the math department new teachers are helping to raise the standard. The direction is to raise the standards while offering the supports to help the students meet them.

VII. Action on the approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of October 28, 2024.

1st: Ms. Schwab

2nd: Mrs. Maxin

Motion: 9-0

Ms. Schwab made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Maxin, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 28, 2024. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

VIII. Secretary's Correspondence

There were two items to share. On November 1, 2024 the PSBA sent their annual book to Fort Cherry School District, "The Buddy Bench". Additionally, on November 21, 2024, each Board member was mailed a letter notifying them of the intent to retain our current Superintendent, Mr. Thomas J. Samosky, at the December 2, 2024 meeting.

IX. 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. Herforth Motion: 9-0

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

X. Reports

A. Board Reports

none

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.

XI. Personnel and Curriculum

Mrs. McKay combined and acknowledged Items XI. A. through D. and thanked each employee for their contributions and service.

- A. Acknowledge the resignation of Mrs. Ashlyn Whipple, professional employee, School Nurse, effective November 11, 2024.
- B. Acknowledge the resignation of Ms. Jenna Carnahan, professional employee, Elementary Health & Physical Education Teacher, effective January 3, 2025.
- C. Acknowledge the resignation of Ms. Kelly Joyce, Elementary Long-Term Substitute, effective December 6, 2024.
- D. Acknowledge the resignation of Ms. Jessica Cole as Senior Class Sponsor effective December 20, 2024.

Motion to combine and approve Items XI. E. through N.

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

Mrs. Sepesy made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Schwab, to combine and approve Personnel and Curriculum Items XI. E. – N. as a group. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

- E. Action on the approval of Mrs. Katelyn Willyerd as the Senior Class Sponsor, effective January 6, 2025, per the FCEA Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- F. Action on the approval to hire Mrs. Shari McDonald as a full-time Custodian, per the Fort Cherry ESPA Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective January 20, 2025.
- G. Action on the approval to hire Mr. Nicholas Moeller as a full-time paraprofessional per the FCSD Secretary/Aide Collective Bargaining Agreement, contingent upon the final receipt and review of any and all new hire paperwork. Start date December 4, 2024.
- H. Action on the approval to hire Mr. Zack Skrabski, professional employee, Elementary Health and Physical Education Teacher, per the FCEA

Collective Bargaining agreement, Bachelor's level Step 1, contingent on the final receipt and review of any and all new hire paperwork. Start date is January 6, 2025.

- I. Action on the approval to hire Mr. Andrew Mine, professional employee, High School Science Teacher, per the FCEA Collective Bargaining agreement, Bachelor's level Step 1, contingent on the final receipt and review of any and all new hire paperwork. Start date is December 3, 2024.
- J. Action on the approval to hire Ms. Nicole Stewart, professional employee, High School Nurse, per the FCEA Collective Bargaining agreement, Bachelor's level Step 1, contingent on the final receipt and review of any and all new hire paperwork. Start date to be determined after release from current employer.
- K. Action on the approval to hire Mr. Mitchell Nordstrom, professional employee, High School Social Studies Teacher, per the FCEA Collective Bargaining agreement, Bachelor's level Step 1, contingent on the final receipt and review of any and all new hire paperwork. Start date December 9, 2024.
- L. Action on the approval to appoint Dr. Eric Lauver as High School Principal, per the Act 93 agreement, effective January 6, 2025.
- M. Action on the approval to renew the Commission of Mr. Thomas Samosky as District Superintendent of Schools for a term of five (5) years, commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2030, and approve the Superintendent Agreement between the District and Mr. Samosky, as attached.
- N. Action on the approval to raise Day to Day Substitute Teacher pay rates to:
Day 1 - Day 30: \$150/day (previously \$120)
Day 31 and after: \$180/day (previously \$150)
This increase will be effective December 3, 2024.

XII. Buildings and Grounds

Motion to combine and approve Items XII. Building and Grounds A. through B.

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

Ms. Schwab made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Miles, to combine and approve Building and Grounds Items A - B as a group. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0 on items A-B.

- A. Action on the approval of the Huckenstein annual service contract effective November 1, 2024 - October 31, 2025 per the attached quote of \$21,324.00.
- B. Action on the approval to purchase office furniture from P.E.M.Co. for \$9,095.80 per the attached quote.

XIII. Transportation

- A. Action on the approval of the G G & C Bus Driver List for the 2024-2025 school year as attached, contingent upon the receipt, review and final approval of any and all clearances and new driver paperwork.
1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Ms. Schwab Motion: 9-0

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

XIV. Finance

- A. Action on the approval to purchase two (2) electronic time kiosks from Touchpoint at a cost of \$3,398.00 per the attached quote.
1st: Ms. Schwab 2nd: Ms. Herforth Motion: 9-0

Ms. Schwab made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Herforth, that the Board approve to purchase two (2) electronic time kiosks from Touchpoint at a cost of \$3,398.00 per the attached quote. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

XV. Technology

- A. Action on the approval to replace the batteries for the High School MDF UPS system from Bozic Communications at a cost of \$2,355.00 per the attached quote.
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 to replace the batteries for the High School MDF UPS system from Bozic Communications at a cost of \$2,355.00 per the attached quote. Motion passed, 8-0-1 with Ms. Schwab abstaining due to

conflict of interest. Abstention paperwork on file with the Board documents.

XVI. Athletics

Motion to combine and approve Items XVI. Athletics A. through D.
1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Ms. Schwab Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Schwab, to combine and approve Athletics Items XVI. A – D as a group. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

- A. Action on the approval to hire Mr. Matthew Sobocinski as the Girls' Varsity Softball head coach per the FCEA Collective Bargaining agreement.
- B. Action on the approval of Mr. Maddox Truschel as a volunteer Boys' Varsity Basketball Coach contingent upon the receipt and review of all clearances.
- C. Action on the approval of Mr. Chad Taylor as a volunteer Girls' Varsity Basketball Assistant Coach contingent upon the receipt and review of all clearances.
- D. Action on the approval for the Varsity Boys Basketball Team to attend a University of Pittsburgh basketball game and stay overnight at the Oaklander Hotel, December 21-22, 2024. Trip expenses paid by the Boosters.

XVII. Activities

None

XVIII. Policy

None

XIX. Miscellaneous

Motion to combine and approve Items XIX. Miscellaneous A. through H.
1st: Ms. Schwab 2nd: Mrs. Sepesy Motion: 9-0

Ms. Schwab made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Sepesy, to combine and approve Miscellaneous Items XIX. A – H. as a group. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

- A. Action on the approval of the District calendar for the 2025-2026 school year.
- B. Action on the approval of the Schedule for Regular Board Meetings for the 2025 calendar year.
- C. Action on the approval of the District Budgetary Planning Meetings for the 2025-2026 school year.
- D. Action on the approval of holding the 2025 Board Meetings in person and virtually.
- E. Action on the approval of appointing Andrews and Price as District Solicitor for the 2025 calendar year at a monthly retainer rate of \$550.00 per month (\$500.00 in 2024) and an hourly rate of \$125.00. (\$120.00 in 2024)
- F. Action on the approval of a \$5,500.00 donation to the Heritage Public Library from the General Fund.
- G. Action on the approval of a student discipline recommendation proposed by FCSD Administration
- H. Action on the approval to transfer the East End Park property to McDonald Borough and to authorize the Board President and Secretary to execute the necessary documents.

XX. Public Comment

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

none

XXI. Executive Session

none

XXII. Adjournment

1st: Ms. Schwab

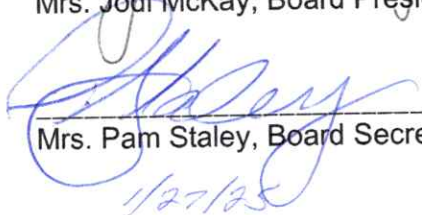
2nd: Ms. Herforth

Motion: 9-0

Ms. Schwab made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Herforth, that the Board approve the adjournment of the Reorganization/Regular Meeting of December 2, 2024. Motion passed, 9-0, and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.



Mrs. Jodi McKay, Board President



Mrs. Pam Staley, Board Secretary

1/27/25