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 1, 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:

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 members were excused/absent:
none

The following non-members were present:

Mr. Thomas Samosky, Superintendent
Mrs. Reneé Miller, Business Manager
Mrs. Pam Staley, Board Secretary
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** (6:00pm)

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

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

By Whom: President McKay Time: 7:08 pm

III. Reorganization of Board

A. Election of a Temporary Chairperson

Ms. Herforth was nominated as the Temporary Chairperson. There were no other nominations.

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion to close the nominations. Mr. Diaz seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion to elect Ms. Herforth as the Temporary Chairperson. Mr. Diaz seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

B. Nominations for Board President for 2026

Mrs. Sepesy nominated Mrs. McKay as Board President for 2026. There were no other nominations.

Mr. Diaz made a motion to close nominations, Mr. Ogburn seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

C. Election of Board President for 2026

Roll call was taken. There was unanimous support for the election of Mrs. McKay for President for 2026; Mr. Ogburn, Mrs. Sepesy, Mrs. Maxin, Mr. Bianchini, Ms. Herforth, Mr. Salvini, Mrs. Gaskill, Mr. Diaz and Mrs. McKay.

Motion passed 9-0, with Mrs. McKay as Board President for 2026.

D. Nominations for Board Vice President for 2026

Ms. Herforth nominated Mrs. Sepesy as Board Vice President for 2026. There were no other nominations.

Mrs. Gaskill made a motion to close nominations, Mr. Ogburn seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

E. Election of Board Vice President for 2025

Roll call was taken. There was unanimous support for the election of Mrs. Sepesy for Vice President in 2026; Mr. Ogburn, Mrs. Sepesy, Mrs. Maxin, Mr. Bianchini, Mrs. Gaskill, Ms. Herforth Mrs. McKay, Mr. Diaz and Mr. Salvini.

Motion passed 9-0, with Mrs. Sepesy as Board Vice President for 2026.

IV. Approval of Agenda – Reorganization/Regular Meeting of December 1, 2025

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

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Herforth, to approve the agenda of the Reorganization/Regular Meeting of December 1, 2025. 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. Action on the approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of October 27, 2025

1st: Mrs. Maxin 2nd: Mr. Ogburn Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Maxin made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Ogburn, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 27, 2025. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

VII. Secretary's Correspondence

none

VIII. Treasurer's Actions

Reports will be reviewed at the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting

IX. Reports

A. **Board Reports**

Mrs. Maxin shared that the Western Area CTC meeting was coming up on December 17, 2025 and encouraged questions or input.

B. **Solicitor's Report**

none

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

A. Acknowledge the resignation of Mr. Troy Cook as School Security Officer effective November 13, 2025.

Mrs. McKay acknowledged Mr. Cook's resignation and thanked him for his contributions to District safety.

B. Action on the approval to hire Mr. William Harris as School Security Officer, per the attached contract, contingent upon the final receipt and review of any and all new hire paperwork.
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 hire Mr. William Harris as School Security Officer, per the attached contract, contingent upon the final receipt and review of any and all new hire paperwork. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

C. Acknowledge the request for Sabbatical Leave for Professional Employee 2025-26-04 for the 2nd semester of the 2025-2026 school year (January 19, 2026- June 5, 2026)

Mrs. McKay acknowledged the Sabbatical Leave for Professional Employee 2025-06-04.

D. Acknowledge maternity leave extension of professional employee #2024-25-05 through the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

Mrs. McKay acknowledged the Maternity Leave extension for Professional Employee 2024-25-05.

E. Action on the approval of the PIMS Administrator, Child Accounting, and Payroll Clerk job description as attached, subject to final review and approval of the District Solicitor.
1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Ms. Herforth Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Herforth, that the Board approve the PIMS Administrator, Child Accounting, and Payroll Clerk job description as attached, subject to final review and approval of the District Solicitor. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

F. Action on the approval of the Administrative Assistant/General Registrar, Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable job description as attached,

subject to final review and approval of the District Solicitor.
1st: Mrs. Maxin 2nd: Mrs. Sepesy Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Maxin made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Sepesy, that the Board approve the Administrative Assistant/General Registrar, Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable job description as attached, subject to final review and approval of the District Solicitor. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

G. Action on the approval to purchase Accelerated Reader curriculum from Renaissance for $1,301.50. Accelerated Reader will replace Read n' Quiz curriculum. Contract is through June 30, 2026.
1st: Ms. Herforth 2nd: Mrs. Maxin Motion: 9-0

Ms. Herforth made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Maxin, that the Board approve to purchase Accelerated Reader curriculum from Renaissance for $1,301.50. Accelerated Reader will replace Read n' Quiz curriculum. Contract is through June 30, 2026. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

H. Action on the approval of the Pennsylvania Dropout Recovery Program Agreement between Fort Cherry School District and the Graduation Alliance for the 2025-2026 school year for $7,702.60 per pupil, per the attached quote.
1st: Ms. Herforth 2nd: Mrs. Maxin Motion: 9-0

Ms. Herforth made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Maxin, that the Board approve the Pennsylvania Dropout Recovery Program Agreement between Fort Cherry School District and the Graduation Alliance for the 2025-2026 school year for $7,702.60 per pupil, per the attached quote. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

XI. Buildings and Grounds

A. Action on the approval to authorize McClure Company to perform an audit of the District's facilities as part of a Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contract, in accordance with Pennsylvania Procurement Code Title 62, Acts 163, 57, 77, and 39. The audit will identify opportunities for energy savings, capital improvement needs, and preventive maintenance planning. There is no cost to the District and no obligation to proceed with any project unless subsequently approved by the Fort Cherry School Board.
1st: Mrs. Maxin 2nd: Ms. Herforth Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Maxin made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Herforth, that the Board approve to authorize McClure Company to perform an audit of the

District's facilities as part of a Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contract, in accordance with Pennsylvania Procurement Code Title 62, Acts 163, 57, 77, and 39. The audit will identify opportunities for energy savings, capital improvement needs, and preventive maintenance planning. There is no cost to the District and no obligation to proceed with any project unless subsequently approved by the Fort Cherry School Board. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

B. Action on the approval of the Combustion Service and Equipment Company annual service contract effective December 1, 2025 - November 30, 2026, per the attached quote of $2,600.00.
1st: Mrs. Maxin 2nd: Mr. Ogburn Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Maxin made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Ogburn, that the Board approve the Combustion Service and Equipment Company annual service contract effective December 1, 2025 - November 30, 2026, per the attached quote of $2,600.00. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

C. Action on the approval of the Huckestein Mechanical HVAC Contract Service Plan Renewal for the upcoming term, November 1, 2025 through October 31, 2026, per the attached quote of $22,382.00.
1st: Mr. Ogburn 2nd: Ms. Herforth Motion: 9-0

Mr. Ogburn made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Herforth, that the Board approve the Huckestein Mechanical HVAC Contract Service Plan Renewal for the upcoming term, November 1, 2025 through October 31, 2026, per the attached quote of $22,382.00. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

D. Action on the approval to install softball and baseball benches from C.M. Eichenlaub Company for $5,177.00 for Option 1, per the attached quote.
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 install softball and baseball benches from C.M. Eichenlaub Company for $5,177.00 for Option 1, per the attached quote. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

E. Action on the approval to hire Bulldog Tree Care to cut and remove several trees on campus in various locations for $10,200.00, per the attached quote.
1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Mrs. Maxin Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Maxin, that the Board approve to hire Bulldog Tree Care to cut and remove several trees on campus in various locations for $10,200.00, per the attached quote.

Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

XII. Transportation

A. Action to retroactively approve the following additional GG&C Bus Company drivers and monitors, contingent upon receipt and final review of any and all paperwork; Bonnie Cowden, Codi Fuller and William Mitchell.
1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Mr. Diaz Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Diaz, that the Board approve the following additional GG&C Bus Company drivers and monitors, contingent upon receipt and final review of any and all paperwork; Bonnie Cowden, Codi Fuller and William Mitchell. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

XIII. Finance

A. Action on the approval to pay Force Turf Solutions, Inc. the final application as submitted, including all change orders 1-7 as submitted, and authorize dropping the retainage to 5% pending final resolution of all issues, pending review by the District Solicitor.
1st: Ms. Herforth 2nd: Mrs. Sepesy Motion: 9-0

Ms. Herforth made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Sepesy, that the Board approve to pay Force Turf Solutions, Inc. the final application as submitted, including all change orders 1-7 as submitted, and authorize dropping the retainage to 5% pending final resolution of all issues, pending review by the District Solicitor. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

XIV. Technology

none

XV. Athletics

A. Acknowledge the resignation of Ms. Carolena Gasbarro as Cross Country head coach effective November 17, 2025.

Mrs. McKay acknowledged Ms. Gasbarro's resignation and thanked her for her time and talents coaching our students.

B. Acknowledge the resignation of Mr. Kevin Center as the Weight Room Coordinator, effective January 20, 2026.

Mrs. McKay acknowledged Mr. Center's resignation and thanked him for his time and talents coaching our students.

C. Action on the approval of Mr. Anthony Cherico as a volunteer Varsity Boys' Basketball coach, contingent on the final receipt and review of all paperwork.
1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Mrs. Maxin Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Maxin, that the Board approve Mr. Anthony Cherico as a volunteer Varsity Boys' Basketball coach, contingent on the final receipt and review of all paperwork. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

XVI. Activities

None

XVII. Policy

None

XVIII. Miscellaneous

A. Action on the approval of the District calendar for the 2026-2027 school year.
1st: Ms. Herforth 2nd: Mr. Bianchini Motion: 9-0

Ms. Herforth made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Bianchini, that the Board approve the District calendar for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

B. Action on the approval of the Schedule for Regular Board Meetings for the 2026 calendar year.
1st: Mrs. Maxin 2nd: Mr. Bianchini Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Maxin made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Bianchini, that the Board approve the District calendar for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

C. Action on the approval to hold the 2026 Board Meetings in person and virtually.
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 hold the 2026 Board Meetings in person and virtually. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

D. Action on the approval of appointing Andrews and Price as District Solicitor for the 2026 calendar year at a monthly retainer rate of $550.00

per month ($550.00 in 2025) and an hourly rate of $125.00. ($125.00 in 2025)
1st: Ms. Herforth 2nd: Mrs. Sepesy Motion: 9-0

Ms. Herforth made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Sepesy, that the Board approve to appoint Andrews and Price as District Solicitor for the 2026 calendar year at a monthly retainer rate of $550.00 per month ($550.00 in 2025) and an hourly rate of $125.00. ($125.00 in 2025). Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

E. Action on the approval of a $5,500.00 donation to the Heritage Public Library from the General Fund.
1st: Ms. Herforth 2nd: Mrs. Gaskill Motion: 9-0

Ms. Herforth made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Gaskill, that the Board approve a $5,500.00 donation to the Heritage Public Library from the General Fund. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

F. Action on the approval to accept a $500.00 donation from Green's Taxi Service. Donation will be used to partially fund a new stadium AED. Balance of the AED funding will come from AEDGrant company. The grant was secured by Olivia Brooker, Fort Cherry Athletic Trainer.
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 accept a $500.00 donation from Green's Taxi Service. Donation will be used to partially fund a new stadium AED. Balance of the AED funding will come from AEDGrant company. The grant was secured by Olivia Brooker, Fort Cherry Athletic Trainer. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

G. Action on the approval for Mrs. Jodie Hoover to attend the National Association of Agricultural Educators Conference in Nashville, TN from December 8-11, 2025 at a cost that is estimated to be $1,430.50.
1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Ms. Herforth Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Herforth, that the Board approve Mrs. Jodie Hoover to attend the National Association of Agricultural Educators Conference in Nashville, TN from December 8-11, 2025 at a cost that is estimated to be $1,430.50. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

H. Action on the approval of the Letter of Agreement between Southwest Behavioral Care, Inc, The CARE Center, Inc. and the Fort Cherry School District, commencing January 1, 2026 and ending on December 31, 2027.
1st: Mrs. Maxin 2nd: Mr. Diaz Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Maxin made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Diaz, that the Board approve the Letter of Agreement between Southwest Behavioral Care, Inc, The CARE Center, Inc. and the Fort Cherry School District, commencing January 1, 2026 and ending on December 31, 2027. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

I. Action on the approval of an affiliation agreement between Fort Cherry School District and Mercyhurst University.
1st: Mrs. Maxin 2nd: Mrs. Gaskill Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Maxin made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Gaskill, that the Board approve an affiliation agreement between Fort Cherry School District and Mercyhurst University. 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

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm to Executive Session to discuss personnel. Executive Session adjourned at 8:20 pm.

XXI. Adjournment
1st: Mrs. Sepesy 2nd: Mr. Ogburn Motion: 9-0

Mrs. Sepesy made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Ogburn, that the Board approve the adjournment of the Reorganization/Regular Meeting of December 1, 2025. Motion passed, 9-0, and the meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm to Executive Session. Executive session adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Jodi McKay

Mrs. Jodi McKay, Board President

Pam Staley

Mrs. Pam Staley, Board Secretary