

#2696

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MAY - 7 REC'D

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

4:32 pm

Regular Business Meeting - February 11, 2008

5. 2008-2009 Fox Chapel Area School District Calendar

The 2008-2009 Fox Chapel Area School District calendar is approved as attached.

LEGISLATION

On motion by Mr. Leech, seconded by Mrs. Gaus, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Legislation item:

1. Resolution Opposing Proposed High School Graduation Competency Assessments

Approve a resolution opposing revisions to Chapter 4 regulations requiring students to pass a series of standardized high school graduations assessments in order to receive a diploma.

ACTIVITIES/ATHLETICS/PERSONNEL

Candidates for employment under this section are approved subject to verification of the results of physical and drug screening examinations and all other essential employment requirements under policies P-09-02 and P-09-20.

On motion by Mrs. Baum, seconded by Mrs. Gaus, it was unanimously resolved to approve the following Personnel items:

1. Resignations

a. Custodial/Maintenance

(1) The resignation of Carol A. Walzer, custodian at Fox Chapel Area High School, for personal reasons, is accepted effective March 19, 2008.

b. Nutrition Center

(1) The resignation of Rebecca Jo Uminski, nutrition center employee at Fox Chapel Area High School, for personal reasons, is accepted effective January 11, 2008.

c. Supplemental Contract - Non-Athletic

(1) The resignation of Dennis L. Emert, spring musical orchestra director at Fox Chapel Area High School, for personal reasons, is accepted effective January 11, 2008.

d. Secretarial/Clerical/Instructional Assistants

(1) The resignation of Samantha C. Kimmel, instructional assistant at Fairview Elementary School, for personal reasons, is accepted effective April 14, 2008.

e. Purchase-of-Service Personal Care Assistant

(1) The resignation of Dana McNally, purchase-of-service personal care assistant at O'Hara Elementary School, for personal reasons, is accepted effective February 8, 2008.

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**RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION COMPETENCY ASSESSMENTS
BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
Fox Chapel Area SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has approved a proposal to revise the current high school graduation requirements under the Chapter 4 regulations to require students to pass a series of standardized high stakes Graduation Competency Assessments in order to get a diploma; and

WHEREAS, these new requirements and exams will be the same for all students, whether they are taking college prep or vocational courses, are English language learners or participating in individualized programs, and all students effectively will be required to take the same courses in order to pass this new battery of state tests; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 4 currently allows districts to use either the PSSA *or* rigorous local assessments for their students to demonstrate proficiency of the state academic standards; and it is misleading and incorrect to make the assumption that because students demonstrate their achievements on local assessments rather than the PSSA that there is a disconnect between proficiency and graduation; and

WHEREAS, although the GCA proposal permits schools to use a local assessment option, it establishes numerous limitations, including the elimination of the ability to use various assessment strategies now available to local entities and requires local tests to be closely modeled to the GCAs; and

WHEREAS, decades of research shows many reasons why standardized pencil and paper test scores should never be the determining factor in making major decisions about students, and that a diploma should be granted based on the coursework, tests and quizzes, presentations, projects and papers throughout the student's career; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has not prepared a cost analysis or fiscal note, even though this will create a large financial impact on state and local budgets, and the State Board's own costing-out study did not include the costs for this new system and found that the state already is \$4.4 billion short in helping school districts prepare students to meet the academic standards by 2014; and

WHEREAS, the proposal requires school districts to absorb many new costs related to revising curriculum, professional development, test development and validation, test preparation and administration, remediation and other costs. Given the state's funding shortfall and the Act 1 limitations on tax increases, school districts have limited ability to fund these potential new costs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the board of school directors of the _____ school district opposes the State Board of Education's proposal to enact Graduation Competency Assessments and any other regulation or legislation that usurps the authority of local school districts to determine whether their students have earned a high school diploma. This resolution will be shared with the State Board of Education, state legislators including local legislators and members of the Senate and House Education Committees, and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

Adopted this 11th day of February, 2008.

Signed,

Charles L. Burke, Jr.
School Board President

Attest:

STEVE ELLIOTT
Board Secretary (seal)

From: Candy Chapple [Candy_Chapple@fcasd.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, May 07, 2008 3:21 PM
To: j buckheit@state.pa.us; IRRC
Cc: Anne Stephens
Subject: Fox Chapel Area - Resolution Opposing GCA

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Attached please find Fox Chapel Area School District's Resolution opposing Graduation

Competency Assessments.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Candace Chapple

Candace A. Chapple
Confidential Assistant to the Superintendent
Fox Chapel Area School District
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Pittsburgh PA 15238
(412) 967-2413