

Fox Chapel Area School District

Regular Business Meeting

May 8, 2023

Resolution 2023-2

## **FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **RESOLUTION 2023-2**

#### **A Resolution in Support of SB180 and HB180 - School Meals for All**

**WHEREAS**, recent events have highlighted the reliance of families on school meals to keep their children fed; and

**WHEREAS**, offering universal school meals benefits all students and their parents, teachers, and schools; multiple studies show that students with access to free breakfast have improved attendance rates, better attendance in school, improved participation rates, fewer behavioral incidents, lower suspension rates, and better health outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, since Pennsylvania continued providing one free breakfast daily to all students through the 2022-2023 school year, the Fox Chapel Area School District has seen an almost 122% increase in breakfasts served daily as compared to pre-pandemic participation rates; and

**WHEREAS**, universal school meals reduce financial stress and work for students, families, and schools. Parents should not be required to do burdensome paperwork to prove they need free meals, and schools should not be turned into debt collectors when families cannot pay; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost to a family with one child in the school district for breakfast and lunch every day in the Fox Chapel Area School District would be \$20.50 to \$22.00 a week (\$738.00 to \$792.00/school year). With universal school meals, that money is able to be spent on other essentials or spent in the community, thus helping local businesses thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, if the state passed and implemented the Pennsylvania Universal School Meals Act and continued to cover the cost of free breakfast and began covering the cost of free lunch, it would provide much-needed financial relief for families, communities, and school districts. In the Fox Chapel Area School District, approximately \$1,587,123 (at 50% participation) to \$3,174,246 (at 100% participation) could be returned to the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, without legislative action, at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, once again only students with a family income of 185% of the poverty level or below will qualify for free or reduced school breakfast and lunch. For example, a family of four must be living on \$39,000 or less to be eligible for free school meals. Additionally, because of rising supply chain costs, some schools have been forced to raise meal prices, meaning that families who were paying for meals before will now pay even more; and

**WHEREAS**, distributing and collecting applications for free and reduced-price meals, certifying students for the proper school meals fee categories based on parental income, verifying a subset of applications to comply with federal requirements, and assigning and reporting each

meal served to the correct reimbursement category are complex processes that absorb the time of school staff; and

**NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED** that the Fox Chapel Area School District Board of School Directors fully supports School Meals for All (SB180 and HB180) so that all children throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania can receive the food they need to be successful in school and further work to remove the stigma that has always existed in the school meals program.

**MAY IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Fox Chapel Area School District Board of School Directors calls upon our fellow elected officials to support these efforts by passing resolutions at the local level, co-sponsoring legislation at the state level, and advocating for kids across the state to access the healthy food they need during the school day.

Adopted this 8th day of May, 2023, at a regular meeting of the Board of School Directors.

ATTEST:

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Kathleen Anuszek  
School Board Secretary

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Marybeth Dadd  
School Board President