

FINNEYTOWN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Special Meeting – September 13, 2018
Administrative Office Conference Room
7:15pm

The Finneytown Board of Education met in special session on Thursday, September 13, 2018 in the Finneytown Administrative Office Conference Room, 8916 Fontainebleau Terrace, Cincinnati, OH 45231. Mrs. Rebman, Mr. Gast, Mr. Engleman, Ms. Johnson and Mr. Stuhldreier were present. The president called the meeting to order at 7:20pm.

74-18 Mr. Gast moved, seconded by Mr. Engleman, the Board dispensed with the opening ceremony and approval of the minutes from the regular meeting of August 27, 2018. The president declared the motion passed.

Board of Education Support Organization Discussion

The Board of Education and administration discussed the following items:

- Synthetic Stadium Turf Donation Proposal
 - Mr. Warmack found athletic turf stadium field that is of a high grade, only two years old, from a local source, which will be donated to the school at no cost.
 - A decision must be made to accept the donation by mid to late November.
 - While the turf is completely free of charge, the district would be responsible for transportation of the turf, site preparation and turf installation (estimated at roughly \$300,000 - \$500,000, depending upon the condition of the site, particularly the drainage system).
 - Mr. Warmack believes that donations could be secured to completely cover the remaining cost.
 - Synthetic turf would allow many more hours of available field time, a safer play surface for athletes, a rental income stream, and other community benefits.
 - Finneytown is one of the few school districts that does not have synthetic turf in our league. Synthetic turf would be a big boost for the school athletic and marching band programs.
 - A privately funded synthetic stadium turf donation would reduce the project cost (and required voted millage) of the district's upcoming bond issue, which includes synthetic stadium turf as a locally funded initiative (LFI). A successful project would improve the district's chance of passing the bond levy.
 - Messaging needs to be distributed so that the community understands the synthetic turf was privately funded, not funded with local public tax dollars.
 - For these reasons, the board consensus was that Mr. Warmack should pursue official/professional cost estimates and initiate fundraising activities, and that the Board would certainly approve the donation and project if it were fully funded with private funds.

- FLSD support organization meeting recap and review
 - Meetings with the districts support organizations this summer were very valuable, opening communication channels, elucidating expectations, and bringing greater consistency to the relationship between the board and each of its support organizations.
 - FLSD support organization working definition: An organization whose only purpose and reason for existence is to support the FLSD. An organization that would disband if the district were to disband.
 - Based upon this working definition, FAA is not viewed as a support organization. However, FAA, is viewed as a vital “community partner”. FAA has offered to support the middle school athletic program, which is currently without a sponsor.
 - The Board intends to recognize its support organizations as official “support organizations” and FAA as an official “community partner” annually as one of its board functions.
 - Board member presence at a support organization meeting is a resource that deserves to be recognized, accepted and respected.
 - Finneytown Athletic Boosters has traditionally focused its support on high school. The board requests Athletic Booster support extend to middle school athletic program and believes this is a requirement to retain full concession stand privileges.
 - Support organizations have recently made some improvements to district facilities without prior notice or approval of district officials.
 - Finneytown policy on support organizations will be updated to state that school property cannot be modified or altered without the approval and authorization of the administrator responsible for the district’s facilities (i.e. business manager).
- Springfield Township Tax Abatement Proposal
 - The district appreciates, and sincerely desires to partner with, Springfield Township and support investment in the district and township.
 - While the district understands this 15-year, 100% tax abated development paves the way for expansion and a long term future additional revenue stream, it will also result in near term additional services and costs, as some children will invariably reside in this new development, without any financial support.
 - The district will seek advice from a professional with Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) expertise for the purposes of evaluating the proposal and developing a fair counter proposal that considers the best interests of the Finneytown community.
- Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) At-Risk Package review
 - OFCC funding for the next two years is fully committed. July of 2020 appears to be the first realistic potential opportunity for funding new districts.
 - OFCC has indicated that advance bond issue approval, prior to an OFCC funding commitment, would allow Finneytown to be part of the group that moves to the top of the list for available funding.

- An OFCC At-Risk Package presented to the school district identifies the following current risks for districts that go to voters prior to a funding commitment:
 - Reinstatement of the storm shelter provision requirement recently added to the Ohio Building Code, but under a one year moratorium, could add significant increased project cost.
 - Inflation which is currently averaging 3% per year should be factored
 - District percentile ranking and local share funding changes, which could decrease the state share
 - Downward enrollment fluctuation, which could decrease funding
 - OFCC funding uncertainty; there is no guarantee when funds will become available for new projects.
 - Lapsed and segmented districts as well as STEM schools have priority and can move ahead of Finneytown for available funding
- It is time to consider our decision, update the community and initiate planning for a November 2019 bond issue if we are going to move forward.
- The district is leaning towards a November 2019 levy because we really do need new buildings sooner rather than later, but will wait until the new district rankings and state share percentages are published before a decision to officially target November 2019 is announced.
- Classroom Lockdown Kits
 - Finneytown Schools have been approached by the township fire and police departments regarding devices that would lock down a room in the event of a violent school intrusion or active shooter situation.
 - The township has identified a device that costs \$69 each, that it recommends. However, with the large number of doors in Finneytown's facilities, the cost of equipment alone would be approximately \$22,000.
 - The device can only be used on doors that open out into a hallway. Unfortunately, not all Finneytown doors open outward.
 - Concern was expressed about the unintended consequences of misuse of the devices by students or others to entrap students or other victims, or deter supervision or rescue.
- State Reports Cards
 - State report cards were released today. Finneytown showed improvement but the scores are not where we want them to be, nor are they truly reflective of the educational opportunities afforded our students.
 - The district timed the release of its in-house District Profile, which provides more information on many of the school district's student and academic successes over the past year, to coincide with the state report release.

75-18 There being no further business, Mr. Gast moved, seconded by Mr. Stuhreyer, that the meeting be adjourned. The president declared the meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.



Cindy Rebman, President

ATTEST:



David Oliverio, Treasurer