

FINNEYTOWN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Special Meeting

Administrative Office Conference Room

April 8, 2019

7:00pm

The Finneytown Board of Education met in special session on Monday, April 8, 2019 in the Finneytown Administrative Office Conference Room, 8916 Fontainebleau Terrace, Cincinnati, OH 45231. Mr. Gast, Mrs. Rebman, Mr. Engleman, Ms. Johnson and Mr. Stuhldreier were present. The president called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

24-19 Mrs. Rebman moved, seconded by Ms. Johnson, that the Board dispense with the opening ceremony and approval of the minutes from the regular meeting of March 25, 2019. The president declared the motion passed.

Discussion Regarding Facilities Planning

The Board of Education and administration discussed the following items:

- The following Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) programs were explained:
 - Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP) – a partnership program between the state and the local school district for the funding and management of K-12 school construction projects. The district’s local share percentage and eligibility ranking depend upon district wealth factors. Requirements include a district-wide facilities assessment, master plan adoption, an OFCC offer, raising the required local share of the project and a ½ mill maintenance levy. The district must pay 100% of any non-qualifying locally funded initiatives (LFI’s).
 - Expedited Local Partnership Program (ELPP) – available to districts that have not reached eligibility under CFAP. This program gives districts the option of moving forward on needed facilities work now, instead of waiting for state funding based upon their position on the list. In ELPP, the district chooses a specific portion of the OFCC approved master plan to complete with local funding only. Once the district becomes eligible for CFAP funding, any qualified expenditures made under ELPP are counted towards the local share needed for their project.
- Finneytown Local’s OFCC program status:
 - The district has been near the top of the eligibility list / funding commitment queue for CFAP for the last several years.
 - The district obtained all prerequisite program requirements in anticipation of a state funding offer: updated building assessments, student enrollment forecast, and an approved facilities master plan.
 - Unfortunately, the state’s current state OFCC funding allocation unexpectedly ran out before it got to Finneytown, as “lapsed” districts passed bond issues that allowed them to jump back in line ahead of us.

- The availability of state funds for new Finneytown school buildings is now estimated at two or more years under the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP).
- Recent Developments:
 - Thanks to a March 2019 ELPP rule change, Finneytown discovered it is eligible for a different OFCC program, the Expedited Local Partnership Program (ELPP), that it was not eligible for last year under the old rules.
 - This program would allow Finneytown to move forward in obtaining our local funding share, which can be used to pay the entire portion of an initial project, while we wait for the availability of state funds which will be used to cover the majority of the remaining project.
 - Consideration only requires completion of a one page application and resolution by the Board of Education of its intention to participate.
- Implications of ELPP Participation:
 - Requires the district secure local funds (pass a bond issue) and ½ mill maintenance levy within 12 months of OFCC application approval.
 - Requires the district finalize details of the master plan and ensure the local share and locally funded initiatives (LFIs) can be financed within the district's approved debt capacity limitation.
 - Requires the district to determine the timing of a proposed bond issue.
 - Requires the district to identify a discrete segment of the master plan to complete, roughly equivalent to the district's financial share of the overall building project.
 - Requires the district provide education materials and financial implications to the community on the rationale for its decision to pursue new buildings.
 - Requires the district to find a campaign chair and committee to run and finance a private bond issue campaign.
 - Requires the district work with bond counsel and an underwriter to meet all legal requirements and determine the required millage necessary to fund the local share of the entire project.
 - Requires the district to choose a project architect, construction manager, issue bonds, etc.
- Advantages of ELPP participation now:
 - Approval doesn't obligate the Board of Education to move forward with a bond issue, if we change our mind before November.
 - Participation won't cause us to lose our CFAP status or position on the eligibility ranking list.
 - Allows the district to take advantage of current community momentum with regard to community-wide master plan development.
 - Allows the district to avoid construction material inflationary increases that have been averaging about 5% per year.
 - Allows the district to lock in interest rates (which have been trending higher) sooner rather than later.
 - Allows the district to lock-in the current state share at 60%, removing any risk that it could go down during a subsequent annual recalculation.

- Allows the district to benefit from the operating savings expected from the consolidation of the district's K - 6 buildings sooner rather than later.
- Construction of new elementary could help increase the district's enrollment above the 1500 student cutoff, saving the district an extra \$4.6 million in 2 building LFI cost
- Future action by the legislature to put additional funds toward OFCC construction projects could disqualify us from ELPP, as the district's anticipated offer timing is moved forward to under two-years (the ELPP limit).
- ELPP waives the statutory 9% debt limit, allowing participating districts to incur new debt equal to 150% of their state approved local share.

25-19 Mr. Engleman moved, seconded by Ms. Johnson, that the Board approve the following Resolution of Intent to Participate in the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission Expedited Local Partnership Program:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Finneytown Local School District ("*School District*"), Hamilton County, Ohio, met in special session on April 8, 2019 and adopted the following Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the School District intends to participate in the Expedited Local Partnership Program as outlined in SB 272; and

WHEREAS, the School District is planning to expend local resources to achieve a separate and distinct part of an overall master facilities plan of the school district's facility needs as prepared, in conjunction, with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission ("*Commission*"), that is either new construction or major repairs; and

WHEREAS, the School District Board intends to move forward with a ballot issue or apply other local resources in November, 2019 and acknowledges this date may not be sooner than twelve (12) months following the date of this resolution unless the district has a master facilities plan developed under another OFCC program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Finneytown Local School District, Hamilton County, Ohio that the school district declares its intention to participate in the Expedited Local Partnership Program.

RC: Mr. Gast, yes; Ms. Johnson, yes; Mrs. Rebman, yes; Mr. Stuhlreyer, yes; Mr. Engleman, yes. The president declared the motion passed.

26-19 There being no further business, Mr. Stuhlreyer moved, seconded by Mrs. Rebman, that the meeting be adjourned. The president declared the meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.



Tony Gast, President

ATTEST:



David Oliverio, Treasurer