

**FINNEYTOWN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Regular Meeting, October 19, 2020**  
**Zoom Remote Meeting**  
**Open Forum 7:00pm**  
**Regular Meeting 7:30pm**

The Finneytown Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, October 19, 2020, via video conference from remote locations, while under the declared COVID-19 pandemic health emergency, as authorized by Ohio House Bill 197. Mr. Gast, Mr. Engleman, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Rebman and Mrs. Mamphey were present. Administrative staff and members of the viewing public were also present. The President called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

**80-20** Ms. Mamphey moved, seconded by Mrs. Rebman, that the Board approve the agenda as amended. The President declared the motion passed.

**81-20** Ms. Johnson moved, seconded by Mrs. Rebman, that the Board approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of September 21, 2020. The President declared the motion passed.

**District Update**

**Mrs. Theresa Noe, Superintendent** – discussed the following:

- Mr. Tim Wagner is recommended to fill our Director of Administrative Services opening. He comes to us with a long history of construction experience and facility experience, and we're very, very happy to have him here.
- Pete Becker of Skanska is in attendance to explain a resolution requesting approval of our schematic design phase submission and authorizing approval to move forward with design development for the new K-6 school project. Christie Boron of Emersion Design is also in attendance. Next month she will give a presentation on the design process to date.
- Turf field and track project – the synthetic turf installation and track resurfacing projects are complete and look fabulous.
- National School Lunch Program – We received notice last Thursday that we have been approved for free student meals through the end of the school year. Any student living in Finneytown is eligible for this food.
- Community Liaisons – Dr. Banks has hired two community liaisons to work with our bilingual families to strengthen connections with those that do not speak English as their primary language. Both liaisons are former Finneytown graduates.
- Custodial Services – The carry-on includes a three-year contract with Alpha & Omega to provide custodial services to our district. This company comes highly recommended, providing services to about half of the districts in our area.

- Demolition – The house on Winton Road across from Fontainebleau will be demolished to make way for the new elementary construction project. This location has been used as storage for our community support organizations, such as PTA and After Prom. Items will be sorted and items worth keeping will be relocated to a locked area to be constructed in the Secondary Campus gymnasium boys shower and locker rooms. Many community members have stepped up to help with this process, scheduled for this coming weekend.
- The fire department was offered the house for controlled fire training exercises, but decided it was too close to adjacent properties to warrant the risk, so it will be torn down.
- Brent site – Some title work on the Brent property is required to create a single parcel out of what are currently six parcels of land with different variations on the school board of education name.
- Thomas Whitaker, the son of Telford Whitaker, namesake of Whitaker Elementary, and grandson of William Hackmeyer, Board of Education President on the commemorative building plaque in that building, has donated school building historical photos and memorabilia to the school for posterity and has requested that the Whitaker building plaque be preserved as a piece of district history.
- Layoff Callbacks – The district is hoping to recall positions reduced as a result of the school closure that will be needed when in-person instruction resumes. Some positions not required due to lower in-person student enrollment may be recalled for new positional needs, including additional intervention for students who tested off-track for reading.
- Virtual meetings – I've attended 12-15 virtual meetings as a result of the social distancing requirements. Our virtual facilities core team meeting is tomorrow.

### **Public Address**

#### **Roxane Godby**

Not allowing our children to attend class has consequences physically and mentally. Most schools around the tristate are and have been back for in-person classes. We have 10 months of data showing deaths for young people from babies to college students is almost non-existent. School-age children are not COVID spreaders. Suicides and drug overdoses have surpassed the death rate for COVID among high school students. Suicide is the leading cause of death in Ohio in those 10 to 14 years old. More school-aged kids died from the flu, yet America kept its schools open. Schools are really important in terms of mandatory reporting of sexual and child abuse. Millions of kids get their mental health services and food from schools. Schools are key for socialization and structure. COVID is a virus, and it's never going away. We will never have a zero infectious rate, ever. The young and the healthy have a 99% survival rate. Keeping schools closed is a great disservice, when the cure is worse than the disease. We look to you as leaders of our school district to figure out how to safely open up our schools, not to give us reasons to keep them closed. Thank you.

Beth Hughes

I have a sixth grader and a third grader. I have two concerns. The first is the decision made at the beginning of the year to base second quarter in-person school attendance upon the county level. I hope that as a district that we can come together, rethink and have more flexibility, similar to some of the other districts in the area, who are evaluating their plans, more often than once every semester. My second concern is the Wednesdays Community Learning Days. The Community Learning Days were touted as a day students would continue to work collaboratively, engage in assignments and projects and interact with teachers. To date, none of this has happened for either of my children. If this continues into second semester, it will be a total 34 Wednesdays without instruction or interaction with other students and teachers. That is almost seven weeks of school, 20% of their classroom instruction. Thank you.

Kay Sanders

My name is Kay Sanders and am a parent of two daughters at the Secondary campus. My son is a graduate of Finneytown. I have some concerns I would like to express my opinion upon:

1. Returning to school 2nd Quarter. I know there have been increases in positive tests and Hamilton Co. is currently at Level Red, but I'd also ask you to consider the recovery rate, especially among children and teenagers. It seems there is an increase in positive cases but most seem to be recovering with no adverse effects. Many other schools are back in person and not having significant issues. Mt Healthy and Madeira are just two examples. Kids need to be in class, having that personal interaction with teachers and students. There is an entirely different level of concentration when kids are sitting in the classroom. I am quite sure the teachers can have more passion about teaching to actual people and not a screen full of kids, many of whom don't show their faces. Please consider allowing those that want to go to school go in spite of the COVID color level.
2. My other concern is the lack of elective choices. This has been an issue bothering me for years. We have no elective classes to give kids real skills in the future that I can find. No accounting, no economics, finance, or budgeting classes. What about keyboarding or a Life skills class or Civics? I am thankful I got to take a typing class back in the day, it is so useful to me today. It is painful for me to watch my kids hunt and peck when they do homework. Accounting was another invaluable class I had the opportunity to take, just learning the basics of finances and how things worked. I am beside myself. We offer Leisure Walking and study halls when kids are in school only 12 hours a week! Really? A walking class? Why is study hall an option right now? They have to be learning with the little time they have. What can be done about that? What can I do to help? Help me understand why we don't offer electives they can apply to their life outside of school. We are failing our kids and have to do better! Thank you for your time.

Shelly Westerfield

I am Shelly Westerfield, a 24-year member of this teaching staff. I represent Whitaker Elementary and our Finneytown Education Association (FEA). I am here to present issues of public concern from an FEA standpoint. First and foremost, teachers want

children back in the building, as soon as it is safely possible for all. By safe, we refer to the cleanliness of the building.

When kids come back into the building, there is a concern that the sanitation measures will not be enough. Do we have enough people on the ground to clean the bathrooms in between uses, the doorknobs, and high touch surfaces? While I understand that children are not the big spreaders of COVID, I represent a group of teachers to whom even a little bit of exposure to COVID can be very detrimental. I work with people who have high blood pressure, who are diabetics, who are obese, who may be smokers, who are aging, who are taking care of high risk family members, who are pregnant. We would respectfully ask that you consider, when you're bringing these kids back to our building, the safety of not just students, but of our staff as well. In addition, we've got overcrowding in some of our classrooms. We've got some classes as high as 21 students in spaces that will not accommodate a six-foot distance. I recognize that Governor DeWine has asked for a review as to whether six-feet is required, but at this point what we have to go on is the six-foot guidance. Thank you.

Sarah Ruffner

Thank you for allowing me to speak. Thank you to all the teachers who are taking the time to teach in a different way than they have before. I have seen great effort, above and beyond what I expected in that realm, especially in kindergarten. So this does not pertain to teachers, but I am concerned that our children's education is suffering. I put a lot of time into going through the material that's provided to educate my children. I am a stay at home mom. What is going on with the kids who don't have parents who are able to sit and work with their kids for four or five hours a day, or even three at the least? They cannot be getting the help that they need. Having two boys that have focusing issues, ADHD and ADD, they have a very hard time paying attention. I'm very concerned that they're absolutely not getting in three hours a day four times a week. It is absolutely not enough education for our children. It concerns me that there are many other schools that are making in-person instruction work, but our school is not. I have seen firsthand that it can work safely. Our daughter attends Mercy McCauley. They have been in school since mid-August, and have had two cases of COVID. There has not been a major outbreak, no teachers have been hospitalized, and the cases of COVID were among students who were in different grades. When they occurred, there was proper 14-day quarantine of those exposed within six feet. These students are given the option to Zoom into each class period for the six bells that they have. So it can work. My second concern is athletics. The CDC Healthy Schools site says physical activity guidelines for Americans ages 6 to 17 years old, is 60 minutes a day of moderate to vigorous physical activity. So, why haven't I seen anything regarding basketball posted on our site or any winter sports being offered? The OHSAA has released the first practice for basketball can begin October 30<sup>th</sup>. We can begin scrimmaging on that date, and our first game can be November 25<sup>th</sup>, yet I have no information on this whatsoever, website, email or contact by the coaching staff. Communication on our education plan and athletic opportunities going forward is lacking. Kids sitting in front of a screen for most of the

day should be given the opportunity to play sports, as they did with soccer and volleyball. Thank you.

Erin Neffus.

I have two boys in sixth grade. To say we are struggling is an understatement. I know that the decisions made at the beginning of the school year were made in good faith, but I don't feel that they fit the needs of our students. Research shows that too much screen time can lead to mood disorders, sleep problems and lower grades in school. We're expecting 10 year olds, and even younger, to sit in front of Zoom video call for three consecutive hours each day, followed by an additional three hours of online busy work. My primary concern is the mental health of my children. They are burned out on school. Someone is always talking at them, yet they have a hard time getting the teachers attention when they need to ask the questions. Gym, media, music and art, while very important to our rounded education, are just things that my kids feel are just one more thing that they have to do to be able to get through the day. Right now our kids are barely getting anything from their core classes. They're spending class time chatting with their friends on Google or being distracted by parents, babysitters, siblings and pets. The current setup is not sustainable for anyone. And our teachers have to do this twice a day, find time to troubleshoot and follow up with parents and students. The only thing my kids are learning is how to be robots, who hate school. Social distancing, masks, hand sanitizer and other preventative measures and drastically decreased the spread of coronavirus. Many other districts are in person either full time or hybrid, and to my knowledge, no one has had to shut down because of COVID. I am confident Finneytown can follow in their footsteps and successfully get our kids back in the classroom. When the Governor changed the color system for county COVID cases he said it should no longer be used as the single factor in determining if kids are in school, yet our district hasn't changed their stance. Decisions about their education should be made based on what's going on within our own schools, and not just what's going on in our county. My husband and kids and I love our district. We've always had kind and caring teachers, administrators and staff. Our boys have grown up here. Our oldest graduated from Finneytown in 2019. Unfortunately we don't feel like we have great options with Finneytown and we have been left considering other options such as private school, open enrollment school districts, or even moving. We are hoping that with the second quarter that we would have an additional option, but I'm just not sure that that is going to be the case. I implore the district to find a better solution for our current situation, and thank our teachers and school staff who have worked to help keep our kids on track. Thank you.

Wade Sanders.

I have two children, one in first grade and one that's in second grade. While I understand student and staff safety concerns for students and staff, I think we're missing a very vital and critical point and that's what this is doing to families and their income. My kids are having difficulty getting engaged in remote learning. There is a barrier just sitting down at the computer before the class even starts, taking away from the quality of education they get. Trying to fight or work through how a computer works, flip flopping back and forth between navigations, working the controls are significant barriers to overcome. My

daughter, my oldest, really loves school. And this year, it's just not there. She's expressed to me multiple times how much she just hates school. At the same time I'm battling with another child, my son, who requires more attention because he's ADHD. One child is too young to understand how computers work, and the other one couldn't care less how computers work, just make it work. Many families have had to either quit their jobs, or since the layoff, can't go back into their fields. It can be financially crippling for a single parent household. I myself am a victim of this situation. I've had to completely switch careers and take a very significant pay cut, just to be able to halfway teach my children to the best of my ability. Until this year, I have been over the top, a fan of everything that Finneytown does. This year, I find a large stress being put on that respect level. I'm definitely not happy with the way things are going. For our children, it's not conducive. Children are falling behind with their Dibbles testing and their reading. In this manner, they're not getting the resources that they need to overcome that hurdle to get where they need to be and be more successful in the next round of testing. I'm not sure what the solution is, but I think Finneytown can do a bit more in depth talking to the other districts around us. I think we are trying to play it too safe, and our children in this district are falling behind to the other districts. It's sad to see because Finneytown has held such superiority to so many other districts around us, and these other districts are going to surpass us in that superiority as far as quality of education. It is one of the reasons why I chose to send my kids to Finneytown and been blessed, but this year, I'm not seeing it. I think we can make better decisions with these kids. I thank you for my time to talk, and, I appreciate everything you guys doing. Teachers, I still appreciate everything that you're doing and the hard work that you put forward.

Jen Ortiz.

I am the mother of a third grader. I really appreciate the Board's decision to use our teachers to help teach the Virtual Campus students, rather than outsource the virtual campus to a program. I know that that was one of the things that was considered and I know that every district has made different decisions, but as a family, doing the Virtual Campus option right now, I really appreciate the opportunity for my child to learn from a teacher. The big question that I want to pose to the board is about the decision that will need to be made for flex campus versus virtual campus for second semester. We had to make our decision for first semester prior to the beginning of school, and we will be coming up to the point where we will have to make the decision for the second semester. I would really like the board to consider allowing families to decide for a quarter at a time, for third quarter, and then fourth quarter, one at a time, rather than making the decision for the full semester. I think that there is a lot to consider given weather concerns and with the new data continuing to be gathered by scientists. This is a new virus, a new situation, and science evolves. I would love for the opportunity to make a consideration a quarter at a time. We are currently Virtual Campus in our family. My concern is that winter will be a lot harder for that. I am also very concerned about mental health, knowing that in-person is obviously the preferred option in a normal life, which is not normal right now. So I would just like to request families be afforded the opportunity to look at it in a shorter period of time and not the whole school year or half the school

year. Again, thank you for all of the difficult decisions and for all of the hard work that everyone is putting in.

Thomas Budday.

I teach English over at the Secondary Campus, high school level. Virtual teaching is of course not the way that I want to teach, Most of my teaching and my basic core principles are based in relationship, and so I am reinventing curriculums. Safety is always the first thing in a teacher's mind. So to that end, I am very concerned about any reopening plan that doesn't put safety as the absolute first priority, and not just for our children, but for all of the people that come in contact. We can't just talk about the safety of children. We have to talk about the safety of staff, safety of families, safety of everyone. So I truly hope that stays as a top priority. We have guidelines from the states, asking for six feet, making sure people face all in one direction, making sure there's no movement. I have to tell you, the reality for a classroom teacher in those guidelines, does not give any room for best practices. Best practices will suffer. If we can't do those things, a lot of the education that we would be delivering would be more difficult. I hear a lot of people talking about other districts. I would like to reframe that. I have talked to many of my colleagues across the state, across the nation and many people have told me horror stories. What plans are we going to have for when teachers do inevitably get sick? The reality is it is going to create major disruptions for that best practice education. We have plans at our building which are great so far and have been working. I really appreciate the communication that's happening from the board, from the administration, from Terri, and the building administration.

Michael Hamel.

Thank you very much for your service and everything to doing. You're doing a great job. I emailed you last week about getting back to face-to-face board of education meetings. Recently, reviewing board policies I notice NEOLA listed at the bottom of each policy, which I never noticed before. A couple of years ago, I stood up in front of the board, to let you know where the face of education is headed and what is possibly down the pipeline. One of these items was remote school board meetings. NEOLA appears to be based in Ohio, but providing services in a total of six states, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, West Virginia Ohio and Florida. It struck me as odd this one organization, is developing all these policies based upon federal law for school districts, not only here in the state of Ohio, but in these other five states as well. Now, it's up to the local board to implement policy in our local school districts. But at what point in time is your job as a school board member going to be eliminated, because of the virtual meetings that these folks are creating and policies that they're putting into place? If that happens we lose local control and the personal interaction we have as parents, residents and taxpayers of Finneytown. How far is Finneytown and other school districts from losing our local representative boards of educations? Could you educate me on who these people are and how long this organization has been around? If you have a different vent, I would really like to hear it. Thanks again.

James Rea.

I have a first grader at Brent Elementary. Thank you for the efforts that you have put forward in these unprecedented times. First off, the Virtual Academy option that we have right now is a million times better than what happened in the spring, when this was thrown on top of everyone. I am glad we are using our own teachers. While I agree it's not the ideal situation, in terms of options I think it was the best one that you could have come up with. I've heard a lot of people talk today about the mental health of kids and I can appreciate that and I can understand. But, given my family's situation from a mental health perspective, if my kids back in school, we're not seeing grandparents at Christmas because of their immunocompromised situations. With the way the state is going right now with the numbers and a 50% increase in a seven day average, we as adults aren't doing a good job. I want people to know that a big care of my family is the safety of our teachers as well. If we do go back to in class, they're exposing themselves to the presence of children in their classroom and then also to those families and the behaviors of all of those families as well. So I appreciate the hard work and effort and thought that you've put all into this. We heard talk about basketball, but it's an indoor game. It's physical, kids are breathing hard, they're running up and down the court. It's not necessarily safe based on what science is telling us. I would also request the opportunity to make a decision on fourth quarter in-person versus remote learning at the end of the third quarter. Thank you.

Amber Hill.

I appreciate all the work the teachers and school board are doing, but there are some concerns I need to address. First, I have a fear that our students are just receiving far too little interaction with their teachers. Twelve hours a week just isn't enough, and remote isn't the same type of communication they would receive in a classroom, it's not reciprocal. They're being talked to. They're not being allowed to talk back as they want to. Additionally, I just don't understand the point of Wednesday. It's just three more hours our kids don't get with their teachers. I fear that this is causing my child to potentially fall behind. Second, the school education is more than just education, it's more about social interaction, emotional development, especially for adolescent children like my second grader. She needs that type of interaction. That's what helps her mature. Without that she's just becoming a computer. It's caused her to lose the joy of learning. It's very disheartening for me to hear that my daughter no longer loves to go to school. Third, I understand that the choice for teachers to teach both the flex and the virtual students provides cohesive learning for all students. However, it taking a huge toll on our teachers, and means our students will receive only three hours of education, a day from their teachers. It's a toll on teachers, students and parents. It's hard for us to get jobs and go back to work, when we don't have the time to because we have to be at home with our kids. Lastly, I'm highly concerned about the Whitaker pickup, hiring of a new cleaning crew for our schools, social distancing plans or lack thereof. This pandemic has been going on for eight months. I do appreciate the efforts that are being put forth, but there's just a lot left that needs to be worked on.

### **Board Coordination Matters**

Board Coordination reports were limited due to the length of the public participation and agenda items yet to follow.

#### **Mrs. Rebman, discussed the following items:**

- Nothing pressing to reported this month.

#### **Mr. Engleman, discussed the following items:**

- Facilities – I will defer to Skanska and Emersion Design representatives to provide new elementary construction information updates during the construction resolution discussion.
- Springfield Township – My report from the township can wait until next month.

#### **Ms. Mamphey, discussed the following items:**

- Finneytown Athletic Boosters – My report from the Boosters can wait until next month.

#### **Ms. Johnson, discussed the following items:**

- No report.

#### **Mr. Gast, discussed the following items:**

- Secondary PTA – Next meeting is October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Discussion and Approval to Revise the School Re-Opening Plan**

#### **Mrs. Noe, Superintendent, presented the following information:**

- The current plan – starting second quarter, yellow and orange Ohio Public Health Advisory System alert levels call for hybrid, in-person and learning academy teaching; red and purple alert levels require 100% virtual learning.
- Last week Hamilton County was red, meeting five indicators. It takes six to be in purple and it's very likely that Hamilton County will be purple next week, but won't actually get that designation until the following week.
- If we bounce in and out of red and orange, it's going to be back and forth, with parents having to make arrangements one week and then the next week with kids in and out of class. I've had a lot of concern about switching back and forth like that and the difficulty it creates for students, parents and staff.
- The Governor has requested data from all the districts around the state to do a study on how many of the students and adults quarantined because of contact (within six feet) of a positive COVID case, also tested positive. Preliminary data suggests that no one who was quarantined ended up coming down with COVID.
- The CDC and the pediatric association are already saying that we shouldn't require six feet social distancing. Three feet between students as long as they're

wearing masks and everything, has been proposed as sufficient. If those guidelines change then we will be requesting to go from six feet to just three feet.

- We have classes that have up to 22 students. At the Secondary Campus, especially middle school, they have made arrangements for those classes to go someplace like the PAC or MP or something like that, to spread kids out more.
- Most parochial schools are not having a six foot distance and that's how they're able to get more kids back into the classes.
- I would ask the board to think about allowing us to come back at red, so we have three of the levels where we're in classes. I echo the sentiments many have talked about during the public address. I'm worried about our kids who aren't in school. Around the country, we've had an increase in attempted suicides, opioid addiction and use and things like that. I'm worried about our kids, not having that interaction.
- I know when I was at home for 14 days for quarantine, it was hard to sit there and not be around people. You see them on Zoom but that's not the same thing.
- Our teachers have done a fantastic job making this work the best it can, but none of us feels that virtual is the way to go with everything. It is a good alternative right now. Some kids do better with it than others, but we really want to try to get our kids back into school.
- In addition to the cleaning crew, we had a company come in and spray every flat surface with a chemical that is guaranteed for 30 days to kill any germs that touch it. We're putting in the hand sanitizer stations all over every school. One of the doctors on Friday's call said, with the guidelines that we have in place, our schools are one of the safest environments for our children and our staff. So we want to watch out for everybody's safety.
- For all of these reasons, I am asking if you would reconsider allowing students to come back at red.

**Superintendent and Board Member discussion:**

- The reason kids can't come back for the whole day is because 40% of our students are participating in our virtual academy. Teachers are teaching in-person in the morning and the virtual academy in the afternoon. We don't have the staff to try to do it differently right now, but we're looking at some other options for second semester.
- Because of our small size, and the six foot guidelines, we can't get more 60% of students into our classrooms.
- While remote teachers could be designated for elementary students it becomes unmanageable for secondary students because of the large number of courses and electives being offered, without going to a completely separate canned program.
- The current setup also allows sick or quarantined students to keep their same teacher and stay on track with the same learning program during temporary reassignment to virtual academy until they come back to school.
- Class instruction does not occur on Wednesdays. Teachers use Wednesdays for professional development, to reach out to individual students, specific families,

and each other, and to plan more classes going forward for both in-person and virtual instruction. Wednesdays are packed days with much to do. It's not a day off.

- One solution will not work for both campuses, elementary and secondary. We need to be open to having different solutions for different campuses, one size fits all in Finneytown just isn't going to work.
- Concerns expressed that students are only in front of their teachers for 12 hours a week. We need to find a way to get our children in front of their teachers more. If Wednesdays were on a normal school day, we would have five days a week instead of just four, whether it's at home, or in-person.
- Concerns expressed that we're spending 30 minutes a day at the elementary on specials. While specials are great, we only have three hours a day of education. Can we do all six bells every day on the Secondary Campus? Students now get each class twice a week, instead of five times a week.
- If we could simulcast to classes where you could watch it online, or be in person at the same time, we could increase instructional time. Several school districts are doing that. It might involve some equipment purchases, but I think that's an option we need to look at.
- Elementary teachers take their planning period while students are receiving their specials. Secondary teachers get their planning bells scheduled into their bell schedule.
- The idea that a teacher can be teaching kids in a classroom and keeping track of virtual students the same time needs to be challenged. It is not possible to cover the material at the pace you're accustomed to, when you have kids in the room but you have to keep referring back to the kids that are on the computers. Teachers struggle with this.
- The effectiveness of the outgoing cleaning company has been seriously challenged. The newly hired custodial company has much better reviews and reputation. We would like to see how they perform for a week before we have the students back in the buildings.
- The Governor is collecting data on community spread within the school. Preliminary study indicates there is no data to show community spread in schools, which means they aren't bringing it in or taking it out. That doesn't mean it can't spread it, but it doesn't seem to be happening.
- Ohio and Hamilton County cases and indicators are trending up. Two weeks ago we had about 70 admissions into the hospital, last week we had 170. This is going to roll into that average, and it's going to make that six metric go up and put us at purple.
- Temperature is no longer considered the key symptom. Guidelines have changed and a fever is not by itself an indicator that you have COVID anymore. You have to have either a cough, trouble breathing, or loss of taste or smell. Our health staff, aides and secretaries and will have to help us monitor for this.
- Those who send their child to school when they were coughing and stuff like will be exposing others. We now have two clinic areas. One is for kids to come get

their meds or band aids or whatever. The other one is a sick room, where those exhibiting symptoms are sent until someone from home comes to get them.

- 40% of students will be virtual through the end of this semester. The 60% in-person educated students can continue in-person or move on to virtual. 60% is the most our schools can accommodate for in-person learning at this time.
- Plexiglass dividers are not widely used now because the Health Department says it's a barrier, but it's no more effective than the mask that we're requiring students to wear. They don't recommend them. However, we've gotten some barriers for the secretaries, for when people come in from outside.
- Half class-size orientation days will be implemented so kids coming in can get the lay of the land, classroom rules, and responsible safety COVID training. There are only a sprinkling of classes that have 22, the majority have 12 to 15 students to accommodate the 6 foot social distancing requirement.
- Everybody needs to understand the expectation and that it's a privilege to be in a building. If you don't do what you're supposed to do, we will have zero tolerance for not wearing a mask and not exactly following the other requirements, or we'll put you back on remote learning.
- New incoming second graders at Whitaker and sixth graders at the secondary campus that have never been there before, who didn't get orientation last spring, will also be provided a staggered start orientation.
- We aren't allowing visitors in the buildings as a COVID safety measure.
- Staff members not wearing masks will be reprimanded. It's not a choice for staff members either. We absolutely aren't going to tolerate that any more than we would from a student because it's putting everybody at risk.
- We are planning to have winter school sports, at this point, unless we go purple.

**82-20** Ms. Mamphey moved, seconded by Mrs. Rebman, that the Board adopt the “Consent Calendar” as follows:

Action by the Board of Education in adoption of the “Consent Calendar” at this point of the agenda means that all items appearing with an asterisk (\*) after the title constitute the “Consent Calendar” and are adopted by one single motion, unless a member of the Board of Education or the Superintendent requests that any such item be removed from the “Consent Calendar” and voted upon separately.

**a) Monthly Financial Report\***

**b) Depository and Investment Balances as of September 30, 2020\***

U.S. Bank	0.0100%	\$ 550,782.87
STAR Ohio	0.2000%	\$ 17,214,818.16

STAR Plus	0.2500%	\$ 2,173.14
U.S. Bank (construction fund)	1.5000%	\$ 21,883,042.00
STAR Ohio (construction fund)	0.2000%	\$ 1,439,233.04

**c) Interest Earned on Depository and Investment Accounts as of September 30, 2020\***

General Fund	\$ 3,293.08
Construction Fund	\$15,612.57

**d) Monthly Bond Project Spending and Commitment Report\***

[See attached]

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

**83-20** Ms. Mamphey moved, seconded by Ms. Johnson, that the Board adopt the “Consent Calendar” as follows:

Action by the Board of Education in adoption of the “Consent Calendar” at this point of the agenda means that all items appearing with an asterisk (\*) after the title constitute the “Consent Calendar” and are adopted by one single motion, unless a member of the Board of Education or the Superintendent requests that any such item be removed from the “Consent Calendar” and voted upon separately.

**a) Approval of Long-Term Substitute Teacher Provided by Comprehensive Substitute Solutions\***

The Board approved the following long-term substitute teacher who is employed by Comprehensive Substitute Solutions and assigned to fill an extended absence for the Finneytown Local School District:

**Carrie Bouldin** Special Education Teacher  
effective September 28, 2020

**b) Approval of Substitute Teachers Provided by Comprehensive Substitute Solutions\***

The Board approved the following substitute teachers who are employed by Comprehensive Substitute Solutions and may be assigned to fill absences for the Finneytown Local School District, effective November 12, 2020:

**Albright, Jordan  
Bailey, Lorraine  
Barnes, Roosevelt  
Barnes, Sarah  
Bell, Danny  
Bharucha, Armaity  
Binford, Cornelia  
Blanks, Earl  
Bradley, Victoria  
Bright, Allyson  
Brinkman, Rosa  
Brotherton, Jean  
Brown, Indra  
Byrd, Angela  
Byrd, Loretta  
Caiarelli, Madison  
Calhoun, Brenda  
Cargile, Joyce  
Chaney-Smith, Lois  
Coleman, Cynthia  
Colvin, Gayle  
Copeland, David  
David, Gordon  
Davis-January, Marie  
Dechering, Monica  
Dietz, John  
Evans, Deborah  
Evans, James  
Evans, Patricia  
Geers, William  
Glenn, Joseph  
Graham, Sandra  
Harris, Susan  
Hayes, Erin  
Hemmerly, Judah  
Hughes Jr., George  
Jenkins, Shannon**

**Lozier, Lyndsey  
Manning, Julia  
Martin, Artis  
Meltebrink, Allison  
Miller, Ryan  
Monich, Donald  
Oliver, Verneda  
Parks, Margaret  
Phipps, Marilyn  
Pollington, Connie  
Pride, Allison  
Rhodes, Samantha  
Rhodes Brown, Judith  
Richardson, Lucille  
Richey, Sheila  
Robinson, Marilyn  
Ruffner, Sara  
Shaw, Phyllis  
Skidmore, Carson  
St. Hilaire, Melissa  
Story, Raymond  
Straughn, Emily  
Tirschek, Katelin  
Trabert-Salt, Rebecca  
Troxell, Lauren  
Utrecht, Kimberly  
VonderHaar, Susan  
Walton, Ronald  
Welt, Ryan  
Williams, Carla  
Wise, Donnise  
Woods, Garrett  
Xu, Wenjin  
Yancey, Aaron  
Zestermann, Cara  
Zimmermann, Jim**

**c) Adoption of New/Revised Policies\***

The Board adopted the following new and revised policies which were presented for initial consideration at the regular meeting of the Board on September 21, 2020:

<b>Policy 1520</b>	<b>Employment of Administrators</b>
<b>Policy 1530</b>	<b>Evaluation of Principals and Other Administrators</b>
<b>Policy 2266</b>	<b>Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in District Programs or Activities</b>
<b>Policy 2270</b>	<b>Religion in the Curriculum</b>
<b>Policy 2431</b>	<b>Interscholastic Athletics</b>
<b>Policy 3124</b>	<b>Employment Contract</b>
<b>Policy 3220</b>	<b>Standards-Based Teacher Evaluation***</b>
<b>Policy 5200</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
<b>Policy 5460</b>	<b>Graduation Requirements</b>
<b>Policy 5610</b>	<b>Removal, Suspension, Expulsion, and Permanent Exclusion of Students</b>
<b>Policy 5611</b>	<b>Due Process Rights</b>
<b>Policy 6144</b>	<b>Investments</b>
<b>Policy 6152</b>	<b>Student Fees, Fines, and Charges</b>
<b>Policy 6152.01</b>	<b>Waiver of School Fees for Instructional Materials</b>
<b>Policy 6325</b>	<b>Procurement – Federal Grants/Funds</b>
<b>Policy 6423</b>	<b>Use of Credit Cards</b>
<b>Policy 6424</b>	<b>Procurement Cards</b>
<b>Policy 8450.01</b>	<b>Protective Facial Coverings During Pandemic / Epidemic Events</b>
<b>Policy 8800</b>	<b>Religious/Patriotic Ceremonies and Observances</b>

\*\*\*Although Policy 3220 requires adoption now, implementation of the policy will begin with the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with implementation guidelines issued by the Ohio Department of Education.

**d) Adoption of Resolution – Payment In Lieu of Transportation\***

The Board adopted the following resolution declaring transportation impractical for a certain pupil, pursuant to the requirements of Ohio Revised Code §3327 and the procedures set forth by the Ohio Department of Education:

WHEREAS the student identified below have been determined to be a resident of this school district, and eligible for transportation services; and

WHEREAS after a careful evaluation of all available options, it has been determined that it is impractical to provide transportation for this student to the selected schools; and

WHEREAS the following factors as identified in Revised Code §3327.02 have been considered:

1. The time and distance required to provide the transportation
2. The number of pupils to be transported
3. The cost of providing transportation in terms of equipment, maintenance, personnel, and administration
4. Whether similar or equivalent service is provided to other pupils eligible for transportation
5. Whether and to what extent the additional service unavoidably disrupts current transportation schedules
6. Whether other reimbursable types of transportation are available; and

WHEREAS the option of offering payment-in-lieu of transportation is provided in Ohio Revised Code:

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Finneytown Local School District Board of Education hereby declares that it is impractical to transport the student identified below and offers the parent/guardian of said student payment-in-lieu of transportation:

**Amiyah Mooney** (Monae Dillard, parent)

**e) Approval of Administrative Contract – Director of Administrative Services\***

The Board approved the following Administrative Contract:

**Tim Wagner**, Director of Administrative Services, effective November 9, 2020 through July 31, 2021, at a pro-rated rate of \$58,461.54 during the term of the contract

**f) Approval of Agreement – Alpha & Omega Building Services, Inc.\***

The Board approved a three (3) year agreement with Alpha & Omega Building Services, Inc. to provide cleaning services at all district buildings, effective October 26, 2020. The annual cost is \$435,575.47 in years 1 through 3. Thereafter the contract is optionally renewable by mutual agreement for one (1) year periods. Upon renewal, the price will increase in the same proportion as the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) percent change during the most recently released annual period up to 3% annually.

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

**84-20** Ms. Mamphey moved, seconded by Mr. Gast, that the Board approve a revision to the School Re-Opening Plan, to include the following elements:

- Ohio Public Health Advisory Alert System color-coded system red (level 3) will be re-designated from eLearning to Hybrid, allowing in person school district instruction
- In-person learning will not start before November 2, 2020, at the earliest
- Confirmation of a successful new janitorial service transition
- A staggered school start so that students can get oriented to a new school or campus and COVID safety practices expectations

Quarter 2 (October 26 - December 18)				Quarters 1 & 2 (Sept. 8 - Dec. 18)
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	
Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	eLearning	eLearning
In-person learning (AM Sessions) M/T/Th/F  Meal pickup  Brent- 8:30 to 11:30 Whitaker- 9:00 to 12:00 Secondary- 8:00 to 11:00  Taught by Finneytown educators	In-person learning (AM Sessions) M/T/Th/F  Meal pickup  Brent- 8:30 to 11:30 Whitaker- 9:00 to 12:00 Secondary- 8:00 to 11:00  Taught by Finneytown educators	In-person learning (AM Sessions) M/T/Th/F  Meal pickup  Brent- 8:30 to 11:30 Whitaker- 9:00 to 12:00 Secondary- 8:00 to 11:00  Taught by Finneytown educators	eLearning at home (AM Sessions)  Meal pickup  Taught by Finneytown educators	eLearning at home (PM Sessions) M/T/Th/F  Meal pickup  Taught by Finneytown educators

**RC:** Ms. Mamphey, yes; Mr. Engleman, yes; Mr. Gast, yes. Ms. Johnson, no; Mrs. Rebman, yes. The president declared the motion passed.

**85-20** Mrs. Rebman moved, seconded by Mr. Engleman, that the Board approve the following resolution:

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING SCHEMATIC DESIGN PHASE  
SUBMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL TO MOVE FORWARD  
WITH DESIGN DEVELOPMENT FOR THE NEW K-6 SCHOOL PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the Finneytown Local School District, County of Hamilton, Ohio (hereinafter called the "School District") has a building program consisting of New K-6 Project (hereinafter called "the Project");

**WHEREAS**, the electors of the School District approved the issuance of school improvement unlimited tax general obligation bonds or other obligations related to the Project at the election held in November 2019;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has contracted with a qualified professional design firm, Emersion Design, LLC (hereinafter called the "Designer") and a construction manager, Skanska USA Building, Inc. (hereinafter called the "Construction Manager"), under allowable provision in the ORC, to prepare plans, specifications and estimates of cost, and such data as the Board of Education deems necessary for the Project;;

**WHEREAS**, The design firm Emersion Design, LLC, has prepared and submitted to the Board of Education, the New K-6 School Project Documents for projects referenced and setting forth in detail the requirements for the Schematic Design of said portion of the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, The Board of Education previously approved the New K-6 Project budget including any additional Locally Funded Initiatives and all soft costs, for a total of \$23,135,440, including; the costs for the New K-6 Project at Schematic Design is within the approved project budget

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education, that after careful consideration and evaluation of the information before it:

**Section 1.** The Board of Education, as authorized under Sections within the ORC, approves the Schematic Design Submission for said portion of the Project in substantially the form presently on file with this Board of Education.

**Section 2.** The Board of Education authorizes the Construction Manager at Risk upon approval of the Program of Requirements and Schematic Design Submission approval to proceed with the Design Development Phase of the projects referenced above.

**Section 3.** This Board of Education hereby finds and determines that all formal actions relative to the adoption of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board of Education, and that all deliberations of this Board of Education and of its committees, if any, which resulted in formal action, were taken in meetings open to the public, in full compliance with applicable legal requirements, including Section 121.22, ORC.

**Section 4.** This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately after its adoption and shall supersede any prior resolution or act of this Board of Education, which may be inconsistent or duplicative with the provisions of this resolution.

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

The next regular meeting of the Finneytown Board of Education will take place on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 7:30pm in the Media Center of the Finneytown Secondary Campus, 8916 Fontainebleau Terrace, Cincinnati, OH 45231. Open forum will begin at 7:00pm.

**86-20** There being no further business, Ms. Mamphey moved, seconded by Mr. Gast, that the meeting be adjourned. The president declared the meeting adjourned at 9:59pm.

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Tony Gast, President

ATTEST:

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David Oliverio, Treasurer