

**FINNEYTOWN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Special Meeting, August 3, 2022**  
**Administrative Conference Room**  
**8916 Fontainebleau Terrace**  
**Cincinnati, OH 45231**  
**6:00pm**

The Finneytown Board of Education met in special session on Wednesday, August 3, 2022, in the Administrative Office Conference Room, 8916 Fontainebleau Terrace, Cincinnati, OH 45231. Mr. Gast, Ms. Lee, Ms. McMullen and Mr. Reeb were present. Mr. Rea listened in to the meeting remotely. The President called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

**104-22** Mr. Reeb moved, seconded by Ms. McMullen, that the Board dispense with the opening ceremony and approval of minutes from the regular meeting of July 18, 2022. The President declared the motion passed.

Discussion – COVID Masking Procedure Revision

Dr. Banks, Superintendent, introduction and comments:

- The District remains under the district COVID masking guidelines approved by the Board of Education in March 2022.
- These guidelines require mandatory masking under the current “high” orange county public health district rating currently in effect.
- A survey of other districts indicate that no other school districts in our league are reinstating masking, or tracking COVID cases, at this time.
- Our current league’s guidance for athletics is:
  - o If you are sick, stay home
  - o Get vaccinated
  - o Masking is recommended but not required
- Finneytown hired two nurses for the upcoming school year, one at each school buildings. Because the Hamilton County Board of Health no longer requires COVID case reporting and tracking, we are not planning to continue this function, which had been independently contracted via Kate Welling.
- Petermann has asked for the school district’s masking guidelines. We have upcoming scrimmages and extended learning opportunity field trips that will require bus transportation.
- We are not requiring masks for outdoor athletic and outdoor band activities.
- We are following athletic Stay to Play guidelines for indoor athletic activities, which does not require masks during indoor competition, but does require masks at all other times.
- My recommendation: Since everyone has the opportunity to get vaccinated, I am recommending that the Board recommend masking, but not require it.
- When we went to optional masking last year, we had a large number of students and staff wear a mask when it was not required. Fortunately, bullying of those wearing masks was not an issue in our schools.
- Getting vaccinated is a parental choice.
- We have to consider the impact of a mask mandate on our student enrollment.
- People that want to wear will still wear them, whether we mandate them or not.

- If the Board of Education wants contact tracing and notification to everyone that has been directly exposed to a positive COVID case, we will have to hire someone to do this work, as we did last year, when we contracted Kate Welling.
- Per the Board of Education's wishes, we can notify parents and staff by building in which the positive COVID case is identified with information about the grade level via email.
- *Guidelines for a district plan to track, report, and respond to COVID-19, based upon our discussion, will be prepared for review at the August 11th special board meeting.*
- *It is understood that the following plan recommendations will not change:*
  - *Anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should receive testing.*
  - *People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should also wear a mask.*
  - *No changes are planned for quarantine or isolation guidance*
  - *We will continue to utilize best practices.*

Mr. Gast's comments:

- I don't see a downside for working adults in businesses to require masks. I do see masking as a downside for schools.
- Masks detract from the educational learning environment and are a problem for students.
- The newer COVID variants are smaller than the originals and go through cloth masks
- I believe notification of exposure to a positive case of COVID should take place by grade level.
- It seems that "required and recommended" language could be voted upon tonight, while exposure notification and keeping the community informed about COVID cases will take more time to develop.
- A vote tonight seems necessary since the current guidance in effect does not address COVID bus transportation protocols at all.

Ms. Lee's comments:

- Getting COVID and missing school is a bigger educational problem for students than those associated with the wearing of masks at school.
- The county level has changed; hospitalizations are up which shows this is not merely an increase in case count
- We want kids to stay in school; the contraction rate is high right now; kids do not social distance; the secondary campus does not have HVAC air filtering; we are going to have attendance issues for staff and students, as they get sick and quarantine, if we aren't wearing masks as a precaution.
- Less than half of students have been vaccinated

- Immunocompromised students need to be considered
- All masking helps to one degree or another; the more people wearing masks and the higher the quality the mask, the greater the effectiveness.
- Mask removal at lunchtime is tolerable under the masking requirement because of the short duration (only 20 minutes) and assigned seating that allows close contacts to be easily identified.
- Requiring masks at school protects the students of families that have restricted their exposure to school only, while restricting all other discretionary close contact outside of the home.
- I would like to see notification of contact exposure to positive COVID cases take place by daily emails.
- I would like to hold off voting on anything right now, because the form the guidance takes might change my vote. I want to see the guidance, the tracking and tracing.
- I would like to vote on bussing COVID protocols, since we currently have none in place and need to provide guidance prior to our next meeting while leaving a school COVID protocols as they currently stand, until they can be updated and presented in written form.
- I see a vote tonight to temporarily change the protocols in the schools as causing a lot of confusion.

Mr. Reeb's comments:

- Some companies, like P&G are requiring masks.
- Ohio University and many other colleges are requiring masks.
- N95 Masks offer superior protection; if we aren't going to require a particular higher quality type of mask, I do not see a significant benefit of masking.
- If we are requiring masks, will we stop there? Will we reinstitute all other protective measures too? If we are not going to reinstate all protective measures, which I am not in favor of, then neither am I in favor of reinstating the mask requirement.
- I would like to see a motion on both bussing and school COVID protocols that recommends, but does not require masks, becoming effective immediately, taking place tonight so that no one would have to wear a mask unless that is their choice.

Mr. Rea's comments:

- While getting vaccinated is a parental choice, going to school is not a parental choice.
- Hamilton County public offices and all doctor's offices are wearing masks.
- COVID hospitalizations are now up in over 60 counties; spread is happening again.
- We need to have procedures in place that allow contact tracing so that students and staff that have been exposed to positive COVID cases can be informed of that exposure.

Ms. McMullen comments:

- Although still prevalent, the newest COVID strains are not nearly as lethal and are more flu-like.
- Natural herd immunity, the body's nature defenses, should offer increasing protection.
- I think it will sit better with our community if they have a choice in this decision.
- Student lunch is a problem; kids don't wear masks and sit in close contact with one another; this seems to make the wearing masks pointless for the rest of the day.
- My concern with a vote tonight on COVID mask protocols, which is to be reconsidered within a few weeks, and possibly reversed again, is that reversing course won't go over very well and will be very frustrating for parents.

**105-22.** Mr. Reeb moved, seconded by Ms. McMullen, that the Board move to a mask optional COVID protocol for school and busses to take place immediately upon an affirmative vote.

**RC:** Mr. Gast, yes; Mr. Reeb, yes; Ms. McMullen, yes; Ms. Lee, no. The president declared the motion passed.

**106-22** Ms. Lee moved, seconded by Mr. Gast, to amend the order of the remaining agenda items so that the executive session can be moved ahead to item 4, now that the attorneys have arrived.

**RC:** Ms. McMullen, yes; Mr. Reeb, yes; Mr. Gast, yes; Ms. Lee, yes. The president declared the motion passed.

**107-22** Mr. Reeb moved, seconded by Ms. McMullen, that the Board move to Executive Session, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(3), to consult with an attorney for the Board of Education concerning disputes involving the Board of Education that are the subject of pending or imminent court action.

**RC:** Mr. Reeb, yes; Mr. Gast, yes; Ms. Lee, yes; Ms. McMullen, yes. The president declared the motion passed.

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:50pm.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 7:16pm.

**108-22** Ms. Lee moved, seconded by Ms. McMullen, 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 Permanent Appropriations Adjustments for the 2021-22 School Year\***

The Board approved the following Permanent Appropriations adjustments for the 2021-22 School Year:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Finneytown Local School District, Hamilton County, Ohio, that to provide for the current expenses and other expenditures of said Board of Education, during the fiscal year, ending June 30, 2022, the following sums be and the same are hereby set aside and appropriated for the several purposes for which expenditures are to be made and during said fiscal year, as follows, viz:

	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b><u>CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS</u></b>	
004 Construction Fund	-94,222
<b>Total Capital Projects Funds</b>	<u>-94,222</u>
<b>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<u>-94,222</u>

**b) Approval of Total Amount From All Sources Available for Expenditures and Balances – FY23\***

The Board approved the Certificate of the Total Amount From All Sources Available for Expenditures and Balances for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

[See Attachment]

**c) Approval of Payment - FY22\***

The Board approved payment of the following invoice(s) representing purchases that were made prior to the issuance of a valid purchase order of the district:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>VENDOR</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
6/16/22	Murphy Supply	\$7,221.48
	(soap dispensers, towel dispensers, tissue dispensers, waste baskets, floor mats, waste/recycling containers for Finneytown Elementary)	

**RC:** Mr. Reeb, yes; Mr. Gast, yes; Ms. Lee, yes; Ms. McMullen, yes. The president declared the motion passed.

**109-22** Ms. McMullen moved, seconded by Mr. Gast, the Board adopted 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 Out of State Travel\***

The Board approved expenses for the following out-of-state Professional Development event:

- Who: Restorative Practices Team
- When: August 8-9, 2022
- Where: Eastern Michigan University
- What: Restorative Practices and Circles Responsive Classroom Training - proactive and responsive strategies for reducing student negative behavior and building positive school climate

**b) Adoption of Resolution - Payment In Lieu of Transportation\***

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

WHEREAS the students identified below have been determined to be a residents 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 students identified below and offers the parent/guardian of said students payment-in-lieu of transportation:


**Vivian Blom** (Thomas Blom, parent)  
**Simon Meyer** (Kendra Meyer, parent)  
**Charles Troescher** (Brittany Troescher, parent)

**RC:** Mr. Gast, yes; Ms. Lee, yes; Ms. McMullen, yes; Mr. Reeb, yes. The president declared the motion passed.

**110-22** There being no further business, Ms. Lee moved, seconded by Mr. Reeb, that the meeting be adjourned. The president declared the meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

  
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Tony Gast, President

ATTEST:

  
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David L. Oliverio, Treasurer

