

FINNEYTOWN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Special Meeting, September 7, 2022
Finneytown Secondary Campus Media Center
8916 Fontainebleau Terrace
Cincinnati, OH 45231
6:30pm

The Finneytown Board of Education met in special session on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, in the Media Center of the Finneytown Secondary Campus, 8916 Fontainebleau Terrace, Cincinnati, OH 45231. Mr. Gast, Ms. Lee, Ms. McMullen, Mr. Rea and Mr. Reeb were present. The President called the meeting to order at 6:42pm.

123-22 Ms. Lee moved, seconded by Ms. McMullen, that the Board dispense with the opening ceremony and approval of the minutes from the regular meeting of August 15, 2022, and August 30, 2022. The President declared the motion passed.

Discussion Regarding Acceleration, Early Entrance to Kindergarten

Dr. Laurie Banks, Superintendent, introduced this topic

- Policy 5408 governs Acceleration, Early Entrance to Preschool, Kindergarten and first grade.
- Policy 5112 governs Entrance Requirements
- Ohio Revised Code allows school districts to select either August 1 or September 30 as the school district cutoff date for age-based enrollment eligibility into Kindergarten.
- Historically, Finneytown Local utilized the September 30 date as its cutoff. Approximately four years ago the cutoff date was changed to August 1 based upon a pattern in a lot of our students with August and September birthdays, showing lower readiness and reduced testing results.
- In the last four years the district has had 25 requests for early entrance into Kindergarten. None of these students qualified based upon the 10-step evaluative process conducted by our school psychologists.
- Changing the date back to September 30 could have a favorable impact on student enrollment, as we may be losing some of these students to open enrollment school districts with later cutoff dates.
- In our athletic conference, Deer Park uses the August 1 cutoff. All others use the September 30 cutoff date.
- To change the cutoff date requires a change in our policy, which could be in place in time for January enrollment if we want to affect the current year's enrollment.
- Ultimately this decision should be data driven. We should ask other districts who have made a recent change in their age-based cutoff date:
 - o What data they used to make a cutoff date choice?
 - o Did this decision impact their Third Grade Reading Guarantee?

Discussion Regarding Open Enrollment

Dr. Laurie Banks, Superintendent, introduced this topic

- Open enrollment is another policy decision that a board of education can use to impact student enrollment.

- We are discussing this but not making any decisions; only investigating.
- Finneytown Local's student enrollment is decreasing and that's a problem.
- Public school attendance is also down across the state and the country.
- Finneytown Local policy does not currently permit open enrollment.
- The vast majority of school districts in Ohio have an open enrollment policy.
- The state is considering legislating open enrollment across the board for all school districts.
- Districts can set limits on open enrollment within certain bounds.
 - o Districts can decide between opening up to any district or just those that are adjacent to its borders.
 - o Districts can limit open enrollment to buildings or grade levels based upon where it has excess capacity.
- Any decision to utilize open enrollment must be very strategic in order to optimize the operating results and financial impact.
- Things that need to be understood when considering open enrollment:
 - o What are the purpose and our goals for an open enrollment decision?
 - o Are we trying to increase enrollment to certain levels?
 - o Are we trying to maintain stable staff employment?
 - o How much money will open enrollment generate for the district?
 - o When will the money be received? What is the timing of cashflows?

Before making any decision on open enrollment, the district needs to first make sure it is marketing itself to, and meeting the needs of, its own students and families.

- We need to understand the value we bring
 - o For those who stay...Why do you stay in Finneytown Schools?
 - o For those who are leaving...Why are you leaving Finneytown Schools?
 - o For those in charter schools or homeschools...What could we do better to get you (back) in our schools?
- What are our barriers to overcome?
 - o Is there a student behavior problem or perception affecting enrollment?
 - o Do kids feel like they belong?
 - o How have recent program changes affected enrollment – Lack of choir? Fewer advance placement courses? Switching to a 6-bell schedule?
 - o We must be vulnerable; we have to listen; we have to report back our findings; we have to let the community know what we are working to fix.
- Marketing what makes us special
 - o What stories can the fans of the district share with us? Would they agree to let us share these stories with others?
 - o Could we sign you up for the Superintendent's weekly electronic school district newsletters?
 - o What do students consistently say they like the most about our schools?
- How should we try to obtain this information?
 - o Phone calls by board members
 - o Student surveys in mentor group or in class
 - o Parents surveys of current students
 - o Graduating class surveys
 - o Exit surveys

- Assignments
 - o Mr. Rea – Development of a cold call script with a couple of questions and a couple of bullet points.
 - o Dr. Banks and staff – Survey questions for students
 - Public schools
 - Private schools
 - Charter schools
 - Home school
 - o When do we want this information collected by?
 - o Can we utilize Google Forms to collect, track and share data?
 - o Do we know how our support organization feel about open enrollment?
Dr. Banks will address in the upcoming October meetings.

Review of BOE Handbook

Ms. Lindsay Lee, Vice President, introduced this topic

- The current draft of the Board Handbook looks very good and very thorough.
- Just a few typos, missing data, title corrections.
- Update of Board member names, photos and bios.
- Clarification on board member pay - paid for each regular board meeting.
- We should include information about administrative committee attended by the Board of Education, and Board of Education committees attended by the administration and community.
- Add Assistant Superintendent as a key administrative leadership position.

124-22 Mr. Rea moved, seconded by Mr. Gast, that the Board move to Executive Session, in accordance with ORC 121.22(G)(1), in order to consider the employment and compensation of public employees

and

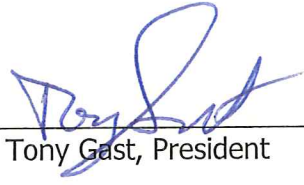
In accordance with ORC 121.22(G)(3), in order to meet with legal counsel to discuss disputes involving the Board that are the subject of pending or imminent court action.

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

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:51pm.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 9:26pm.

125-22 There being no further business, Mr. Rea moved, seconded by Ms. Lee, that the meeting be adjourned. The president declared the meeting adjourned at 9:27pm.



Tony Gast, President

ATTEST:



David L. Oliverio, Treasurer