

**FINNEYTOWN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Special Meeting, October 11, 2022**  
**Finneytown Secondary Campus Media Center**  
**8916 Fontainebleau Terrace**  
**Cincinnati, OH 45231**  
**6:30pm**

The Finneytown Board of Education met in special session on Thursday, October 11, 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 Jr. were present. The President called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**135-22** Mr. Reeb Jr. moved, seconded by Ms. Lee, that the Board appoint Ms. Anita Ruffin as Treasurer Pro Tempore in the absence of Mr. Oliverio, Treasurer. The President declared the motion passed.

**136-22** Mr. Reeb Jr. moved, seconded by Ms. Lee, that the Board dispense with the opening ceremony and approval of the minutes from the September 19, 2022 regular board meeting. The President declared the motion passed.

**137-22** Mr. Reeb Jr. moved, seconded by Ms. Lee, that the Board move to Executive Session, in accordance with ORC 121.22(G)(3), to meet with legal counsel regarding disputes involving the Board or School District that are the subject of pending or imminent court action.

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

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:35pm.

The Board returned to Special Session at 7:40pm.

### **Discussion - District Report Card**

Dr. Laurie Banks opened the discussion by sharing with the Board that this was the first card released under the new "star" rating system. The Report Card reported on progress and performance from the 2021-2022 school year - the first year schools were fully back in session since the pandemic. Finneytown received positive marks in graduation, growth, progress, and the management of fiscal resources. While an area of growth for the district is early literacy, Dr. Banks indicated that the district had begun measures to focus on literacy prior to the issuance of the report card. Those measures include the formation of a K – 3 Literacy Leadership Team, prioritization of learning versus curriculum, and reviewing the curriculum currently being used. Another area of growth for the district is math. The district adopted a math curriculum in the same year as COVID and is currently reviewing results to determine what supports are needed to bolster learning in math.

Dr. Banks reminded the Board that the Report Card is based on 1 test on 1 day and the measures of graduating students, growth rates, and progress hold value.

Mr. Reeb asked if information regarding the Report Card would be placed on the website.

Dr. Banks said the additional information on the Report Card would be in the Community Update and that the district would update the Community Profile.

Mr. Rea asked what actions were being taken regarding chronic absenteeism.

Dr. Banks responded that the Social Worker is actively addressing student absenteeism.

### **Discussion - Enrollment**

Dr. Banks opened the enrollment discussion by indicating that the Enrollment Survey was being used to monitor enrollment numbers and trends.

While the district is interested in increasing student enrollment, Dr. Banks shared the following reasons why the administrative team is not recommending open enrollment as part of that strategy at this time:

- 1) The New Fair Schools Funding formula does not compensate school districts for open enrolled students in the same way as the old funding formula. Finneytown Local, which is heavily reliant upon state funding formula guarantees at this time, runs the risk of enrolling non-resident students without the generation of any significant new formula funding to cover the cost.
- 2) Finneytown Local student enrollment is finalized for Ohio Facility Construction Commission (OFCC) funding and building size determination purposes. While an increase in enrollment a year or two ago could have helped the district:
  - a. avoid the multi-million dollar two building OFCC construction penalty for student enrollment less than 1500, and
  - b. maintain our larger original ELPP program agreement enrollment and square footage allotment...it is now too late to influence either in a way that helps the district from a new construction standpoint.
- 3) Mr. Jeff Immelt graciously offered the school district seed money during a recent visit to increase student enrollment. As a major proponent of public education, his vision is to recapture resident students leaving for other school choice options. The goal is "to tell our story" and generate local enthusiasm, reclaiming our students rather than luring students from other districts.
- 4) Finneytown Local is a very high tax effort district. Tax effort is based upon assessment of the rate of taxation versus the financial means of a community. Open enrollment will always be a source of serious contention for residents paying a higher rate of taxation than those in other school districts UNLESS and UNTIL we can convince them that open enrollment will bring our local tax effort back to the middle of the pack, and regularly slow down future operating levy cycles.

- 5) Finneytown Local is being funded for its school construction project on the lowest actual (and forecasted) enrollment it has had in generations. We expect our enrollment to rebound naturally, as a result of new buildings, new initiatives and as COVID fears are relieved. If we also open our doors to non-residents, is it sustainable? Does it lead to overcrowding once we get into our new buildings?
- 6) Shouldn't we try to recapture the hearts of our local tax-paying residents before reaching outside of our district? We already have some enthusiasm, strategy, and funding behind this effort, which, if successful, would make open enrollment unnecessary all together.
- 7) Open enrollment is not a panacea. The key is not just additional students, but additional operating income through the best use of currently unused and wasted capacity. The program must be carefully designed and executed and will require additional staff to operate at various levels.

There was general consensus from the Board to focus the district's efforts on increasing enrollment among students living in the district and to try to understand the reasons and drivers causing some students to leave the district for other options.

### **Discussion - Cottonwood Property Maintenance**

Mr. Grant Anderson opened the discussion of the Cottonwood Property by sharing that the property had been cleared and a dumpster had been left at the site. Mr. Anderson stated that he ordered new signs to place at the entrances to the property.

Mr. Reeb reiterated that he was concerned about the property contributing in a negative way to the surrounding neighborhood. Mr. Reeb inquired about the inoperable cars parked on the property and expressed that he was grateful for the work of the maintenance department on the property.

Mr. Anderson indicated that Springfield Township were searching the license plates and would be following up to work with the owners to remove the vehicles from the property.

Mr. Anderson discussed with the Board possible future uses for the Cottonwood property, either by the district or through the sale of the property for future development

### **Discussion - OFCC and Secondary Campus Project**

Dr. Banks shared that the Board will be asked to approve a resolution accepting the OFCC CFAP Preferred Plan masterplan option at the October regular meeting. Selection of this plan will require the district to commit at least \$1,000,909 in additional funds to the project. Selection of the Base plan would require the district to commit at least \$5,109,424 in additional funds to the project. The additional dollars are required to satisfy the district's share after adjusting for inflationary increases to construction costs and decreases in student enrollment since the OFCC ELPP agreement was signed. Adopting the resolution is one of the beginning steps of Phase 2- the secondary campus project.

Dr. Banks indicated that with all the changes surrounding the project- it is important that we leverage our assets and deliver what the community wants.

### **Discussion - Policy Service Provider**

Costs and available packages of policy services provided through Neola and OSBA were discussed.

The general consensus of the Board was to delay consideration of a change in service providers at this time.

Ms. Lee and Mr. Reeb asked if the Weapons Policy could be pulled from the October 17 agenda, while leaving the others for consideration. There was no objection. The Weapons Policy will be pulled from the agenda until further discussion can take place.

### **Discussion - School Security**

Mr. Anderson responded to the following school safety questions from Mr. Reeb:

1. If there was a report of an active shooter and injuries that was purportedly from inside of one of our buildings, how & when would students/ staff be notified? Would students know the specifics, or just that they're on lockdown?

Mr. Reeb stated that he was concerned about the situation that occurred with Princeton City Schools, and wanted to discuss how Finneytown would deal with a similar situation.

- In the affected building an all call would alert students and staff of the location of the shooter. Threats from outside the building would likely result in a lockdown while police conduct a preliminary investigation.
- In the case of a real active shooter, the all call will tell staff and students exactly where the shooter is, allowing classrooms to either evacuate or lockdown (per ALICE procedures).

2. How and when would parents/the community be notified of the situation?

- Parents would be notified by text and email of the lockdown and pertinent details about reunification.
- Students attending other buildings will be on lockdown and then pick up information shared with families.
- Any public communication would be released in cooperation with Springfield Township Police and Fire.

3. Without compromising safety, is there anything that we could do to minimize the trauma of parents thinking their children may have been shot and students thinking that they may get shot?

- We plan on sharing with our parents/guardians about the procedures and location for Reunification.

4. Where would district administration be during a threat? At what point would Springfield Township Police "take over", and what role would the superintendent and director of facilities play after police arrive (would they serve only a communication role or also a decision-making role)?

- District administrators and administrative assistants will have specific roles
- Roles are different for police vs. district staff.
- Police - Deal with active threat, then maintain order and safety during reunification.
- FLSD Administration - Maintaining safety and calm of staff and students. Communication with parents on reunification.

5. What would it cost to hire a second full-time resource officer for Finneytown Elementary?

- \$60,000-70,000.

Mr. Reeb stated that he thinks that the Board members should consider hiring another full-time resource officer so that there would be a resource officer full-time at both Finneytown Secondary Campus and Finneytown Elementary. Officer Welcher stated that Springfield Township would be willing to work with the school district to hire a second resource officer for the district, and stated that there is no price worth the lives saved by decreased response time.

### **Review of October 17, 2022 Board Agenda**

The Board reviewed the October 17, 2022 Agenda.

**138-22** Mr. Reeb moved, seconded by Ms. Lee, 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.

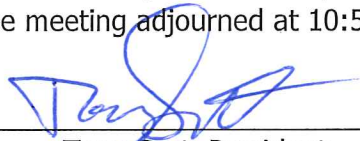
**RC:** Ms. McMullen, yes; Mr. Rea, yes; Ms. Lee, yes; Mr. Reeb, yes; and Mr. Gast, yes. The president declared the motion passed.

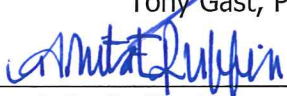
The Board entered Executive Session at 9:59pm.

The Board returned to Special Session at 10:51pm.

**139-22** There being no further business, Mr. Rea moved, seconded by Mr. Gast, that the meeting be adjourned. The president declared the meeting adjourned at 10:51pm.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tony Gast, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anita Ruffin, Treasurer Pro Tempore

