

**FINNEYTOWN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Regular Meeting, December 19, 2022**  
**Finneytown Elementary**  
**8850 Winton Rd.**  
**Cincinnati, OH 45224**  
**Open Forum 6:00pm**  
**Regular Meeting 6:30pm**

The Finneytown Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, December 19, 2022, in Finneytown Elementary, 8850 Winton Road, Cincinnati, OH 45231. Mr. Gast, Ms. Lee, Ms. McMullen, Mr. Rea and Mr. Reeb were present. The President called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

**166-22** Ms. Lee moved, seconded by Ms. McMullen, that the Board approve the agenda as amended. The President declared the motion passed.

**167-22** Mr. Reeb moved, seconded by Mr. Rea, that the Board approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of November 21, 2022 and the Special Meeting of November 30, 2022. The President declared the motion passed.

**Student Report**

- A panel of high school students discussed the following:
  - Expressed profound appreciation for the Secondary Campus art department; requested additional funding be given to this department; requested greater recognition and celebration be given to the work and accomplishments of art students – Josh Crutcher
  - Expressed profound appreciation for the Global Media Class and FinnCat News, which, in only its second year, has opened up greater learning opportunities and exposure to many new career possibilities for Finneytown students – Dakota Brooks

**Administrative Report**

**Dr. Laurie Banks, Superintendent** – discussed the following:

- Student Diversity – Finneytown Local School District has 11 different languages in the homes of our students.
- Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC) – This group reviews professional development activities and keeps track of our teacher license renewal hours.
- Lunch Charges – We currently have unpaid lunch charges totaling nearly \$14,000. This problem is not unique to Finneytown and is believed to be a result of the transition from universal lunch program last year, back to payment for lunch this year. We are working in partnership with Milford Food Services to contact families about outstanding charges and Free and Reduced Lunch eligibility through emails, newsletters, and phone calls. An internal team continues to problem-solve an approach to minimizing this debt. To the extent

- uncollected, the district will be responsible, which takes funds away from other student opportunities.
- OFCC – On December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) approved Finneytown Local's state co-funded construction project. We expect a project agreement in February 2023.
  - Bullying Update – We are revising our administrative guidance for bullying. This does not involve a policy change. A draft will be shared with a group of stakeholders for feedback. We hope to complete by February 2023.
  - SOAR Survey – A team is meeting to analysis this data. We had 168 respondents. Overarching themes have been identified – academics, social/emotional well-being and athletics. We will dig deeper into each and pair this information with other data, such as Pro Action Café input, to broaden community representation and guide future planning and focus group conversations.
  - Winter Concerts – Lots of winter concerts and musicals are coming up. The district will be livestreaming the band concert for the first time.
  - Finneytown Podcast – the latest podcast that aired this morning, featured some of our younger students.

**168-22** Ms. McMullen moved, seconded by Ms. Lee, the Board approved the following Administrative contract:

**Laurie Banks**, Superintendent, effective August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2026, at an annual salary of \$135,000.00.

In addition to the salary, the contract includes additional compensation outside of the standard pension match and healthcare. Dr. Banks will also receive \$5,000 as an annual retirement contribution. She will also receive a retirement contribution worth approximately \$1,800 per month (\$21,500 per year) and the District will buy back up to 10 vacation days per year, valued at up to approximately \$5,200.

#### Discussion

- Ms. McMullen expressed appreciation for the ways the district has grown under Dr. Banks leadership and the way she always shows up ready, with a smile and ready to champion the district, regardless of the challenge.
- Mr. Reeb shared his appreciation for the long hours Dr. Banks puts in and the clear, regular, consistent, always professional and high-quality communication with the community and Board.
- Mr. Reeb and Mr. Rea reviewed past Superintendent contracts in detail. Mr. Rea crunched the numbers, providing the Board with a full sense of costs associated with the Superintendent's contract, putting a fine-tooth comb to everything so that the taxpayers can be sure that we're being responsible with all funds being spent on administration in our district.

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

### **Public Address**

#### **Michael Hamel**

A taxpayer asked questions about a Board of Education decision to introduce diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) into the curriculum. If I was a student here, K through 12...What does it look like? How is it being taught? What are the topics? What are the goals and benchmarks for a successful introduction of this very divisive curriculum?

Mr. Tony Gast, Board President, responded that the Board of Education has not taken such action and the curriculum has not changed. Mr. Gast suggested this was a possible misunderstanding of the Board's discussion concerning *Beyond Finneytown*, a new committee being formed to facilitate dialogue and conversation within our diverse communities to better understand the needs and opportunities around diversity, equity, and inclusion.

### **Board Coordination Matters**

#### **Organizational Meeting and Tax Budget Meeting**

The Organizational Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 6:00pm, with Tax Budget Hearing to immediately follow, in the Administrative Office Conference Room, 8916 Fontainebleau Terrace, Cincinnati, OH 45231

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

- Springfield Township Trustees – Highlights included:
  - Recognized two Finneytown students honored by the Girl Scouts for outstanding bravery and heroism in helping to save a girl from drowning
  - Recognized Springfield Township Fire Chief Robert Leininger, retiring on January 6<sup>th</sup>, for 41 years of service and leadership in fire and EMS
  - Roadwork – a road project will be reworked and rebid as all proposals exceeded the engineering estimates.
  - Daddy Daughter Dance – February 18<sup>th</sup>
- Finneytown Educational Foundation – unable to attend

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

- Finneytown Athletic Boosters – Unable to attend their meeting, which is tonight
- Paid Parental Leave
  - Mr. Reeb and I have been working on a Paid Parental Leave (PPL) memorandum of understanding we believe can have a positive impact on our staff, as they make decisions to start or expand families through birth, adoption and fostering (with some exceptions).
  - We have reviewed existing plans of companies and government entities with this leave, created and shared a draft with the Superintendent and

- Treasurer for cost and legal counsel review, and set up a meeting with union leadership for their input.
- We hope to bring it to the full Board for consideration at the January regular meeting
- Katie Hoffman - the State Board of Education Representative-Elect from our area is planning to attend the district's January regular meeting to provide state school board updates and answer questions.

**Ms. Lee, discussed the following items:**

- Finneytown Music Parents Association (FMPPA) – unable to attend, out-of-town work trip conflict
- Finneytown Wrestling Meet – was able to attend the Finneytown hosted wrestling match as the honorary captain; our students perform very well in competition and as representatives of our school
- *Beyond Finneytown* Board Committee –
  - Hoping to schedule time with Ms. Ntombi Simpson for ideas on how to better communicate what we are looking for, and better reach the people we want to reach
- Shared Learning Sessions – We are now 4 chapters into the book; it has been a fascinating study. I would like a special meeting after it is complete to debrief and look at how we are applying it to our schools
- Finneytown Elementary Drop Off Safety Concerns –
  - Our drop off process is very efficient and well thought out, however, it is not being executed by parents.
    - Kids are being dropped off everywhere, all over in the parking lot, and then crossing in front of cars,
    - I witnessed one teacher who was nearly hit by a car
  - Possible solutions for enhancing safety:
    - Greater outside staff presence to help, particularly at the sidewalk where the bike path comes out, and at the back entrance near Brent
    - Additional signage at the Brent entrance
    - Better control at the lefthand fork leading past the front of Finneytown Elementary

**Ms. McMullen, discussed the following items:**

- Wildcat Serve –
  - Thanks to Renee Heath for her leadership and all the donors to this wonderful charitable cause
  - Finneytown Elementary staff adopted 4 families this year
  - Elementary Student Council raised \$1,100 through their family movie night and picnic. They also donated to the PBIS store. Thank you, Mr. Dirr, and Ms. Deters.
  - Cathy McNair sent an email with a donation link to Secondary Staff and partnered with the Salvation Army, providing gifts for 6 families.

- Elementary Finneytown Social – was another big success this year. Thanks to all those who donated items and time.
- Elementary PTA – Attended meeting
  - Raised \$129 from a Dine-To-Donate event at Skyline
  - Donated to the Parky's Farm fieldtrip and PBIS store
- Secondary PTA – Attended meeting
  - Donated money for an 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to the caves
  - Helped out with Cincinnati Artworks, 7<sup>th</sup> grade fieldtrip, and the community garden
  - AfterProm fundraising is underway; help is requested from local businesses and anyone who can donate
  - Mr. Walker shared that the Secondary Campus is hosting academics and enrichment study tables every Wednesday
- Athletic Boosters –
  - Looking for volunteers to help run the concession stand; reach out to Maggie Laird, President, if interested
  - Congratulations to Maddalyn and Lucy, Finneytown Elementary students who were honored for outstanding bravery and heroism in helping to save a girl from drowning during a Girl Scout field trip.
- Student Achievement – I read an article, and forwarded it on to building administrators, about allowing students the chance to take a break from their studies in moments of stress and struggle, with
  - large sheets of paper on walls for murals, writing utensils, envelopes and other materials to collaborate thoughts with others in shared spaces
  - resources available to create kindness rocks and/or rock gardens
- Board Team –
  - Thanks for the last year. There have been a lot of good things, a lot of ups and downs. I look forward to growing as a board member and serving alongside you. Happy Holidays to everyone.
- Final Thought
  - When a flashlight grows dim or quits working, do you just throw it away? Of course not. You change the batteries. When a person messes up or finds themselves in the dark place, do you cast them aside? Of course not. You help them change their batteries. Some need double A (attention and affection). Some need triple A (attention, affection and acceptance). Some need C (compassion) and some need D (direction). And if you still don't see them shine, simply sit with them quietly and share your light. – posted by one of our teachers

**Mr. Reeb, discussed the following items:**

- Supplemental Contracts – Thank you Dr. Banks for distributing extracurricular and co-curricular supplemental positions the district intends to hire for the second half.

- Paid Parental Leave – Mr. Rea and I are meeting with administration and union leaders later this month to discuss a Paid Parental Leave proposal.
- PEM Concert – Had the pleasure to attend the December 3<sup>rd</sup> concert. Thank you to all the alumni that annual host this event in memory of the three Finneytown students and eight others that died 43 years ago.
- Finneytown Music Parents Association – unable to attend but read the minutes
  - \$15,000 was donated at the concert for the PEM Scholarship Fund.
  - The Finneytown Elementary Holiday Concert is tomorrow at 7pm
  - Choir Director position was posted externally on December 1<sup>st</sup>
  - There are rumblings that something exciting is planned for the band program next year
- Facilities Committee – did meet this month
  - The district was approved for OFCC CFAP construction project funding.
  - We are getting a lot of questions on the Facilities Committee about the Whitaker property. Building demolition is included in the OFCC project and will be contracted after the CFAP planning process begins. 60% will be funded by the state.
- Facilities Tour – I still need to schedule a district tour with Mr. Anderson
- Resolutions in the Superintendent's Consent Calendar
  - Payment in Lieu of Transportation –
    - This resolution provides a stipend in lieu of transportation deemed impractical for the parents of resident students attending non-public schools and community schools.
    - Home school students are not eligible to receive a transportation payment.
  - Donation from EmpowerU America –
    - I researched this organization.
    - Anyone can go on their website and make the donation of a U.S. flag picture and motto plaque, specifying the school district you want to give it to, as authorized under Ohio Revised Code. Items are to be hung in a public space, like the auditorium.
    - As a government teacher, I wanted to share that in 1997 there was a suit from the ACLU filed against Ohio claiming that it violated the Constitution. Various federal courts weigh in, and they found that it was not a violation of the First Amendment because it does not endorse a specific god.
    - Thank you to whoever out there donated these items to our school district.

**169-22** Mr. Rea moved, seconded by Ms. Lee, 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 November 30, 2022\***

U.S. Bank	0.0050%	\$ 629,854.18
U.S. Bank (construction fund)	0.5300%	\$ 3,685,454.08
STAR Ohio	3.7000%	\$ 19,396,015.01
STAR Ohio (construction #2)	3.7000%	\$ 3,039,513.25
STAR Ohio (construction #1)	3.7000%	\$ 1,450,857.34

**c) Interest Earned on Depository and Investment Accounts as of November 30, 2022\***

General Fund	\$63,395.50
Construction Fund	\$24,227.18

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

[See attachment]

**e) Approval of Payment - FY23\***

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>
10/9/22	HUDL	\$ 7,990.00
(Athletic Department package streaming and storing subscription 11/8/22 – 11/7/23)		

**f) Approval of Five Year Forecast\***

The Board approved the Five Year Forecast.

**g) Approval of Agreement - Constellation NewEnergy, Inc.\***

The Board approved the following agreement:

Finneytown Local School District with Constellation NewEnergy Inc., for an electricity supply agreement with a competitive retail electric supplier to provide electric generation service at a fixed, full requirements price that includes capacity, ancillary, line losses and RPS charges and is good for any amount of electricity consumed during the month, from the March 2023 meter read through the October 2025 meter read. Power will be supplied at the fixed rate of 7.712 cents per kWh. This supply is for Finneytown Elementary only.

**h) Approval of Agreement - Engie Power & Gas, LLC ("ENGIE")\***

The Board approved the following agreement:

Finneytown Local School District with ENGIE, for a sales agreement to provide natural gas from January 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025. Natural gas will be supplied at the fixed rate of \$0.7650 / CCF. Price includes firm, full requirements and fixed price gas regardless of volume. Firm transportation is a non-interruptible supply. This supply is for Finneytown Elementary only.

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

**170-22** Ms. Lee moved, seconded by Mr. Gast, 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.

**171-22** Mr. Rea moved, seconded by Mr. Gast, that the Board separate item i), Approval of Policy Revisions regarding Entrance Requirements, from the Superintendent's Consent Calendar.



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

**a) Approval of Contract - Continuing Classified\***

The Board approved a continuing contract for the following classified staff member, effective July 1, 2022:

**Randy Kirby** Maintenance Technician

**b) Approval of Contract Revision - Personnel Service 2022-2023\***

The Board approved the following personnel service contract revision, effective November 13, 2022 through June 30, 2023:

**Tiana Middlebrooks** Crossing Guard \$16.34/hr

**c) Approval of Contracts – Supplemental 2022-2023\***

The Board approved the following supplemental contracts, effective August 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023:

<b>Robert Burlew</b>	Head Coach, Reserve Boys Basketball	\$3,215.00
<b>Adam Coffey</b>	Head Coach, Varsity Wrestling	\$6,040.00
<b>Brett Crawford</b>	Asst. Coach, Varsity Boys Basketball	\$3,702.00
<b>Reggie Hall</b>	Head Coach, Varsity Boys Basketball	\$4,871.00
<b>Chevalier Harris</b>	Head Coach, 7th Gr. Boys Basketball	\$1,753.00
<b>Ann Mackzum</b>	Head Coach, 8th Gr. Girls Basketball	\$1,656.00
<b>Kayla Miller</b>	Asst. Dean, Clark House	\$200.00
<b>Kayla Miller</b>	Advisor, MS Yearbook	\$740.00
<b>Anna Reichard</b>	Asst. Coach Varsity Girls Basketball	\$2,922.00

**d) Approval of Payment – Certified Staff Members\***

The Board approved payment to the following certified staff members who will perform duties outside of the regular work schedule, effective August 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023:

<b>Carolyn Althoff</b>	LPDC Meetings	\$35.00/hr
<b>Angie Creutzinger</b>	LPDC Meetings	\$35.00/hr
<b>Troy Edie</b>	LPDC Meetings	\$35.00/hr

<b>Lori Gehr</b>	LPDC Meetings	\$35.00/hr
<b>Catherine Wilde</b>	LPDC Meetings	\$35.00/hr

**e) 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 December 15, 2022:

Barnes, Cheryl	Gilbert, Jaylin	Powell, Victoria
Barnett, Althea	Gray, Kiara	Price, Tanya
Bell, Danny	Haarlammert, Stephanie	Ray, Colleen
Bellamah, Christopher	Hardy, Diane	Rice, Alisha
Binford, Cornelia	Hartman, Ronald	Richey, Sheila
Blair, Ernetta	Hayden, Larita	Ruffner, Sara
Blank, Diana	Hershey, Caroline	Ryan, Samantha
Blanks, Earl	Hess, Leanne	Schneider, Cindy
Blunt, Sharron	Hopkins, Samuel	Scholles, Emilie
Brewer, Vareri	Horstman, Zach	Schuler, Emily
Brinkman, Rosa	Horton, Vanius	Shaw, Phyllis
Brown, Camryn	Howard, Elaine	Skidmore, Carson
Brown, Kara	Hudson, Denesha	Smith, Tamara
Calhoun, Brenda	Hughes Jr., George	St. Hilaire, Melissa
Colvin, Gayle	Jackson, Dionna	Stegman, Jessica
Connor, Kathryn	Jones, Darrell	Sukovaty, Holly
Cook, Gary	Jurell, Megan	Sullivan, Clyde
Copeland, David	Kelley-Gerton, Lisa	Tennyson, Emma
Crumpley, Tanagna	Laird, Maggie	Thomas, Jenna
Curtis, Hayley	Lemon, Richard	Tubbs, Quinetta
Davis, Elonah	Lockett, Teylar	Uetrecht, Kimberly
Davis, Gordon	Marshall, Gwen	Underwood, Mason
Davis, Rollins	Martin, Artis	Vaughan, Randall
Denlinger, Scott	May, Emily	Walton, Ronald
Downs, Gheiril	McCrary, Leandre	Watson, Todd
Dunn, Tim	Meier, Paulette	Weiler, Michael
Duskin, Deemiah	Mosher, Parker	Williams, Tracey
Ellis, Ruth	Nelson, Diamond	Winter, Stephany
Evans, Deboragh	Palmore, Cori	Wise, Donnise
Evans, Patricia	Parham, Ebony	Wolke, Sophia
Fischoff, Ann	Perez, Adesina	Wrentz, Kyra
Gaines, Queylah	Phipps, Marilyn	Yisrael, Nesyah
Gaski, Karen	Pittman, Felicia	
Giffin, David	Pollington, Connie	

**f) Approval of Home Instruction Tutor\***

The Board approved the following Home Instruction Tutor (Home Instruction Tutors provide temporary tutoring services on an as-needed basis.):

**Shannon Brown**, effective December 16, 2022

**g) Approval of Membership – OSBA\***

The Board approved membership in OSBA for 2023:

<b>Membership Dues</b>	<b>\$6,163.00</b>
<b>OSBA Briefcase Electronic Subscription</b>	<b>\$ <u>free</u></b>
<b>Membership Total</b>	<b>\$6,163.00</b>

**h) Approval of School Calendar 2023-2024\***

The Board approved the following school year calendar for 2023-2024, which was originally presented for consideration at the regular meeting of November 21, 2022:

August 17, Thursday	Staff In-Service - No School
August 18, Friday	Staff In-Service - No School
August 21, Monday	Staff In-Service - No School
August 22, Tuesday	First Day for Students
September 4, Monday	Labor Day - No School
October 19, Thursday	1st Quarter Ends (41 days)
October 20, Friday	Staff In-Service - No School
October 23, Monday	Fall Break - No School
November 6, Monday	Staff In-Service - No School
November 22, Wednesday	Conference Release Day-No School
November 23 & 24, Thursday & Friday	Thanksgiving Break - No School
December 22, Friday-January 3, Wednesday	Winter Break - No School
January 4, Thursday	School Resumes
January 12, Friday	2nd Quarter Ends (47 days)
January 12, Friday	Staff In-Service - No School
January 15, Monday	Dr. MLK, Jr. Day - No School
February 16, Friday	Conference Release Day-No School
February 19, Monday	Presidents Day - No School
March 4, Monday	Staff In-Service - No School
March 22, Friday	3rd Quarter Ends (46 days)
March 25, Monday - March 29, Friday	Spring Break - No School
April 1, Monday	Staff In-Service - No School

April 2, Tuesday  
May 27, Monday  
May 30, Thursday  
  
May 31, Friday

School Resumes  
Memorial Day  
Last Day for Students  
4th Quarter Ends (41 days)  
Staff In-Service  
Last Day for Staff

### **Comment on School Calendar 2023-2024**

Ms. Lee

- A comment on the staggered start in the school calendar – Some families, especially those new to the district, were surprised by the staggered start. Publishing this information with the calendar document will help families know what to expect.

### **Discussion on Consideration of Policy Revisions – Board-Staff Communications, Policy 3112 and 4112**

Dr. Banks shared the following reservations about proposed Board-Staff Communications policy revisions:

- Potential inefficiencies in communication and things getting lost.
- The situation in which a conversation between a board member and staff member jeopardizes the grievance or appeal process and could lead to recusal from that process.
- Our legal counsel shared that this language has led to some challenges for some of the Boards that have adopted it. Perhaps the revision can be worded in such a way as to avoid those issues.

Ms. Lee shared the following:

- The intent of the policy revision is to offer protections to our staff, make them feel safer, and let them know it is okay to talk to us informally as individuals apart from the Board as a whole
- The current policy wording is a little hierarchical. It's not used in high performing organizations today.
- We're trying to get to where we're more circular in how we communicate.
- The proposed wording is very similar to what is being used in other districts. I added a paragraph and changed the wording at the top to clearly establish the responsibilities and expectations for communication on both sides. The Superintendent is responsible for informing the Board of all matters affecting the district. The Board is responsible to represent the community's input.
- It very explicitly says that informal conversations are not intended to circumvent the established processes and procedures that address and resolve employee grievances. Those processes still need to be followed. Board members need to point this out any time a conversation appears headed in that direction.
- I benchmarked off other school boards where Board communication and involvement with staff, to know what's going on, is an expectation.

- I agree with the points shared, am open to other wording and adjustments, and will talk to OSBA about the revisions needed to create a policy that works for all of us.

Mr Gast

- I have talked with OSBA. The revision creates opportunities for staff to go directly to the Board when there's a question. But we're not going to ever be the ones with the information.
- Direct staff access to the Board could also lead passionate individuals to bypass building administrators and the Superintendent, going straight to the top with their ideas rather than working through established channels.
- OSBA said they would work with us to prevent this from becoming a springboard to severely undermine the authority of the Superintendent.
- I like an organized collection of perspectives from staff. It shouldn't be an avenue for staff to create their own personal sounding board, or for Board members to seek Board direction from individual staff with whom they have formed a connection.
- The Board should ensure there are processes for teachers to bring ideas forward. I prefer a survey approach to get everybody's opinions instead of just hearing from those with the ear of a Board Member. No insider position, special privileges or special leverage can be permitted, otherwise individual Board Members could effectively start their own committee.

#### **i) Consideration of Policy Revisions\***

The Board considered revisions to the following policies, which will be presented for approval at the next regular meeting of the Board:

**Policy 3112** Board-Staff Communications

**Policy 4112** Board-Staff Communications

#### **j) 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 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 these students 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:

**Anna and Luke Sellers** (Brian Sellers, parent)

**k) Acceptance of Donations\***

The Board accepted the following donation(s):

A cash donation of \$500 to the Finneytown Local School District social work fund from the Finneytown Association of Support Personnel on November 28, 2022.

A cash donation of \$300 to the Finneytown Local School District in honor of the Finneytown Kroger Re-Grand Opening from Kroger on November 28, 2022.

A cash donation of \$75 to the Finneytown Local School District social work fund from Springfield Township Senior Citizens Inc., 9158 Winton Road, Cincinnati, OH 45231 on November 29, 2022.

A cash donation of \$1,000 to the Finneytown Local School District athletic department basketball program from the Finneytown Athletic Association, 8504 Foxcroft Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45231 on November 29, 2022.

An "In God We Trust" Picture Frame and National Motto history plaque from Marlin A. Marlin and EmpowerU America, 225 Northland Blvd., Cincinnati, OH 45246 on December 6, 2022.

An anonymous gift of \$400 to the Finneytown Local School District social work fund on December 12, 2022.

### **Comment on the EmpowerU America Donation**

Mr. Rea

- I would like to address EmpowerU America, the organization that's donating the "In God we trust" framed picture. We are obligated to accept it by ORC. Some information about EmpowerU America: In my opinion, they're a threat to public education in Ohio. They fully support the backpack bill, which would make Ed Choice the model for public education and probably decimate our school districts. They're against bills that support LGBTQ students. Right now, they're most vociferously focusing on any changes to Title IX, that could affect our transgender students.
- Earlier, Mr. Reeb mentioned that the national motto has been deemed not of any particular god, but the stated purpose of the program is to get God back in our schools. There's a very definite God to which they are referring. To make this truly educational, I would also like to donate a framed picture of the First Amendment and a framed picture of the ORC that says we have to put it on the wall. I think the library would be a great place, maybe the government section or the history section. It is the national motto and the state wrote the bill for putting the national motto in there, but this organization has a definite purpose for it and it is getting God back in schools and it is a very specific God.

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

**172-22** Mr. Rea moved, seconded by Mr. Gast, that the Board approve revisions to the following policy, which were originally presented for consideration at the regular meeting of November 21, 2022:

### **5112 Entrance Requirements**

#### **Discussion on Approval of Policy Revisions – Entrance Requirements, Policy 5112**

Mr. Gast

- I really appreciate our staff feedback on the considered entrance requirement policy change and their focus on early developmental preparedness, it was very meaningful to me.
- My reason to go to August 1 is, if you know the trick on how to work the system, you can enroll in open enrollment school with an August 1 deadline. Then, once you are a kindergarten student there, you can withdraw and enroll in Finneytown and we have to take you. Families who want to honor what is intended, or don't know this secret, are at a disadvantage. For me, this reason trumps the other aspects.

Mr. Rea

- Another key point, that came from the information provided by staff, are the aides in classrooms. I think that really needs to be a focus, to provide teachers what they

were told they were going to have in terms of classroom aides. It is hard to hire people right now, but we need to figure that out.

Mr. Gast

- For the record, when we shifted to all day kindergarten, it was not a forever move to have an aide in every full day Kindergarten class. The decision to start with kindergarten aides was a move to get our feet under us and understand how it was going to work. It doesn't mean that we can't go back to kindergarten aides, but it cannot be said that we went back on a promise.

Dr. Banks

- We transitioned away from that last year to where our aides are now supporting multiple grade levels.

Ms. Lee

- I also really appreciated what was shared by staff.
- I see the request by teachers for more classroom support as a separate issue not tied to the date of enrollment. I would like to reach back out to them for more information on how best to support them.
- Other schools seem to be successful with the earlier enrollment date. If the loophole causes parents to enroll somewhere else for at least a few days, we run the risk of not getting those kids back.

Mr. Gast

- The state gives us only two choices for an enrollment cut-off date – August 1st or September 30th. Our proposed policy changes the deadline for turning 5 years old from August 1 to September 30th. Expanding the cut-off will allow us to enroll more students.

Mr. Reeb

- I did have some concerns about the later cutoff date. My wife is involved with early childhood education. Two months can make a really big difference at that age. I've considered that, but also enrollment and the need to be competitive. For now, we needed to be competitive and open opportunities for those students to be able to come here and be involved in our district long term. If it does not work out, we could look at changing it back.

Mr. Rea

- It'll will take a couple of years to get a baseline and revisit whether not the decision was good for our students.

Ms. McMullen

- I can't support the change out of respect for what our staff members are saying to us. I don't want to put them in a situation where they have to work harder and they're already under pressure, as we are short staffed. I just don't think it's a good time. We're already facing so many struggles due to the pandemic and resignations.



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

**173-22** Mrs Lee moved, seconded by Mr. Rea, that the Board approve overnight/extended student trips for the wrestling team to the Viper Classic Wrestling Tournament and Kennedy Space Center in Cocoa and Merritt Island Florida, January 12, 2023 – January 16, 2023, and to the Petersburg High School wrestling meet in Petersburg, West Virginia February 3, 2023 – February 4, 2023.

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

### **Review of Action Steps**

- 1)** Reach out to OSBA for assistance concerning proposed revisions to Policy 3112 and 4112, Board-Staff Communications – Ms. Lee
- 2)** Paid Parental Leave meeting on December 28<sup>th</sup> with union representation and continued discussion in preparation for January regular meeting update and discussion – Mr. Rea, Mr. Reeb, Dr. Banks, Mr. Oliverio
- 3)** Provide union feedback on proposed Board-Staff Communications policy changes – Dr. Banks
- 4)** Schedule time with Ms. Ntombi Simpson concerning *Beyond Finneytown* to better communicate what we are looking for and better reach the people we want to reach – Ms. Lee, Mr. Gast
- 5)** Schedule tour of facilities – Mr. Anderson, Mr. Reeb
- 6)** Obtain staggered start information for inclusion with the school calendar – Dr. Banks.

The next regular meeting of the Finneytown Board of Education will take place on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 6:30pm in the Media Center of the Finneytown Secondary Campus, 8916 Fontainebleau Terrace, Cincinnati, OH 45231. Open forum will begin at 6:00pm.

**174-22** Mr. Rea moved, seconded by Ms. Lee, that the Board move to Executive Session, in accordance with ORC Section 121.22(G)(1), in order to consider the employment of a public employee of the district.

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

The Board moved to Executive Session at 8:51pm.

Mr. Reeb left Executive Session at 9:55pm.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 9:57pm.

**175-22** There being no further business, Mr. Rea moved, seconded by Ms. McMullen, that the meeting be adjourned. The President declared the meeting adjourned at 9:58pm.



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Tony Gast, President

ATTEST:



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David Oliverio, Treasurer