

**FINNEYTOWN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Special Meeting**  
**Secondary Campus Media Center**  
**February 28, 2023**  
**6:00pm**

The Finneytown Board of Education met in special session on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, in the Finneytown Secondary Campus Media Center, 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 6:11 pm.

**40-23** 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 February 21, 2023. The President declared the motion passed.

**Welcome**

Dr. Banks, Superintendent, welcomed the community and explained the intent of the meeting: to brainstorm and discuss the possibilities for the Whitaker site.

The following information was shared:

- The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) Finneytown Elementary project plan included demolition of the obsolete Whitaker Elementary building.
- The Board and administration have been engaging with the Long Range Facilities Planning Team, our master plan architect, Springfield Township, developers and our legal counsel to learn what is and is not possible for this site.
- A lot has been learned from these partners and professionals during this time. It's time to begin reporting out what we've learned and facilitate community dialogue and feedback.

**Introductions**

Lindsay Lee, Vice President of the Board of Education made the following introductions:

- Board of Education members
- Administrative Team members
- Springfield Township representatives
- Master Plan Architect

The community was led in an interactive small group check-in concerning: Why is it important for you to be here tonight? and What struck you most in your personal group's check-in?

**The Known**

Mr. Anderson, Director of Operations, reported the following information:

- The Whitaker Elementary demolition is a co-funded project of the OFCC Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP)
- Provided an overview of the Whitaker site with visual aids
- Provided an overview of the surrounding area and property with visual aids

- Introduced Chris Gilbert, Springfield Township Administrator, to talk about the adjacent Warder Preserve property

Mr. Gilbert, Springfield Township Administrator, shared the following information on the adjacent Warder Preserve Property:

- The Warder Preserve sits on 42 acres
- Recent site improvements to the preserve include: the clearing of overgrown brush, dredging of the lakes, and addition of a clay bottom and the creation of walking trails
- The nature preserve site improvements support the township's vision of attracting and incentivize good development to bookend this dedicated green space:
  - 5 parcels owned by the school district, known as the Whitaker site, accessible via Winton Road, consisting of 6.5 acres. Finneytown Board has control of the property; subsequent development is subject to township zoning approval.
  - 7 parcels owned by the township on the east side of Warder accessible via Northbend Road, heading toward St. Xavier High School, consisting of 17.5 acres. The township favors single family residential development.

### **World Café Feedback Session**

Dr. Banks, Superintendent, hosted a World Café-styled Whitaker Possibilities session to facilitate a series of rotating small group conversations and generate feedback.

Guides and prompts included the following:

Things we are looking for...

- Access to Warder and Public Parking
- Community Space
- Compliment and Connect to Warder
- Revenue

Things we are looking to avoid...

- Keep and maintain the property
- Increase financial burden on public entities
- Retail

Small groups formed to answer and record responses to the following questions:

Round 1: Why is the Whitaker site important to you?

Round2: What are key considerations you have related to the Whitaker site? Why are these important to you?

Round 3: What would bring value to the school district and community at the Whitaker site?

Ms. Lee left the special meeting at 7:16pm

The Finneytown Board of Education will hold a Special Meeting on Monday, March 13, 2023 at 5:30pm in the Finneytown Administrative Offices, 8916 Fontainebleau Terrace, Cincinnati, OH 45231.

**41-23** There being no further business, Ms. McMullen moved, seconded by Mr. Rea, that the meeting be adjourned. The President declared the meeting adjourned at 7:49pm.



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Tony Gast, President

ATTEST:



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David Oliverio, Treasurer