

FINNEYTOWN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting, December 18, 2023
Finneytown Secondary Campus Media Center
8916 Fontainebleau Terrace
Cincinnati, OH 45231
Open Forum 6:00pm
Regular Meeting 6:30pm

The Finneytown Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, December 18, 2023, 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 6:30pm.

157-23 Ms. McMullen moved, seconded by Ms. Lee, the Board approved the agenda as presented. The President declared the motion passed.

158-23 Ms. Lee moved, seconded by Mr. Reeb, the Board approved the minutes from the Regular Meeting of November 20, 2023 and the Special Meeting of December 11 2023. The President declared the motion passed.

Administrative Report

Dr. Laurie Banks, Superintendent – discussed the following:

- Ohio States Leading Recovery Program Grant - The district has been awarded \$127,500 for high-impact tutoring for 85 of our students at Finneytown Elementary. Ms. Jen Bayless is managing this one-time grant.
- Annual Consolidated School Report – Each year the district is required to report specified training conducted to the state, including AED, nutritional standards, and many others. This report has been submitted.
- Strategic Plan – Our strategic planning community focus groups are this Wednesday. We have a nine o'clock session and the five o'clock session here in the media center. We're hoping to get as many community members as possible in this conversation. There will be an additional opportunity for input in January at our ProAction Café.
- Solar Eclipse – Area school districts are planning for the solar eclipse on April 8th in a wide variety of ways – staying in session, early dismissal, canceling school or having a professional development day for staff. I will write up a proposal and get that to you in January.
- Stronger Connections Grant – We are hosting a brunch for our daycare and preschool providers on January 20. We will follow up with learning sessions for our future kindergarten students families in March. In developing these “stronger connections” our goal is to support families and increase their understanding of child development and school readiness.
- Board Meeting Topics – I have distributed a draft copy of future board meeting topics for discussion at our Organization Meeting in January, so you can start looking at it.

- Board Service Recognition – We want to thank Mr. Gast for his service to the district these last eight years on the board, as well as his service as a parent and community member to our district. It's been a gift. From the bottom of my heart, I appreciate your support and how you show up. I know everyone in the space would agree. Thank you very much.

Public Address

Michel Hamel

My name is Michael Hamel, 8532 Brent Drive. I addressed the Board in August. It took 45 minutes prior to the November meeting to get a reply. The comments from August were about relabeling the bathrooms in the K-6 building to the appropriate "boys" and "girls" rooms which they should be labeled. To equate these facilities as bathrooms, which we have in our own homes is a fallacy. This is a school, not a room right outside of a bedroom. Sharing with family is very different than sharing with strangers. Do you know the number of kids that refuse to use the bathrooms regardless of how desperately they need to go? Do you know the percentage of young girls triggered with emotion in regard to seeing a male figure outside the door of the bathroom rather than the privacy when shared by other girls? I firmly believe that this will lead to bigger problems that no one has thought of down the road, bigger than we can imagine. Bigger than the architecture group that designed the building has reasoning for... Whatever group is chosen to design and build the new secondary school, I am asking they stick to their assigned job of designing the building and not play psychologist or counselor in determining whether the label of non-gender belongs on the restroom areas in the school are in the best interest of these kids. In conversations with the architect who designed the building, she gave me her psychobabble for labeling them this way, about them being secure and safe, free from bullying...she also let me know that she was told to expect a call, that I would be calling her and questioning her about the design and labels...do any of you happen to know who might have contacted her with this tip? Another topic is the misunderstanding for what the term "separation of church and state" really is. The quote, "separation of church and state" is not found in either the Constitution or the Bill of Rights. It comes from a letter written by President Thomas Jefferson in 1802. As president, he allowed buildings used by the War and Treasury Departments along with the Capital and Supreme Court chambers to be used for religious services. He described the use of the First Amendment as figuratively building "a wall of separation between church and state." Then in the twentieth century, this phrase became a type of "litmus test" for whether legislation violated the First Amendment. Over time, the courts have created several similar tests. Some scholars continue to argue that Jefferson's "wall" is meant to be a separation between the federal government and churches at state and local levels. They do not believe that Jefferson wanted a separation between all levels of government and all individual religious practices. Meaning the federal government does not have the right to create a national religion, but general religious acknowledgements can be used, just not identifying, or pushing any one individual religion. So, when it was expressed to me that you are

looking after the “feelings” of all children involved...what about the individuals that are being damaged and hurt by not being able to express themselves for their own religious freedom, which is sanctified by the First Amendment. So with that, I will leave you and I look forward to future conversations.

Review of Action Steps from last month

- 1) Provide Finneytown’s athletic budget and band budget as compared to other schools in our league to Mr. Rea and copy the Board – Deferred.
- 2) Prepared to have a conversation on the general topics and themes already selected by building administration and/or desired by board members for staff and/or student board meeting presentations at the Organization Meeting – Done.
- 3) Confer with Tom Burton on strategic planning next steps – community input, focus groups, meeting schedule and promotion – Done.

Board Coordination Matters

Mr. Gast, discussed the following items:

- Farewell – As my term ends, I’m giving each of you socks as a parting gift. I was given colorful socks by a lawyer friend, who wears them in court. Each month, I wear colorful socks to board meetings. They remind me why I do this. It’s about the kids. A lot of the business we address doesn’t seem very kid-oriented. I also wear a ring I got in Bogota that reminds me of the monetarily challenged, and my PTA Friend of Children button. Each has meaning and reminds me of our purpose. Perhaps these socks will encourage some of you to create meaningful rituals for yourselves in the same way.
- Finance Committee – We met this month to look at our five year forecast. We are beginning to see an acceleration of costs. Unless we find some new funding sources and partnerships, three or four years from now we’re really in the red as far as our general budget. I would not mind continuing to be part of those discussions. This is important and I don’t shy away from such issues. I’m actually a forecasting expert. That’s my job professionally. If you have what you want in a Kroger store it’s because my forecast was good; if it was not there, it was a supply chain issue. The forecast is an area the Board will need to stay focused upon.
- Finneytown Schools Educational Foundation (FSEF) – I was not able to attend the last meeting.
- Grandparents and Special Friends Day – I attended the relaunch of this special event at the elementary school. This event did not happen for several years due to COVID. Ms. Nancy Rouse did a great job of pulling this together and inviting grandparents and special friends for our students, so all the kids could feel special. Ms. Fields did a great job leading various student choral groups. I really enjoyed participating in this event.

Administrative Report

Student Athlete Academic Success Initiative – Mr. Gerald Warmack, Athletic Director and Mr. Tim Dunn, Athletic Academic Coordinator

Student Athlete Academic Success Program –

- The district is embarking on a new academic success program for student athletes, modeled off college-type programs.
- This program helps students maintain eligibility throughout the year, not only the athletic season.
- Under the old program, if a student has a grade of “D” or “F” they go on athletic probation and need to sit out, which really isn't fair, to an extent because there's nothing in place other than meeting with me to be put on a grade sheet for them to be able to get their grades back up.
- The new program will offer tutoring, more resources, improved communication, a team approach, and self-monitoring skill training.
- We believe this program is bigger than just athletics and can be implemented district-wide to help all students toward academic success.
- To make this work we had to develop grade reporting efficiencies, increasing accessibility and sortability, get coaches actively engaged, and teach students to take ownership for themselves, including use of Progress Book to monitor their own work.
- We've already had some of our coaches embrace this with great success – including girls soccer and boys football.
- At the winter sports preview night, we were able to speak to every student and parent that attended to let them know this is coming.
- Work still needs to be done on developing the tutoring resources and a better communication track. We may change weekly monitoring to every other week monitoring, because of the way that things are being graded. A lot of student athletes are academically ineligible for not turning their work in.
- Beginning in January, Mr. Dunn will have office hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays to meet with kids and help them comply.

Board Coordination Matters - continued

Ms. Lee, discussed the following items:

- OSBA –
 - Ohio High School Athletic Association is relaunching its Respect the Game Campaign, designed to encourage appropriate spectator behavior and sportsmanship at athletic events.
 - Districts need to update OSBA membership rosters for the new year.
- Student Recognition – Congratulations to those students who represented Finneytown Schools with artwork in the Mount St. Joseph's University's Selections 2023 Exhibition – Paige Ficke, Giovanni Lee, Udo Oziri and Akira Trimm. Their work is phenomenal.
- Finneytown Athletic Boosters –
 - This month's meeting was cancelled.

- Finneytown hosted the King of the Hill wrestling tournament. It is a great annual event.
- Finneytown Athletic Association –
 - Unable to attend; I am not yet on the current email distribution list.
- Student Behavior – There have been questions in the community about behavior and discipline. I met with Superintendent Dr. Banks to begin reviewing student data for trends, consequences, and consistency of response.

Mr. Rea, discussed the following items:

- Finance Committee – I also participated in the meeting this month. I encourage everyone to review the executive summary information and follow up with Mr. Oliverio if you have specific questions. We are going to need to keep the forecast in mind as we move forward.
- Farewell – Mr. Gast, thank you for your years of service. I appreciate everything you've done for the district.

Mr. Reeb, discussed the following items:

- Finneytown Music Parents Association (FMPA) –
 - Hosted a pancake breakfast fundraiser this past Saturday. FMPA extends thanks to J. Gumbo's, Sarah Braun, Finneytown Milford nutrition services, Sandy Tenhundfeld, and many other organizations and individuals that donated food, materials and time to the event.
 - An Elementary Winter Concert for grades 2-3 will be December 19.
 - 5th Grade Band – I sent out an email last month related to fifth grade band and had a follow-up conversation with Dr. Banks, Ms. Baker and Dr. Dinan. I got some clarity on how scheduling works, which is not a Board matter. At this point, we are in good hands. Our principals are making decisions in the best interests of our students. While I would like fifth grade band to meet multiple days per week, I don't think we're at the point where the board needs to do much about that. We need to keep watch on this for its longer-term impact.
- Farewell – I also want to thank Mr. Gast for his leadership. I know you'll still be around and available to turn to for advice. Thank you.
- Personal Note – My wife's due date is January 26. If I suddenly go radio silent, you'll know the reason. I'll try to send out a picture, but otherwise you probably won't hear from me for about two to three weeks.

Ms. McMullen, discussed the following items:

- Primary PTA –
 - I was unable to attend the meeting this month due to sickness.
 - Winter Market – I was involved with the winter market. PTA brought in over \$1,000. Thanks to everyone who came out, those who donated time

and resources, our local vendors, and Chick-fil-A Fairfield for donating 75 sandwiches. It was a good event and well attended.

- Secondary PTA –
 - Mike's Carwash Fundraiser – A basic carwash is being sold for \$11 or the ultimate wash for \$22. PTA gets to keep 50% of the sale.
 - Wildcat Serve – A food basket and gift-wrapping party to help our local families in need will be on Wednesday at 6:30pm. Reach out to Renee Heath if you can help.
 - Secondary PTA has \$1,400 to give away in grants. If you're a staff member with a special project or in need of classroom items, contact Miriam Schmidtgesling.
 - Student Achievement – The governor's merit scholarship program launched December 4. This program provides up to \$5,000 per year and financial assistance to our seniors who are identified as graduating in the top 5% of their class. An online application portal is available at merit_scholarships@ohio.gov.
- Events Attended –
 - King of the Hill – I had never been to a wrestling event and found it very exciting. It was a great event.
 - Band Concert – It was incredible and one of the better concerts I've attended in a long time. The students played beautifully. Mr. Delaney and Mr. Fronk have done an amazing job with our children. Thank you.
 - Voices Finneytown – Led by Ms. Fields, Voices walked to Brookdale Nursing Home twice and sang to residents, adding much holiday cheer.
 - Breakfast with Santa – Voices and the band performed. It was a well-attended event. Thanks to everybody who participated.
- OSBA Planning Committee – I will be a part of the OSBA Planning Committee for 2024. Let me know your feedback or suggestions for the conference.
- WXIX Interview – Hopefully everybody got a chance to see Dr. Banks' interview. It was amazing. She represented our district very well. We appreciate everything you've done for our community.
- Farewell – Thank you for your service. Mr. Gast you have been a like a mentor and always there for me. I appreciate it. I'm going to miss you.

Schedule Organizational Meeting and Tax Budget Meeting

- January 4, 2024 at 6:00pm in the Secondary Campus Media Center.

Acceptance of Board Committee Report

- None.

159-23 Adoption of Resolution – To Discontinue the Practice of Bringing FMLA and PPL Requests to the Board for Direct Approval at its Public Meetings

The Board adopted the following resolution:

FMLA/PPL APPROVAL RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is not required to directly approve Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and Paid Parental Leave (PPL) requests at its public meetings, according to law, and

WHEREAS, Board of Education policies and procedures have already vested the responsibility to determine eligibility and approve valid requests for FMLA and PPL in accordance with the laws and rules in effect, to knowledgeable personnel, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is not aware of any overwhelming public benefit to the current practice of direct approval at public meetings, while discontinuance would further enhance the privacy of employees, in the case of FMLA and PPL approval.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education of the Finneytown Local School District hereby directs the administrative team to discontinue the practice of bringing FMLA and PPL requests to the Board for direct approval at its public meetings.

160-23 Ms. Lee moved, second by Ms. McMullen, that 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) Monthly Financial Report*

b) Depository and Investment Balances as of November 30, 2023*

U.S. Bank	0.0999%	\$ 407,675.20
U.S. Bank (construction fund)	0.5300%	\$ 3,681,013.45
STAR Ohio	5.5700%	\$ 22,628,995.16
STAR Ohio (construction #2)	5.5700%	\$ 3,190,567.30
STAR Ohio (construction #1)	5.5700%	\$ 1,153,901.33
STAR Ohio (OFCC state share)	5.5700%	\$ 858,960.52

c) Interest Earned on Depository and Investment Accounts as of November 30, 2023*

General Fund	\$111,977.73
Construction Fund	\$ 30,328.73

d) Monthly Bond Project Spending and Commitment Report*

[See attachment]

e) Approval of Payment - FY24*

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:

DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
6/9/23	Toadvine (Finneytown Elementary Bleachers)	\$35,900.00
7/28/23	Hamilton County ESC (Absence/substitute management system)	\$ 3,997.94

f) Approval of Five Year Forecast*

The Board approved the Five Year Forecast.

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

161-23 Ms. McMullen moved, second by Mr. Gast, that 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) Acknowledgement of Resignation*

The Board acknowledged the following resignation, which have been previously accepted by the Superintendent:

Jeremiah Veiga ELA Teacher
effective December 22, 2023 (personal)

b) Approval of Contract – One Year Limited Classified*

The Board approved a one year limited contract for the following new classified staff members, effective December 5, 2023:

Julia Burchwell General Education Assistant \$16.57/hr.
Abbigayle Burchman General Education Assistant \$16.57/hr.

c) Approval of Payment – Certified Staff Member*

The Board approved payment to the following certified staff members who will perform duties outside of the regular work schedule, effective August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024:

Angie Creutzinger Mentor – Jessie Stegman \$1,000.00

d) 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:

Amann, Michael	Brewer, Valeri	Copeland, David
Anderson, Kamesha	Brightwell, Faye	Davis, Gordon
Baker, Nadia	Brown, Camryn	Davis, Rollins
Barnes, Cheryl	Burkhardt, Heather	Dunn, Tim
Behrman, Matthew	Bush, Brianna	Duskin, Deemiah
Bellamah, Christopher	Casada, Abigail	Eldridge, Meghan
Binford, Cornelia	Chaffer, La'shawntay	Elliott, Bianca
Blank, Diana	Christian, Auree	Evans, Deborahgh
Blanks, Earl	Clark, Sterling	Evans, Patricia
Blyberg, Zachary	Cobb, Brianna	Fairman, Dara
Bonifas, Elizabeth	Collins, Keasha	Fischoff, Ann
Bornholdt, Elizabeth	Colvin, Gayle	Fisk, Summer
Bram, Kerri	Cook, Gary	Gandert, Elizabeth
Braswell, Keith	Cooper, Edward	Garvin, Barbara

Giffin, David
Gilbert, Jaylin
Gray, Kiara
Griffith, Klarke
Haarlammert, Stephanie
Hardy, Diane
Harris, Dominique
Hartman, Matthew
Hartman, Ronald
Hauck, Samantha
Hayashi, Donna
Hess, Leanne
Horton, Vanus
Howard, Elaine
Imhulse, Andrew
Jones, Darrell
Karle, Gail
Kelley-Gerton, Lisa
Marshall, Gwen
Martin, Artis
Maxam, William
McKinley, Arlinda
Meder, Hannah

Meier, Paulette
Miles, Linda
Namenyi, Tytus
Nashid, Wadeeah
Osterbrock, Dylan
Page, Candace
Parham, Ebony
Phipps, Marilyn
Pittman, Felicia
Pollington, Connie
Potensky, Chris
Price, Tanya
Ray, Colleen
Rice, Alisha
Richey, Sheila
Rivers, LaStarr
Schnur, Bethany
Schuler, Emily
Sears, Demetria
Sfarnas, Jim
Shaw, Phyllis
Smith, Kimberly
Springs, Margo

St.Hilaire, Melissa
Stevenson, Alisha
Still, Cameryn
Sullivan, Clyde
Tennyson, Emma
Thomas, Jenna
Thompson, Saige
Tirschek, Katelin
Tubbs, Quinetta
Vanarsdall-Schwartz, Mary
Vaughan, Randall
Walker, Kimberly
Walton, Ronald
Weiler, Michael
Williams, Tracey
Wilson, Celina
Wilson, Makayla
Winter, Stephany
Wise, Donnise
Wood, Jeffery
Yisrael, Nesyah
Zupon, Lisa

e) Approval of Overnight Student Trip*

The Board approved the following overnight, out of state student trips:

Wrestling

Destination: Lutheran High School West; Rocky River OH
Depart: December 20, 2023
Return: December 21, 2023
Transportation: Vans
Supervision: Wrestling Coaches
Anticipated Cost per Student: No charge for students

Wrestling

Destination: University of Findlay; Findlay, OH
Depart: December 20, 2023
Return: December 21, 2023
Transportation: Vans
Supervision: Wrestling Coaches
Anticipated Cost per Student: No charge for students

Wrestling

Destination: Meade County High School; Brandenburg, KY
Depart: December 20, 2023
Return: December 21, 2023
Transportation: Vans
Supervision: Wrestling Coaches
Anticipated Cost per Student: No charge for students

Wrestling

Destination: Bellefontaine High School; Bellefontaine, OH
Depart: January 26, 2024
Return: January 27, 2024
Transportation: Vans
Supervision: Wrestling Coaches
Anticipated Cost per Student: No charge for students

Wrestling

Destination: Viper Classic Wrestling Tournament
Space Coast Jr./Sr. High School Cocoa FL.
Depart: January 11, 2024
Return: January 16, 2024
Transportation: Vans
Supervision: Wrestling Coaches
Anticipated Cost per Student: No charge for students

f) Approval of Membership – OSBA*

The Board approved membership in OSBA for 2024:

Membership Dues	\$6,061.00
OSBA Briefcase Electronic Subscription	\$ free
Membership Total	\$6,061.00

g) Approval of School Calendar 2024-2025*

The Board approved the following school year calendar for 2024-2025, which was originally presented for consideration at the regular meeting of November 20, 2023:

August 19, Monday	Staff In-Service - No School
August 20, Tuesday	Staff In-Service - No School
August 21, Wednesday	First Day for Students
September 2, Monday	Labor Day - No School
September 20, Friday	Staff In - Service - No School
October 18, Friday	1st Quarter Ends (41 days)

October 21, Monday	Fall Break - No School
October 22, Tuesday	Staff In- Service - No School
November 15, Friday	Staff In-Service - No School
November 27, Wednesday	Conference Release Day-No School
November 28 & 29, Thursday & Friday	Thanksgiving Break - No School
December 23, Monday-January 3, Friday	Winter Break - No School
January 6, Monday	School Resumes
January 9, Thursday	2nd Quarter Ends (43 days)
January 10, Friday	Staff In-Service - No School
January 20, Monday	Dr. MLK, Jr. Day - No School
February 14, Friday	Conference Release Day-No School
February 17, Monday	Presidents Day - No School
March 20, Thursday	3rd Quarter Ends (46 days)
March 21, Friday	Staff In-Service - No School
March 24, Monday - March 28, Friday	Spring Break - No School
March 31, Monday	School Resumes
April 21, Monday	Staff In-Service - No School
May 26, Monday	Memorial Day - No School
June 3, Tuesday	Last Day for Students
	4th Quarter Ends (45 days)
June 4, Wednesday	Staff In-Service
	Last Day for Staff

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

Review of Action Steps

- 1) Provide Finneytown athletic budget and band budget information as compared to other schools in our league to Mr. Rea and copy the Board – Mr. Oliverio
- 2) Provide Strategic Plan community meeting agendas to Dr. Banks – Mr. Gast
- 3) Prepare a solar eclipse event district planning proposal and distribute to the Board – Dr. Banks
- 4) Provide expanded wrestling trip proposal details to the Board – Dr. Banks
- 5) Finalize Treasurer and Superintendent job descriptions and update relevant Board policies – Board Members, Mr. Oliverio, Dr. Banks
- 6) Distribute and review proposed regular meeting topics selected by building administration during Board Coordination at the January regular board meeting – Dr. Banks

The next regular meeting of the Finneytown Board of Education will take place on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 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.

The Finneytown Board of Education will hold an Organizational Meeting followed by a Budget Hearing on Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 6:00pm in the Media Center of the Finneytown Secondary Campus, 8916 Fontainebleau Terrace, Cincinnati, OH 45231.

162-23 There being no further business, Mr. Rea moved, seconded by Ms. McMullen, that the meeting be adjourned. The President declared the meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.



Tony Gast, President

ATTEST:



David L. Oliverio, Treasurer