

FINNEYTOWN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting, April 15, 2024
Brent Elementary School Library
8791 Brent Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45231
Open Forum 6:00pm
Regular Meeting 6:30pm

The Finneytown Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, April 15, 2024, in the Brent Elementary School Library, 8791 Brent Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45231. Ms. Lee, Ms. McMullen, Mr. Plaut and Mr. Rea were present. The President called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

36-24 Mr. Rea moved, seconded by Ms. McMullen, the Board approved the agenda as presented. The President declared the motion passed.

37-24 Mr. Plaut moved, seconded by Ms. McMullen, the Board approved the minutes from the Special Meeting of April 10, 2024. The President declared the motion passed.

Administrative Report

Annual State of the Schools' Report

Dr. Laurie Banks, Superintendent – presented the following:

- 2023-2024 represents the third year I have been in this role as Superintendent and we have had relative continuity in our administrative leadership team.
- Four years ago, the administrative team focused on our Why? What our purpose is? Why and how are we going to show up for our students, staff and community? How do we turn our day-to-day work and conversations into big possibilities? The answer, we decided, was to nurture each person's sense of self so that they know they matter.
- We are guided by:
 - Diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging
 - With, Not to
 - Connection before content
 - Curiosity
 - Vulnerability
- Last year the Board of Education and I identified some areas that we wanted to grow, which included: student enrollment, math and English/language arts achievement, student chronic absenteeism and our graduation rate.
 - Significant pockets of improvement have been made in all these areas. We still have work to do.
 - Restorative Practices and Project Based Learning, key platforms for building equity and inclusive instructional structures, are being heavily relied upon for this work.
 - A partnership with Allerton, a communication company, is being utilized to effectively message and tell our story to impact our enrollment.
 - New positions have been created, including a gifted coordinator, literacy coordinator and transitions coordinator to build capacity.

- A literacy Leadership team and a new K-3 Curriculum have been designed for our Science of Reading initiative.
- House System (Secondary) and Family Groups (Elementary) are focused on creating smaller communities for building student connections.
- Celebrations are regularly used to recognize success in athletics, band, academics and other areas.
- Reimagining the Possibilities activities are taking place through strategic planning, our special education leadership team, our building projects and partnerships with the University of Cincinnati, our alumni, Springfield Township, Pre-Kindergarten pipeline providers and Interact for Health
- Leadership is Convener activities are taking place in our Pro Action Cafés, Stronger Connection Grant, volunteer partnerships with faith-based leaders, leadership teams, hiring, strategic planning and a national AASA presentation.
- New grant opportunities include: Stronger Connections Grant, OHIO SLR high-dosage tutoring grant, and an American Youth Foundation, in partnership with Sandra George, (Interact for Health) Grant.
- Systems and Protocols focused upon in the last year include: EMIS reporting and data collection, residency and enrollment, Frontline Central and our Hiring Team.
- Professional Growth and Networking is a focus with our professional organization participation and outside professional partnership opportunities.

Administrative Report

Mr. Grant Anderson, Director of Operations – discussed the following:

- Administrative Office Relocation – The administrative office was relocated to Brent Elementary when the bids for the 100-building administrative office renovation came in 20% over budget. Unable to spare the additional cost, we have taken advantage of the vacant space in this building. We had to paint, clean up and rearrange spaces at Brent in preparation for the move, which went very smoothly.
- Secondary Campus OFCC project – is fully into design development at this point.
- Construction Timeline
 - Summer – Secondary Campus utility work (electric, water, sewage, telecommunications, internet, dark fiber, etc.).
 - Late June/July – Demolition of administrative building, partial demolition of the gymnasium (locker rooms) and partial demolition of the 300-building to prepare the Secondary Campus site.
 - September – Secondary Campus footings constructed.
 - Fall 2025 – Secondary Campus substantial completion.
 - Mid 2025-2026 School Year – Move and classes begin in the new building (tentative).
- In response to questions, Mr. Anderson shared the following information:
 - 100-building bids ranged from \$2.1 - \$2.8 million versus an engineering estimate of \$1.6 million.
 - This job was subject to prevailing wage because of the federal funds that were being used for at least a portion of the cost.

- Prevailing wage differences are not generally significant on HVAC subcontracts but are generally higher on other trades.
- Although bids from the 100-building were significantly over the estimate, bids for the Secondary Campus are not anticipated to deviate significantly from engineering estimates.

Public Address

Genesis Simmons

I live at 8967 Cherry Blossom Lane. My property is connected to the district's high school property. There is a tree line that separates the back of our properties. There is also a small pond on the school's property, placed there by the previous owners of my property. The school does not care for the lake or its property back to the property line. Trees belonging to the school district have fallen on my property, which I have had to personally clean up with some volunteer help from Springfield Township. I have lived at this address for four years. I have received very little communication from the school district during this time. I received a letter from the township about a zoning hearing, but I have not received communication from the school district about its construction project and plans, which includes a ball field that backs up to my property. I'm concerned about the lack of communication, the tree line which has more dying trees that could fall on my property, the location of the ball field and the possibility of baseballs hitting my house. Thank you.

Susan Hartman

I live at 841 Northern Parkway. I want to express concerns for the care of students in the Finneytown Local School District with psychological special needs. First, let me say that I am thankful to all the caring staff at Finneytown Elementary School. I do not expect Finneytown to be able to attain the ratio of certain special need schools, but something must be better than twenty-five students to one adult. It isn't working for all the children. Many children just cannot adjust in an environment that is so overwhelming. There are classes for children with special physical needs, but I have not seen classes for children with psychological needs.

I am usually not one to have problems without having ideas on how to fix them. So let me make a few suggestions. There needs to be a room or two, where a child can decompress and calm down when overwhelmed. I hear that the elementary school is at capacity, but a calming room would probably help a lot for children who get overwhelmed in a large class. Secondly, a building that has an open second floor is a danger under any circumstances, but especially to children with poor impulse control. I would like to suggest that you as the Board keep a remarkably close eye on the building of the secondary building to make sure safety is a priority. Please keep in mind that if, at first glance, there are no problems, look again and again. I'm also concerned about the wellbeing of the staff and other students. How much learning can get done while a student is melting down and lashing out? What label is given to kids with these issues as they move up the grades? Developmental differences and mental health problems can

be disabilities as much as physical disabilities can. Emotional and psychological special needs should be addressed with dedicated spaces and training for staff. At this point, without efforts to understand the needs of children with neurodivergence, I am not sure how safe students with psychological special needs and others will be.

Ryan McDannold

My name is Ryan McDannold. I live at 8851 Fontainebleau Terrace. We have lived in the district 14 years. The teachers are wonderful, the extended care staff are amazing. The staff is hardworking, caring and kind. It has always been a great school. This year, there have been outbreaks in the extended care program of physical violence against the extended care workers. Program participants have witnessed biting that breaks the skin, and serious temper tantrums, in which staff have been physically struck with objects, including thrown chairs, resulting in broken bones, facial injuries and black eyes. This is completely unacceptable behavior, and yet nothing is being done to protect staff from this violence or students from having to continue to witness it. I understand all students are entitled to an education, but extended care is a voluntary program. It is not a right; it is a privilege. What is going to be done to protect staff and other children from this physical aggression and violence? I will need to pull my child out of the program, if this isn't going to be addressed.

Review of Action Steps

- 1) Add a Beyond Differences Finneytown Discussion and invite the BDF Co-Chairs to the April 10th special meeting work session – Done
- 2) Include staff survey planning as part of the April 10th special meeting Strategic Plan Discussion with Mr. Burton – Some survey discussion took place; more is needed.

Board Coordination Matters

Ms. McMullen, discussed the following items:

- Primary and Secondary PTA – Mr. Plaut attended and will give this report.
- Finneytown Music Parents Association (FMPA) –
 - Did not meet this month but I have some important upcoming dates.
 - Noodles and Notes – April 27, 4:30-7pm at Finneytown Elementary Café. Cost is \$10 (\$14 at the door) for live music, raffle baskets, silent auctions.
 - 3rd Annual FMPA Golf Outing – Saturday, May 18, 12:30pm \$100 includes 18 holes, golf carts, dinner and two beer tickets.
- Beyond Differences –
 - The committee is feeling very good about its direction and looking for volunteers to serve. Contact Scott Myer and Kelly Lynch for more information.
- OSBA Conference Planning Committee – I serve on this committee. We took action on the selection process, evaluating session nominees. I was excited to see Finneytown Schools submitted nominations for PBL and Restorative

Practices. I appreciate our district taking opportunities to grow and engage on these topics at a state level.

- Upcoming Events –
 - Family Movie Night – This Friday, April 19, 6:30-8:30pm at Finneytown Elementary for Kindergarten – 3rd grade, admission is free.
 - World Culture Night – May 2, 6:30 – 8pm at Finneytown Elementary.
 - House System Dine-To-Donate – April 23 and 30 from 4-8pm at Freddie's.

Mr. Rea, discussed the following items:

- I sent an article to Dr. Banks regarding talks going on right now in the statehouse, about religious and faith-based organizations, being allowed to bus kids off campus during specials classes, lunch or library sessions. About 300 districts around the state have done this. The state is considering making all public schools subject to that. Parents must sign their kids up for it, allowing them to be taking out of education time for specials that include some religious training. I have been speaking out against this personally. I'm not representing the board because I have not received this direction. I'm speaking to state legislators. I do not feel this is appropriate.

Mr. Plaut, discussed the following items:

- Secondary PTA – Preparing for the AfterProm event. If you are available to work the event, from late at night to early in the morning, on April 20 and 21, please sign up to help.
- Elementary PTA – Is working on playground equipment for our elementary students.
- Finneytown Alumni Network (Finneytown Schools Educational Foundation) –
 - Held their first outing on April 11. They had about 20 alumni showing up ranging from the class of 1967 to the class of 2019.
 - The Alumni have volunteered to help with the PBL Showcase on May 22.
- Finneytown Athletic Association (FAA) – The Finneytown Crusaders is a youth tackle football program being reintroduced for ages 4 – 12. Cheerleading is also being offered. Scrimmages and practices have begun.

Ms. Lee, discussed the following items:

- Strategic Plan – The Board met on April 10 to review the first draft of the strategic plan. We suggested changes and will meet again to review a second draft and continue hashing out the metrics.
- Finneytown Athletic Association (FAA)/Finneytown Athletic Boosters
 - FAA – Is having a cookout on May 19.
 - Boosters –
 - Secondary Construction Groundbreaking, on August 30, will be followed by Alumni Night at the Finneytown football game.
 - Preparing for the Greek Festival Parking fundraising event.
 - Discussed concession stand parent engagement and swag sales.
- Policy Committee – did not meet.
- Long Range Facilities Committee – did not meet.

- Dr. Banks and I continue to benefit from our weekly meetings.

Superintendent and Treasurer Evaluations Discussion

- It is time to start on evaluations for our Superintendent and Treasurer.
- Evaluations will be split up as follows:
 - Superintendent Evaluation – Ms. Lee and Mr. Plaut
 - Treasurer Evaluation – Mr. Rea and Mr. Reeb
- We have new job descriptions to help with this process.

Board Retreat Discussion

- The month of July was selected for a two-day board retreat for training and planning.
- Board members, superintendent and treasurer were asked to email weekends they are out of town or not available to meet.
- Preliminary retreat topics – metrics, board/community engagement, formalizing a calendar, board meeting presentation topics, working through our differences, board self-assessment, identification of any executive session topics.
- Ms. Lee and Ms. McMullen will plan the event.

Staff Appreciation Discussion

- For the past couple of years a few of the board members have set up a traveling cart with trinkets and breakfast food items for short door-to-door classroom visits in the schools, to greet, recognize, thank, and show our appreciation to our staff.
- This cart included donated Chick-Fil-A breakfast menu items, which was a sensitive topic for one board member and was apologized for.
- The feeling, that we should not be showing our appreciation to staff by asking other people or businesses to pay for it, was expressed.
- Board members that work during the day can't participate in staff appreciation efforts that take place during the school day.
- A breakfast held before school would better accommodate working board members, who also want to show their appreciation.
- A sit-down event, where board members would be available for conversations with staff about things they want to talk about, was suggested.
- Interacting with staff during the day could be disruptive for secondary staff whose students are involved in Advanced Placement (AP) testing in early May. A breakfast held before school could alleviate that.
- Gifts distributed for staff appreciation are approved by the Board and acknowledged as being given on behalf of both the administration and the Board.
- The traveling cart could be replaced with a breakfast spread laid out in a staff lounge area in each building, early enough before school that all board members can participate.
- The budget available in the Board's Sunshine fund was requested, since it will not be seeking food donations.
- Board members can split up between elementary and secondary staff appreciation breakfasts.

- PTA already does its own breakfast; the Board will coordinate so as not to overlap with the PTA breakfast.

Acknowledgement of District Committee Reports

- Beyond Difference Finneytown – Minutes April 9, 2024

38-24 Ms. McMullen, moved, second by Mr. Rea, 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 March 31, 2024*

U.S. Bank	0.0931%	\$ 406,789.08
U.S. Bank (construction fund)	0.5300%	\$ 3,679,871.28
STAR Ohio	5.4600%	\$ 25,563,313.86
STAR Ohio (construction #2)	5.4600%	\$ 3,247,062.83
STAR Ohio (construction #1)	5.4600%	\$ 1,175,317.01
STAR Ohio (OFCC state share)	5.4600%	\$ 1,331,886.68

c) Interest Earned on Depository and Investment Accounts as of March 31, 2024*

General Fund	\$120,285.64
Construction Fund	\$ 20,467.75

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
5/13/2022	Willis Music	\$5,501.68

Secondary Campus music department supplies, equipment and repairs.

f) Approval of the Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources*

The Board approved the Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources.

[See Attachment]

g) Approval of Permanent Appropriation Adjustments for the 2023-24 School Year*

The Board approved the following Permanent Appropriations resolution for the 2023-24 School Year:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Finneytown Local School District, Hamilton County, Ohio, that to provide for the current expenses and other expenditures of said Board of Education, during the fiscal year, ending June 30, 2024, the following sums be and the same are hereby set aside and appropriated for the several purposes for which expenditures are to be made and during said fiscal year, as follows, viz:

	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</u>	
451 OneNet Connectivity	395
516 Special Education, Part B	20,909
572 Title I	21,538
587 PreSchool Handicap	-88
590 Supporting Effective Instruction	1,237
Total Special Revenue Funds	<u>43,991</u>
 GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS	 <u><u>43,991</u></u>

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

39-24 Ms. Mullen moved, second by Mr. Plaut, 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

d) Approval of Contracts – Supplemental 2022-2023*

The Board approved the following supplemental contracts, effective August 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024:

Zach Jung	Theatre Producer	\$1,422.00
Zach Jung	High School Theatre Director	\$1,753.00
Zach Jung	High School Theatre Technical Director	\$1,753.00

e) Approval of Payment - Staff Appreciation Gifts*

The Board approved staff appreciation gifts (PO#208941) to be paid out of the General Fund Public Relations budget:

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Fair Market Value</u>
Full time and part-time employees	\$30.00 - \$35.00

f) 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 April 11, 2024:

Amann, Michael	Burkhardt, Heather	Duskin, Deemiah
Anderson, Kamesha	Bush, Brianna	Elliott, Bianca
Baker, Nadia	Cargile, Kaneatra	Espel, Linda
Barnes, Cheryl	Casada, Abigail	Evans, Deborahgh
Behrman, Matthew	Chaffer, La'shawntay	Evans, Patricia
Bellamah, Christopher	Christian, Auree	Fairman, Dara
Binford, Cornelia	Clark, Sterling	Fischoff, Ann
Blank, Diana	Cobb, Brianna	Fisk, Summer
Blanks, Earl	Colvin, Gayle	Garner, Noah
Blyberg, Zachary	Cook, Gary	Garvin, Barbara
Bonifas, Elizabeth	Cooper, Edward	Giffin, David
Bram, Kerri	Copeland, David	Gilbert, Jaylin
Braswell, Keith	Coyne, Eleanor	Gray, Kiara
Brewer, Valeri	Davis, Gordon	Griffith, Klarke
Brightwell, Faye	Davis, Rollins	Gunnell, Brittany
Brown, Camryn	Dunn, Tim	Haarlammert, Stephanie

Hardy, Diane	Miday, Nicole	Smith, Kimberly
Harris, Dominique	Miles, Linda	Springs, Margo
Hartman, Matthew	Mobley-Brown, Sheryl	St.Hilaire, Melissa
Hartman, Ronald	Namenyi, Tytus	Stevenson, Alisha
Hauck, Samantha	Nashid, Wadeah	Still, Cameryn
Hayashi, Donna	Osterbrock, Dylan	Sullivan, Clyde
Hess, Leanne	Page, Candace	Tennyson, Emma
Hicks, Grace	Palmer, Jasmine	Thomas, Jenna
Horton, Vanius	Parham, Ebony	Thompson, Saige
Howard, Elaine	Phipps, Marilyn	Tirschek, Katelin
Howard, Savannah	Pittman, Felicia	Tubbs, Quinetta
Imhulse, Andrew	Pollington, Connie	Vanarsdall-Schwartz, Mary
Jones, Darrell	Potensky, Chris	Vaughan, Randall
Jones, Tykeisha	Price, Tanya	Walker, Kimberly
Jouharizadeh, Joy	Ray, Colleen	Walton, Ronald
Karle, Gail	Rice, Alisha	Washington, Adolphus
Kelley-Gerton, Lisa	Richey, Sheila	Watkins, Aimee
Levatte, Emily	Rivers, LaStarr	Weiler, Michael
Luo, Li	Robinson, Marilyn	Wilkerson, Kenyon
Marshall, Gwen	Schnur, Bethany	Wilson, Celina
Martin, Artis	Schuler, Emily	Wilson, Makayla
Maxam, William	Sears, Demetria	Winter, Stephany
McKinley, Arlinda	Sfarnas, Jim	Wise, Donnise
Meder, Hannah	Sharp, Stephen	Wood, Jeffery
Meier, Paulette	Shaw, Phyllis	Zupon, Lisa

g) Approval of Extended Care Program Rate and Fee – FY24*

The Board approved the following Extended Care Program rate and fee for the 2024-25 school year:

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
Hourly Tuition Rate	\$7.00	\$10.00
Registration Fee per Child	\$50.00	\$75.00
Registration Fee per Family	\$75.00	\$100.00

The Extended Care Program is expected to remain financially self-sufficient. The school district reserves the right to increase the hourly tuition rate in January 2025, if required to keep the program from operating at a deficit.

h) Adoption of Resolution – Approval of Service Fund Payment*

The Board approved payment from the Service Fund, per ORC 3315.15, for the appropriate expenses incurred by district board members attending Board Institute Leadership Training May 3-4, 2024.

i) Acceptance of Donations*

A \$175.00 cash donation for the Secondary Campus Poetry Club Mackinac Island trip by the Finneytown Secondary PTA, donated on April 1, 2024.

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

Review of Action Steps

- 1) Revisit staff survey planning as part of the strategic plan 2nd draft review discussion – Board members, Dr. Banks.
- 2) Notify Ms. Lee of any weekends you are unavailable for a July board retreat – Board members, Dr. Banks, Mr. Oliverio.
- 3) Coordinate date, times and locations for the staff appreciation breakfasts, avoiding overlap with the PTA staff appreciation event – Ms. Lee.
- 4) Plan the food and drink items for staff appreciation breakfasts – Ms. McMullen
- 5) Provide sunshine fund budget information to Board members – Mr. Oliverio.
- 6) Provide backup for extended care program cost increase and billing procedures – Mr. Oliverio, Dr. Banks.
- 7) Schedule and post a May 6, 2024 6pm special meeting agenda, to include the following discussion topics: strategic plan 2nd draft, staff survey, staff and student exit surveys, board retreat topics, breakdown of extended care hourly rate and billing – Dr. Banks, Ms. Gooden.

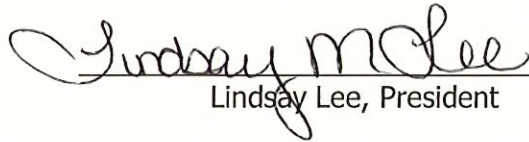
The next regular meeting of the Finneytown Board of Education will take place on Monday, May 20, 2024 at 6:30pm in the Library of Brent Elementary School, 8791 Brent Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45231. Open forum will begin at 6:00pm.

40-24 Mr. Plaut moved, seconded by Mr. Rea, that the Board move to Executive Session, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1), in order to consider the compensation of a public employee.

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


The Board entered Executive Session at 7:57pm.
The Board returned to Regular Session at 8:43pm.

41-24 There being no further business, Mr. Plaut moved, seconded by Ms. McMullen, that the meeting be adjourned. The President declared the meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.



Lindsay Lee, President

ATTEST:



David L. Oliverio, Treasurer

