

**FINNEYTOWN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Special Meeting, June 4, 2024**  
**Brent Board Office Meeting Room**  
**8791 Brent Drive**  
**Cincinnati, OH 45231**  
**6:00pm**

The Finneytown Board of Education met in special session on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, in the Brent Board Office Meeting Room, 8791 Brent Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45231. Ms. Lee, Ms. McMullen, Mr. Plaut, Mr. Rea and Mr. Reeb were present. The President called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

**75-24** Mr. Plaut moved, seconded by Ms. Lee, the Board dispensed with opening ceremonies. The President declared the motion passed.

**76-24** Ms. McMullen moved, seconded by Mr. Rea, the Board approved the minutes from the Regular Meeting of May 20, 2024. The President declared the motion passed.

**77-24** Mr. Plaut moved, seconded by Ms. McMullen, the Board approved the following Consultant Contract:

**Tom Snyder**, Consultant, three (8) days at a per diem rate of \$383.36, effective June 1, 2024 through July 31, 2024.

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

**78-24** Mr. Plaut moved, seconded by Ms. McMullen, the Board approved the following Administrative Contract revision, effective August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2026:

**Jessie Martin**                      Assistant Principal

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

**79-24** Mr. Rea moved, seconded by Ms. McMullen, 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>
8/1/2023	Board of Trustees Springfield Township (SRO services school year 2023-24.)	58,000.00
12/1/2023	We Empower LLC (Job description design for Superintendent and Treasurer)	\$3,000.00

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

### **Discussion – BOE Retreat**

Mr. Lee led a planning discussion on the upcoming BOE retreat.

- The retreat is scheduled for July 27 – July 28.
- The retreat will follow a similar structure to the last one, with a full day on Saturday and a half day on Sunday. Each board member will be assigned ownership of a couple of topics to lead discussion.
- Topics for discussion
  - Seven Bells and Priorities for Schedules
  - Five-Year Forecast
  - Board Attendance Calendar - Proposal to establish dates for board members to attend specific school events to ensure balanced representation.
  - Extended Care Program – Status update.
  - Celebration for Finalized Strategic Plan
  - RP Training – Abbreviated training.
  - ICS Integrated Comprehensive Partnership - Understanding and leveraging staff to meet student needs.
  - Staff Board Communications Policy - Review of the communication plan and policy for effective board-staff communication.
  - Executive Session - Finalize superintendent and treasurer evaluations before the school year starts, to realign schedule.
  - Security and Facilities Update - possible update from Mr. Anderson.
  - Beyond Differences Funding

### **Discussion – Final Review of Strategic Plan**

The following information was discussed by the Board and Superintendent:

- All changes discussed to date have been incorporated into the strategic plan document.
- Detailed discussion on monitoring and evaluation metrics will be held at the upcoming Board Retreat.
- Allerton is working on enhancing the graphic design, including pictures of students, tables, and page numbers.
- The finalized document will be posted on and accessible via the school website.
- A one-page summary version will be created to share more widely with families.
- Minor adjustments and refinements to the text may still be needed.
  - The journey statement on the front cover ("The journey for your children begins at Finneytown Local School District") does not feel appropriate and should perhaps be replaced with the condensed mission statement.

### **Student Wellness and Success Funding Plan Review**

Dr. Laurie Banks, Superintendent, discussed the following:

- The district receives restricted state funding for student wellness and success.

- New guidelines require the district to provide the Board of Education with a funding plan, which details the use of these funds, and post it on the website.
- Finneytown's funding is primarily used to support school-based student counseling and social work staffing.
- Additional mental health services are also provided through a contract with Catalyst Counseling for students unable to receive free services due to insurance limitations.
- A final report detailing services and costs will be submitted by June 30.

**80-24** Mr. Reeb moved, seconded by Mr. Plaut, that the Board adopt the following resolution to continue the similar schedule (used for the school years of 2022-2023 & 2023-2024) for the specials at Finneytown Elementary until a restorative compromise is made between Superintendent, both Principals, Music Department & FMPA.

**WHEREAS** the Board of Education wasn't given sufficient time and information to review and research the impact the new X-Period schedule to with the community.

**WHEREAS** the Superintendent and administration didn't have sufficient parameters to measure success of the new X-Period schedule. Nor was a contingency plan developed in case the new schedule didn't retain the numbers needed to continue the class(es).

**WHEREAS** the community and Music Department didn't understand the details and effort involved for the Superintendent and the district to maintain a schedule to develop well-rounded Elementary aged students. This misunderstanding resulted in an assumption that two practice times could be available during the school day.

**WHEREAS** this resolution needs to be adopted prior to the end of June 2024, so that the Superintendent and the Principals have the opportunity to re-adjust to a past-practice system that was being utilized for two previous school years. This resolution needs to be adopted prior to the end of June 2024 in order to allow time to utilize restorative practices of all parties, so that ideas and opinions are shared in a calm environment. This resolution needs to be adopted prior to the end of June 2024, to allow opportunity to research and verify the impact a new schedule will have on the community's Elementary aged students.

**NOW AND THEREFORE BE RESOLVED** that the schedule that is, or at best, similar to that of the 2023-2024 specials schedule will be utilized in Finneytown Elementary, until a restorative compromise is made between the Superintendent, the Music Department, and FMPA. Two members of the Board of Education will aid in the mediation of this agreement. Upon an agreement within the parties, this resolution will become null and void will go in effect the start of the closest school year.

#### **Board Resolution Discussion**

- District representatives, music department representatives and FMPA met in response to the goal of seeking a 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade band and orchestra scheduling compromise.
- The principals reviewed information and priorities for creating master schedules, emphasizing the benefits of the proposed changes.

- The new schedule prioritizes academics, allowing for more substantial periods for project-based learning, reading, and math, which address key academic areas needing improvement.
- FMPA expressed concerns regarding potential adverse impacts of the proposal.
- Key individuals continue to participate in the conversation to determine the best course of action to balance all interests.
- Discussions include moving forward with the current proposal while allowing for a pivot at the end of the first quarter back to last year's schedule, based on student participation feedback.
- The Board is not delegating decision-making authority to a few members but will instead use the committee's recommendations to inform it's final decision.
- The Board discussed pausing on this resolution to give the compromise process more time.

**81-24** Mr. Rea moved, seconded by Mr. Plaut, that the Board pause on resolution 80-24, and not bring it to a vote at this time.

**RC:** Ms. Lee, yes; Mr. Plaut, yes; Ms. McMullen, yes; Mr. Rea, yes; Mr. Reeb, yes. The president declared the motion passed and the vote on 80-24 paused.

**82-24** Mr. Rea moved, seconded by Ms. McMullen, the Board approved the School District's joinder of the Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding (Coalition) for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

**WHEREAS**, the State has adopted a universal voucher system; and

**WHEREAS**, EdChoice Vouchers are funded by the State from designated appropriation line-items 200-550, 200-604, 200-612 and payment to private schools diminishes the amount of funding and levels of educational opportunities in school districts and ESC's; and

**WHEREAS**, the deduction of school voucher funds from funds available to authentic public education further reduces the funding available to support the additional needs of minority pupils, pupils in poverty and pupils with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the deduction of school voucher funds from the appropriations that fund authentic public education increases reliance on local tax revenue to maintain school operations in violation of the Ohio Constitution and clear directives of the Ohio Supreme Court.

Section 1. Now, Therefore, The Board of Education finds and determines that the universal voucher program is harmful to the districts, its pupils, taxpayers, voters and staff.

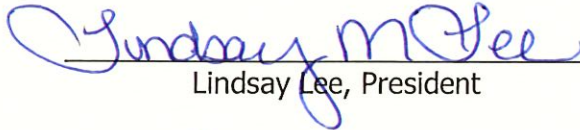
Section 2. The Board of Education authorizes and directs the School District's joinder of the Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding (Coalition) and directs the

District Treasurer to pay Coalition dues as set forth in Section 3 effective for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.


Section 3. Coalition dues for the school year are the sum of \$2.00 per district pupil (enrollment listed on most recent report card). Dues shall be allocated by the Coalition as follows: 1) \$.50 per pupil shall be initially allocated to the payment of Coalition operating expenses, and, 2) \$1.50 per pupil shall be allocated to the support of the Coalition's efforts to challenge the constitutionality of the EdChoice voucher program. Coalition Dues (a total of \$2 per pupil) are payable upon passage of this resolution.

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

**83-24** There being no further business, Mr. Rea moved, seconded by Ms. McMullen, the meeting be adjourned. The President declared the meeting adjourned at 7:13pm.

  
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Lindsay Lee, President

ATTEST:

  
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David L. Oliverio, Treasurer

