FINNEYTOWN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting, January 27, 2025
Brent Board Office Meeting Room
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, January 27, 2025, in the Brent Board Office Meeting Room, 8791 Brent Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45231. Ms. McMullen, Ms. Lee, Mr. Plaut, Mr. Rea and Mr. Reeb were present. The President called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

10-25 Mr. Plaut moved, seconded by Mr. Rea, that the Board approve the agenda as presented and amended. The President declared the motion passed.

11-25 Mr. Plaut moved, seconded by Ms. Lee, the Board approved the minutes from the Organizational Meeting and the Budget Hearing of January 3, 2025. The President declared the motion passed.

Administrative Report

Restorative Practices Mentor Student Stories
Ms. Dietz gave an overview of the Restorative Practices Mentor (RPM) Program and introduced a high school and a middle school student to share their RPM stories. Highlights:

- This is the fourth year for the RPM program. There have been six student training sessions. The most recent RPM training retreat was November 15th -16th.
- Currently 64 students (or 11%) of our secondary campus students are trained RPMs.
- The RPM program aims to improve relationships and resolve conflicts, building healthy communities in the process.
- RPM students shared their retreat experiences, roles in the RPM program and the value it brings to the community.
- RPM students most appreciated the relationships that have been able to form and the life skills they have been able to develop.

Dr. Laurie Banks, Superintendent – discussed the following:

- Facilities Report Update –
  - The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) is in the process of approving a budget amendment for Finneytown Schools to help offset price escalation encountered on the secondary campus construction project.
  - The district is planning a stadium track resurfacing project for this summer. Mr. Warmack and Mr. Anderson have been analyzing options with vendors.
  - The HVAC project in the 100 building and the gym was recently completed, allowing these spaces to be air conditioned. This upgrade will improve air quality, comfort and functionality year-round.
- Peggy Battistone – Sad news about the passing of Peggy Battistone, a 30-year veteran of the school, working primarily with younger students with disabilities, was shared. Finneytown Elementary will be closed on Thursday, January 30th in honor of her

memory, so that colleagues may attend funeral services. She was much loved and will be sorely missed.

- Wildcats Wellness Week was an inaugural event between Finneytown and Deer Park. The purpose of this collaboration is to raise awareness for mental health and overall well-being. Events included a joint learning experience and competitive boys and girls basketball games. Thanks to Interact for Health and Finneytown Boosters for their financial support.
- Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is planning a retreat for freshman students and an information night on the National Leadership Conference.
- Bridges to Kindergarten – This Finneytown inhouse program focuses on building family and provider connections while promoting sensory integration and social development in preschool children. Childcare providers were hosted in January. Families will be hosted in February and March.
- Music Curriculum – Our band, orchestra and music program course offerings at the elementary have been determined for next year.
- Winter Weather Protocols – School cancellation decisions are based upon snow on the ground, wind chill factors, and weather timing with a focus on student and staff safety. The decision-making process involves collaboration with other superintendents and prioritizing student access to warm environments and meals.
- Discipline Data Review – Discipline is guided by the district's strategic plan in a data driven process to improve discipline and create an optimal learning environment. Goals, data and trend analysis, causes, responses, proportionality assessments, and strategic refinements were shared in the report. Current first semester data shows a reduction in discipline offenses compared to previous years.
- Board Member Appreciation – January is Board Appreciation Month. The district is celebrating with daily social media updates and website information highlighting the service and unique perspective each member brings to the Board.

Public Address

Michael Hamel

Discussed the potential impact of Donald Trump's policies on public education, including elimination of DEI and the possibility of the Department of Education's dissolution, which could increase the Board's responsibilities. He raised questions about the impact on federal funding for schools and recognition of only two genders.

Matt Wilber

Expressed concerns about the quality of education and the safety of students, mentioning specific athletic team performance metrics. He questioned the accountability of school board members, the athletic director, and coaches in improving athletic program performance.

Review of Action Steps from last month

None

Board Coordination Matters
February Special Board Meeting

A Special Board Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 5:30pm, to discuss gender neutral bathrooms and citizenship and immigration policy. The meeting will be held in the Brent Board Office Meeting Room, 8971 Brent Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45231.

Board Self-Assessment

The possibility of a Board Self-Assessment led by an OSBA consultant, aligned with the strategic plan, or a more informal, internally led SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Analysis were both discussed. This topic will be revisited. No final decisions were made.

Board Member Reports
Ms. McMullen, discussed the following items:

- Student Achievement Opportunities – Updates were provided on student program registrations, open house opportunities, scholarship application deadlines, and upcoming career expo, fire & EMS, and youth conference events.
- School Calendar –
  - Parent-Teacher Conferences will be February 13th and 20th. Luncheon volunteer support is needed. Signup Genius can be used to get involved.
  - No School on Presidents' Day – February 17th
  - Black History Month Performance – at Secondary Campus, dates to be confirmed
  - ACT Testing – February 26th
- Current Sports Registrations – Girls on the Run, Girls Volleyball and Baseball
- OSBA Task Planning Committee Member – I will continue to serve on this committee, which plans the annual OSBA conference and selects conference topics and presenters. Please let me know feedback you would like shared with the committee.

Ms. Lee, discussed the following items:

- Board Event Calendar – There are no special events for Board attendance on the calendar until March. Prioritized items are highlighted in green.
- Finneytown Boosters – I did not attend this month's meeting but communicated with leadership. Boosters are looking for volunteers, particularly for concessions, and exploring new fundraising options to replace Greek Festival parking. Fundraising ideas are welcome.
- Finneytown Athletics Update – It has been a good year.
  - Football and Track – Several of our football and track athletes have received college scholarships. Basketball athletic scholarship offers are also possible.
  - Boys and Girls Soccer – Both teams had successful seasons and won tournament games. Girls soccer won more games than any other in the last five years.
  - Middle School Cross Country – Had a successful inaugural season.

- Fundraising for Breast Cancer Awareness – Student-athletes raised over $3,000 for breast cancer awareness, reflecting their community involvement and leadership.

Mr. Rea, discussed the following items:

- Secondary PTA – I did not attend this month's meeting but plan to attend the February meeting.
- Immigration and Citizenship Policy – The fear is that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will potentially remove children from school to target their parents. We need to review our policy and make ensure staff are properly informed on how to handle situations involving ICE, ensuring compliance with the law, while looking out for our immigrant community.

Mr. Reeb, discussed the following items:

- Expressed appreciation for, and interest in, the Building Connections pre-kindergarten initiative.
- Requested the board discuss prospective school building parent tours and onboarding.

Prospective Parent Tours and Onboarding Discussion

- Mr. Reeb raised the issue of allowing parents to tour the school during school hours, suggesting it could be beneficial for prospective parents and for increasing our enrollment.
- The logistics and potential challenges of allow such tours was also discussed, including the need for staff availability and the impact on school operations.
- Dr. Banks provided information on the current policy of scheduling tours outside of school hours to minimized disruptions.
- Pros and cons of the current policy and the impact of revisions to accommodate parent tours during the school day will require further evaluation.

Mr. Plaut, discussed the following items:

- Finneytown Music Parents Association (FMPA) – FMPA is looking for volunteers and encouraging everyone to attend the Skyline Dine-To-Donate event on February 6th.
- Finneytown Alumni Network – Their meeting is taking place as we speak. You don't have to be an alumnus to be involved. They are having an event on March 13th at 5:00pm at MadTree Brewing.
- Requested the Board discuss policy 5136.01, which impacts cell phone usage.

Cell Phone Policy and Student Discipline Discussion

- Mr. Plaut raised concerns about student use of phones during class and its impact on focus and discipline.
- Social media is a contributing factor to distractions, particularly in middle school classes.
- Thus far, a trial no cell phone policy at the Secondary Campus this school year has been shown successful in improving the learning environment and improving discipline versus prior years.

- Mr. Plaut proposed a faster timeline for approval of a districtwide cell phone policy so that the benefits can be realized sooner rather than later.
- Board members discussed the challenges of implementing and enforcing a strict policy.
- It's essential to consider the real-world challenges of implementing a strict phone policy, as kids are adept at finding ways to circumvent rules (e.g., hiding phones).
- The current practice of holding students accountable for phone use extends to staff as well as students.
- Staff, students, and parents must be involved in the discussion. There should be a focus on educating families about the impact of phone use, and gathering input from students and teachers to ensure the policy is realistic and has community buy-in.
- If there are plans to manage student phone use for before and after school activities, additional conversations and buy-in will be necessary.

12-25 Mr. Rea 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 "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 December 31, 2024*

U.S. Bank	0.0896%	$ 415,342.00
U.S. Bank (construction fund)	0.6600%	$ 1,859,867.71
STAR Ohio (construction #1)	4.7000%	$ 3,058,422.96
STAR Ohio	4.7000%	$ 25,979,542.40
STAR Ohio (construction #2)	4.7000%	$ 3,263,693.86
STAR Ohio (OFCC state share)	4.7000%	$ 4,035,459.10

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

General Fund 001	$ 99,745.63
Construction Fund 004	$ 25,342.27

Classroom Facilities Fund 010	$ 16,196.91

d) Monthly Bond Project Spending and Commitment Report*

[See attachment]

e) Approval of Payment - FY25*

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
10/11/24	Modern Office Methods	$ 3,285.00
(Papercut maintenance and support)		

f) Approval of Transfers – General Fund to Classroom Facilities Fund FY25*

The Board approved the following transfer of funds:

010-5100-9002	Classroom Facilities Fund	$148,291.00
001-7200-910	General Fund	($148,291.00)

The Classroom Facilities Fund transfer represents the School District's portion of the budget adjustment resulting from an increase in the cost of the Master Facilities Plan approved in accordance with ORC Section 3318.083.

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

13-25 Ms. Lee moved, second by Mr. Reeb 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) Acknowledgement of Resignations*

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

Maddelyn Banks	Long-Term Substitute/Intervention Specialist effective January 3, 2025	(personal)

b) Approval of Payment – Certified Staff Member *

The Board approved payment to the following certified staff member who will perform duties outside of their regular work schedule, effective November 20, 2024 through June 30, 2025:

Lacey Cassanova - Mentor- Stacey Cass

c) Approval of Payment – Classified Staff Member *

The Board approved payment to the following classified staff member who will provide support services for the Music Department, effective January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025:

Susan Cole Winter Guard Director, Choreographer, and Show Designer

d) Revision of Payment – Certified Staff Member *

The Board approved the following revision for payment to the following certified staff member:

Deb Hartlaub - 1st semester only- Mentor- Stacey Cass

e) Approval of Contract – Academic Supplemental 2024-2025*

The Board approved the following supplemental contract, effective August 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025:

Susie Cole	Flag Corp	$1,130.00
Susie Cole	Flag Corp Choreography	$1,130.00
Brad Delaney	Pep Band Director	$926.00
Brad Delaney	Marching Band Director	$6,235.00
Brad Delaney	Music Department & Chair	$1,688.00
Samuel Fronk	Band Director	$2,338.00
Samuel Fronk	Pep Band Co-Director	$711.00
Samuel Fronk	Marching Band Assistant	$1,753.00
Samuel Fronk	Band Camp Assistant Director	$1,013.00

f) Approval of Contract – Athletic Supplemental 2024-2025*

The Board approved the following supplemental contract, effective August 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025:

Adam Coffey	Head Varsity Boys Wrestling Coach	$6,624.00
Kelley Davis	JV Boys Head Basketball Coach	$3,215.00

Blake Fuller	MS Head Boys Basketball Coach 7th	$1,753.00
Quelyah Gaines	Head Varsity Cheer Coach - Winter	$1,130.00
Quelah Gaines	Head JV Cheer Coach	$877.00
Evan Heitman	Varsity Assistant Basketball Coach	$3,215.00
Randy Kent	Assistant Wrestling Coach HS	$3,507.00
Brandon Robinson	Head Varsity Boys Basketball Coach	$4,189.00
Lynn Volz	Head MS Wrestling Coach	$2,533.00
Chevy Harris	MS Boys Basketball Head Coach 8th	$2,241.00

g) Approval of Overnight Student Trip*

The Board approved the following overnight student trips:

Michigan Speech Coaches, Inc. Mackinac Tournament
Destination: Mackinac Island, MI
Depart: Friday, May 16, 2025
Return: Sunday, May 18, 2025
Transportation: District van, driven by staff members certified as drivers
Supervision: Two staff members Anticipated Cost per Student (limit of 7): $513.00 - $619.00

h) 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 January 23, 2025:

Amann, Michael
Baker, Tyler
Baldock, Jason
Besl-Ali, Carley
Binford, Cornelia
Blanks, Earl
Blyberg, Zachary
Bonifas, Elizabeth
Braswell, Keith
Brewer, Valeri
Brinkman, Rosa
Burkhardt, Heather
Buskirk, Delores
Campbell, Emily
Casada, Abigail
Chaffer, La'shawntay
Chamlagai, Tanka
Champion-Hughes, Bianca
Chandler, Cyndi
Chapple, Keariah
Clark, Sterling
Colvin, Gayle
Cook, Gary
Copeland, David
Davis, Rollins
Demus, Clemon
Dunigan, Janee
Duskin, Deemiah
Ehlers, Rebekah
Espel, Linda
Falhaber, Leslie
Fischoff, Ann
Fisk, Summer
Fowler, Niah
Fromme, Ashley
Garner, Noah
Gentry, Jennifer
Giffin, David
Gorby, Lily
Gray, Kiara
Green, Keaira
Haarlammert, Stephanie
Hall, Dennis
Hardy, Diane
Hartman, Ronald
Haugan, Andrea
Hawkins-Hyde, Kellie
Hess, Leanne
Holland, Michael
Horton, Vanius
Howard, Elaine
Howard, Savanah
Hubbard, Latoya
Hunter, Toccara
Jaccobs, Corey
Jackson, Shirley
Johnson, Andrew
Jones, Brianna
Jones, Darrell
Jones, Trevor
Jones, Trevor
Kahle, Anna
Kaufman, Fletcher
Kelley-Gerton, Lisa
Lacure, Elizabeth
Lalley, Teresa

Le, Morgan	Pollington, Connie	Thomas, Nyla
Lyons, Dayonna	Potensky, Chris	Thompson, Saige
Madriz, Gabriela	Powell, Christina	Tigert, Aaron
Madry, Thomas	Price, Tanya	Tubbs, Quinetta
Martin, Artis	Redburn, Jalen	Turner, Alisha
Mason, Ebony	Reppart, Jackson	Tyree, Alfred
Maxam, William	Rice, Alisha	Walker, Kimberly
Meier, Paulette	Richey, Sheila	Walton, Ronald
Miles, Linda	Robinson, Marilyn	Wanat, Elizbeth
Mock, Taylor	Ruffner, Sara	Ward, Nicole
Morris, Alexia	Schnur, Bethany	Washington, Autumn
Namenyi, Tytus	Schuster, Jason	Watkins, Aimee
Nashid, Wadeeah	Sfarnas, Jim	Weiler, Michael
Nienaber, Jennifer	Shaw, Phyllis	Weirich, Helen
Page, Candace	Simpson, Estacia	Wesley, Kate
Periferaki, Despina	Smith, Kimberly	Wilson, Celina
Phipps, Marilyn	Stevenson, Alisha	Winter, Stephany
Pickett, Jonathan	Still, Cameryn	Wise, Donnise
Pittman, Felicia	Tennyson, Emma	Yisrael, Nesyah

i) Consideration of New / Revised Policies*

The Board adopted the following new/revised policies, which were presented for consideration at the regular meeting of the Board on December 16, 2024:

0100	DEFINITIONS
0142.1	OATH
0151	ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
0152	OFFICERS
0155	COMMITTEES
0163	PRESIDING OFFICER
0164	NOTICE OF MEETINGS
0165	BOARD MEETINGS
0165.1	RESCIND REGULAR MEETINGS
0165.2	RESCIND SPECIAL MEETINGS
0166	AGENDAS
0167.2	RENUMBER EXECUTIVE SESSION
0167.7	RENUMBER PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES
0173	RESCIND BOARD OFFICERS
1130	CONFLICT OF INTEREST
2265	PROTECTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL BELIEFS, AFFILIATIONS, IDEALS, OR PRINCIPLES OF POLITICAL MOVEMENTS AND IDEOLOGY
3113	CONFLICT OF INTEREST
4113	CONFLICT OF INTEREST
4120.08	EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL FOR CO-CURRICULAR/EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
4121	CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK
5131	STUDENT TRANSFERS
5136.01	ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT
5200	ATTENDANCE
5500	STUDENT CONDUCT
5780	STUDENT/PARENT RIGHTS
6110	GRANT FUNDS
6111	INTERNAL CONTROLS
6112	CASH MANAGEMENT OF GRANTS
6114	COST PRINCIPLES - SPENDING FEDERAL FUNDS
6220	BUDGET PREPARATION
6320	PURCHASING AND BIDDING
6325	PROCUREMENT - FEDERAL GRANTS/FUNDS
6460	VENDOR RELATIONS
6550	TRAVEL PAYMENT & REIMBURSEMENT/RELOCATION COSTS
7310	DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY
7450	PROPERTY INVENTORY
7530.01	BOARD-OWNED TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES USED FOR COMMUNICATION
7530.02	STAFF USE OF PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES
7540.03	STUDENT TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY

7540.04 STAFF TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY
7540.09 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ("AI")
8310 PUBLIC RECORDS
9160 PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL EVENTS

j) Acceptance of Donations*

The Board accepted the following donation(s):

A cash donation of $200.00 to the Finneytown High School Art Department from Conover Dental, 9312 Winton Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45231 on December 31, 2024.

A trumpet valued at $100.00 to the Finneytown Local School District music department from Scott Haarlammert, 790 Cloverview Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45231 on January 10, 2025.

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

Review of Action Steps

1) Find a calendar date for the Board Self-Assessment – Ms. McMullen
2) Prepare and post the February 13, 2025 special meeting agenda – Dr. Banks.

The next regular meeting of the Finneytown Board of Education will take place on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 in the Brent Board Office Meeting Room, 8791 Brent Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45231. Open forum will begin at 6:00pm.

14-25 Mr. Rea moved, seconded by Mr. Plaut, that the Board move to Executive Session, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1), in order to consider the employment of public employees of the district.

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

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:23pm.
The Board returned to Regular Session at 9:21pm.

15-25 There being no further business, Ms. Lee moved, seconded by Mr. Rea, that the meeting be adjourned. The president declared the meeting adjourned at 9:21pm.

Jelicia McMullen, President

ATTEST:

David L. Oliverio, Treasurer