FINNEYTOWN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Special Meeting
Brent Board Meeting Room
March 31, 2025
6:00pm

The Finneytown Board of Education met in special session on Monday, March 31, 2025, at Brent Board Meeting Room, 8791 Brent Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45231. Ms. McMullen, Mr. Plaut, Mr. Rea, and Mr. Reeb were present. The President called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

64-25 Mr. Plaut moved, seconded by Mr. Rea, to dispense with the Opening Ceremony. The motion passed unanimously.

65-25 Mr. Reeb moved, seconded by Mr. Plaut, the Board approved the minutes as amended from the Regular Meeting of March 17, 2025. The President declared the motion passed.

66-25 Mr. Plaut moved, seconded by Mr. Reeb, to adopt the following Resolution approving the building package GMP Amendment 1.2 for the new 7-12 Middle / High School Project.

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE BUILDING PACKAGE GMP AMENDMENT #1.2 FOR THE NEW 7-12 MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL TO MOVE FORWARD WITH CONSTRUCTION FOR THE BUILDING PACKAGE WORK FOR THE NEW 7-12 MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Finneytown Local School District, County of Hamilton, Ohio (hereinafter called the "School District") has a building program consisting of the New 7-12 Middle/High School Project (hereinafter called "the Project").

WHEREAS, the electors of the School District approved the issuance of school improvement unlimited tax general obligation bonds or other obligations related to the Project at the election held in November 2019;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has contracted with a qualified professional design firm, Elevar Design Group (hereinafter called the "Designer") and a construction manager, Skanska USA Building, Inc. (hereinafter called the "Construction Manager"), under allowable provision in the ORC, to prepare plans, specifications and estimates of cost, and such data as the Board of Education deems necessary for the Project;

WHEREAS, The design firm Elevar Design Group, has prepared and submitted to the Board of Education, the New 7-12 Middle/High School Project Documents for

referenced project and setting forth in detail the requirements for the GMP Amendment of said portion of the Project; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education previously approved the New 7-12 Middle/High School Project budget including any additional Locally Funded Initiatives and all soft costs, for a total of $33,292,590, including; the costs for the New 7-12 Middle/High School Project at the 1st Amendment to the Project Agreement is within the approved project budget

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education, that after careful consideration and evaluation of the information before it:

Section 1. The Board of Education, as authorized under Sections within the ORC, approves the Building Package GMP Amendment #1.2 for said portion of the Project in substantially the form presently on file with this Board of Education.

Section 2. The Board of Education authorizes the Construction Manager at Risk upon approval of the Building Package GMP Amendment #1.2 approval to proceed with the Construction of the project referenced above.

Section 3. This Board of Education hereby finds and determines that all formal actions relative to the adoption of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board of Education, and that all deliberations of this Board of Education and of its committees, if any, which resulted in formal action, were taken in meetings open to the public, in full compliance with applicable legal requirements, including Section 121.22, ORC.

Section 4. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately after its adoption and shall supersede any prior resolution or act of this Board of Education, which may be inconsistent or duplicative with the provisions of this resolution.

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

67-25 Mr. Reeb moved, seconded by Mr. Plaut, to adopt the following Resolution approving the abate and demo package GMP Amendment 2.1 for the new 7-12 Middle / High School Project.

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ABATE AND DEMO PACKAGE GMP AMENDMENT #2.1 FOR THE NEW 7-12 MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL TO MOVE FORWARD WITH ABATE AND DEMO FOR THE NEW 7-12 MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Finneytown Local School District, County of Hamilton, Ohio (hereinafter called the "School District") has a building program consisting of the New 7-12 Middle/High School Project (hereinafter called "the Project").

WHEREAS, the electors of the School District approved the issuance of school improvement unlimited tax general obligation bonds or other obligations related to the Project at the election held in November 2019;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has contracted with a qualified professional design firm Elevar Design Group (hereinafter called the "Designer") and a construction manager, Skanska USA Building, Inc. (hereinafter called the "Construction Manager"), under allowable provision in the ORC, to prepare plans, specifications and estimates of cost, and such data as the Board of Education deems necessary for the Project;

WHEREAS, The design firm Elevar Design Group, has prepared and submitted to the Board of Education, the New 7-12 Middle/High School Project Documents for referenced project and setting forth in detail the requirements for the GMP Amendment of said portion of the Project; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education previously approved the New 7-12 Middle/High School Project budget including any additional Locally Funded Initiatives and all soft costs, for a total of $1,391,769, including; the costs for the New 7-12 Middle/High School Project at the 1st Amendment to the Project Agreement is within the approved project budget

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education, that after careful consideration and evaluation of the information before it:

Section 1. The Board of Education, as authorized under Sections within the ORC, approves the Abate and Demo Package GMP Amendment #2.1 for said portion of the Project in substantially the form presently on file with this Board of Education.

Section 2. The Board of Education authorizes the Construction Manager at Risk upon approval of the Abate and Demo Package GMP Amendment #2.1 approval to proceed with the Construction of the project referenced above.

Section 3. This Board of Education hereby finds and determines that all formal actions relative to the adoption of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board of Education, and that all deliberations of this Board of Education and of its committees, if any, which resulted in formal action, were taken in meetings open to the public, in full compliance with applicable legal requirements, including Section 121.22, ORC.

Section 4. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately after its adoption and shall supersede any prior resolution or act of this Board of

Education, which may be inconsistent or duplicative with the provisions of this resolution.

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

Discussion – Live Streaming

- A motion proposed to live stream all special meeting, except those exclusively held for the purpose of executive session, failed to get the votes necessary for passage the last time it was proposed.
- The lack of support expressed at the time was primarily due to the additional time required for equipment setup and tear down and the shortage of trained audiovisual staff.
- A recent special meeting of particularly high interest to the community was live streamed upon request by a community member.
- The Board felt it necessary to revisit this question for the sake of consistency with regard to policy and practice.
- Administration indicated that technology barriers that existed the last time this was discussed have largely been overcome with dedicated board meeting room space and new equipment.
- The Board requested this question be put to a vote at its next regular board meeting.
- Even if live streamed and recorded, the treasurer's minutes will remain the official public record of the meeting.

Discussion – Superintendent Goals / Job Description / Strategic Plan

- Clarity on the superintendent's job description, particularly regarding communication and staff concerns, considering the recent administrative staff reduction, was requested.
- Mr. Reeb pointed out that although the board recently changed a policy, which is within their authority, it doesn't necessarily mean the superintendent's job has changed or the strategic plan needs to be updated. Ms. McMullen responded the Board had usurped the Superintendent's responsibilities to "recruit, select, and evaluate" personnel. Mr. Reeb noted that the Board had not directly performed any of those duties. Ms. McMullen restated that the board had overstepped by involving itself in these responsibilities. Mr. Rea replied that the Board needed to "stack hands. It's done." Ms. McMullen firmly refused to agree with him or support that approach.
- Concerns were raised about staff fearing retaliation when discussing issues with the superintendent. Counter concerns were raised about the inability to substantiate or address these allegations, due to their anonymous and undefined nature.

- Respect for the chain of command, looping each other in on district-level concerns, and the occasional need for direct communication involving board members, staff and superintendent will help improve overall communications.
- Strategic plan implementation challenges, given the recent staff reduction, were also requested.
- It remains to be seen how staff reductions will impact strategic plan implementation. Flexibility, ongoing conversation and allowance for points of pivot, will be needed given the new constraints.
- A proposal to conduct a staff survey on administrative performance was briefly discussed and dismissed.
- The board discussed the need to select an evaluation subcommittee by the next regular board meeting and pushing back the goal-setting process to allow a better understanding of the current issues.

68-25 Mr. Rea moved, seconded by Mr. Reeb that the Board move to Executive session, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1), in order to consider the employment, discipline or compensation of public employee, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee.

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

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:51 pm.

The Board returned to Special Session at 7:12 pm.

69-25 There being no further business, Mr. Plaut moved, seconded by Mr. Rea, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously. The president declared the meeting adjourned at 7:13pm.

Jelicia McMullen, President

ATTEST:

David L. Oliverio, Treasurer