Finneytown Local School District
Minutes of Regular Meeting, December 15, 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, December 15, 2025, in the Brent Board Meeting Room, 8791 Brent Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45231. Ms. McMullen, Mr. Plaut, Ms. Lee, and Mr. Rea were present. The President called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

172-25 Ms. Lee moved, seconded by Mr. Rea, that the Board approve the agenda with the **Resolution Authorizing the Negotiation, Execution, and Consummation of A Real Estate Transfer to Sell the Old Whitaker Elementary School Site to the Springfield Township Board of Trustees** carry-on item.

RC: Ms. Lee, yes, Ms. McMullen, yes; Mr. Plaut, yes; Mr. Rea, yes. The motion was passed.

173-25 Mr. Rea moved, seconded by Mr. Plaut, that the Board approve the minutes from the Special Meeting of December 8, 2025. The motion was passed.

Administrative Report

Board Recognition

Salina Bhattarai (11th grade), **Chavi Perez** (6th grade), **and Mr. Michael Hamel** (Finneytown resident) presented a plaque and card (Thank you for your outstanding service to the Finneytown community. Your commitment towards excellence is making a difference") to the Ms. Lee, Ms. McMullen, and Mr. Rea, outgoing board members.

7-12 Art Department

Keona Henry (12th grade) recounted her experiences as an art student in the District and what arts have meant to her throughout her education. She expressed her appreciation for the Arts department and her plans to continue developing her artistry in the future.

Ms. Julie Ficke, Ms. Megan Kelley, and Mr. Matthew Nichols showcased various visual art pieces**.** The selected pieces from the 7–12 visual arts program underscored the department's use of scaffolded, interest-driven projects (grid drawing, shading, digital tools, watercolor, fiber arts) to build technical skills and foster creativity.

Orchestra

Autumn Boehm (12th grade), **William Nelsen** (8th grade), **and Relish Ortiz** (8th grade) along with the **Mr. Daniel Geisel,** the Orchestra director performed "Jingle Bells." The Students highlighted their strong, multi-grade community (8th–12th) that makes early morning rehearsals "worth waking up for." They also shared their orchestra community has a humorous, supportive culture with inside jokes and a high level of comfort and belonging.

They also expressed appreciation for access to instruments, instruction, and for having a highly regarded director.

The Director shared that the featured students were exceptionally engaged in the program from suggesting to new music to simultaneously participating across arts programs including theater, marching band color guard, and orchestra.

Elementary Music- Choir (Voices of Harmony)

Molly Majestic (4th grade**),** sang an a cappella excerpt from "Somewhere in My Memory" as a preview of a choir performance and presented a PowerPoint on how she uses melody, rhythm, and timbre to express music.

Facility Report

Mr. Grant Anderson shared that the new 7–12 building and electrical upgrade are on schedule with careful coordination of construction sequencing and power disruptions. Additionally, a full replacement is underway of the gym roof. The upgraded roof material is the same as the roof that will be put on the new building has a 40-year warranty.

Public Address

Lee and Katrina Harrill (Finneytown residents) addressed the board regarding special education urging the board to hire more paraprofessional staffing to reduce behavioral incidents, ease teacher workload, reduce burnout, and help students access IEP services. They asked whether other districts' higher staffing is funded by larger special education budgets, different priorities, or greater success in securing federal funds.

Board Coordination Matters

Schedule Organizational Meeting and Tax Budget Meeting

The Organizational Meeting is scheduled for January 12 at 6:30 pm with the **Tax Budget Meeting** immediately following. The swearing in ceremony for the new board member will be January 12 at 6 pm prior to the Organizational Meeting.

Board Members Reports

Mr. Seth Plaut thanked the departing board members for their hard work and service to the Finneytown school community. He also shared recent events including band and orchestra concerts and the alumni's turkey trot were successes.

Ms. Jelicia McMullen shared that being on the board over the last four years has been one of the most challenging, yet rewarding experiences of her life. She expressed thanks and appreciation to her husband, children, mother, and the community for their support.

Ms. Lindsey Lee highlighted the Board's efforts to shift the culture to one of transparency and collaboration. She offered advice to the new board members to remain open, ask questions, and be aware that you "don't know what you don't know."

Mr Rea expressed his appreciation for his fellow board members and their individual passions which fueled their service to the school district. He shared he believes the district is headed in the right direction.

174-25 Mr. Rea moved, seconded by Ms. Lee, that the Board adopt the **Treasurer's 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, 2025*

U.S. Bank	0.0796%	$ 487,153.41
U.S. Bank (construction)	0.6000%	$ 3,877.77
STAR Ohio (construction #1)	4.1400%	$ 3,418,454.23
STAR Ohio	4.1400%	$ 26,409,314.07
STAR Ohio (construction #2)	4.1400%	$ 2,964,935.10
STAR Ohio (OFCC local share)	4.1400%	$ 153,976.39
STAR Ohio (OFCC state share)	4.1400%	$ 5,027,581.85

c) Interest Earned on Depository and Investment Accounts as of November 30, 2025*

General Fund 001	$ 95,340.10
Construction Fund 004	$ 29,878.36
Classroom Facilities Fund 010	$ 18,758.24

d) Monthly Bond Project Spending and Commitment Report*
[See attachment]

e) Approval of Payment - FY26*
It is recommended the Board approve 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
09/12/2025	UW Madison Place	$3,000.00
(2026 Maker Educator Leadership Certificate- St Xavier)		

175-25 Mr. Plaut moved, second by Ms. McMuller, that the Board adopt the **Superintendent's 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 request that any such item be removed from the "Consent Calendar" and voted upon separately.

a) Acknowledgement of Resignations*

It is recommended that the Board acknowledge the following resignations, which have been previously accepted by the Superintendent:

Natisha Taylor	Special Education Assistant effective December 12, 2025	(personal)

b) Approval of Classified Contract Revisions*

It is recommended that the Board approve the following Classified Contract Revisions, effective July 1, 2025:

LaTora Gooden	Administrative Assistant

c) Approval of Contract – Athletic Supplemental 2025-2026*

It is recommended that the Board approve the following supplemental contract, effective August 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026:

Machari Bighams	Assistant Varsity Football Coach	$2000.00

d) Approval of Payment Update – Certified Staff Member *

It is recommended that the Board approve payment to the following certified staff member who will perform duties outside of their regular work schedule, effective August 11, 2025 through June 30, 2026:

Lauren Woodward	Mentor Specialist	$1500.00
Elizabeth Proctor	Mentor Specialist	$1500.00

e) Approval of Payment – Certified Staff Members*

It is recommended that the Board approve payment to the following certified staff members who will perform duties outside of the regular work schedule, effective August 1, 2025 through July 31, 2026:

Angie Creutzinger	LPDC Meetings	$35.00
Catherine Wilde	LPDC Meetings	$35.00
Elizabeth Pinto	LPDC Meetings	$35.00
Sarah Diaz	LPDC Meetings	$35.00
Lori Gehr	LPDC Meetings	$35.00

f) Approval of Membership – OSBA*

The Board approved membership in OSBA for 2026:

Membership Dues	**$7,007.00**
OSBA Briefcase Electronic Subscription	**$ 175.00**
Membership Total	**$7,182.00**

g) Approval of Substitute Rates*

It is recommended that the Board approve the following rates for Certified and Classified Substitutes effective 8/1/2025:

Hourly Substitute Health Aide rate - $25/hour

Daily Substitute Health Aide rate - $200.00/day

h) Consideration of School Calendar 2026-2027*

It is recommended that the Board consider the following school year calendar for 2026-2027, which will be presented for final approval at the next regular meeting of the Board:

August 17, Monday	Staff In-Service – Staff Only
August 18, Tuesday	Staff In-Service – Staff Only
August 19, Wednesday	First Day for Students
September 7, Monday	Labor Day - No School
October 15, Thursday	1st Quarter Ends (41 days)
October 16, Friday	Records Day - Staff Only
October 19, Monday	Fall Break - No School
November 25, Wednesday	Conference Release Day-No School
November 26 & 27, Thursday & Friday	Thanksgiving Break - No School
December 18, Friday	2nd Quarter Ends (41 days)
December 21, Monday	Professional Development-Staff Only
December 22, Tuesday	Records Day - Staff Only
December 23, Wednesday-January 1, Friday	Winter Break - No School
January 4 & 5, Monday & Tuesday	Professional Development - Staff Only
January 6, Wednesday	School Resumes
January 18, Monday	Dr. MLK, Jr. Day - No School
February 12, Friday	Conference Release Day-No School
February 15, Monday	Presidents Day - No School
March 18, Thursday	3rd Quarter Ends (49 days)
March 19, Friday	Records Day - Staff Only
March 22, Monday - March 26, Friday	Spring Break - No School
March 29, Monday	School Resumes
May 27, Thursday	Last Day for Students 4th Quarter Ends (45 days)
May 28, Friday	Records Day Last Day for Staff

i) Consideration of School Calendar 2027-2028*

It is recommended that the Board consider the following school year calendar for 2027-2028, which will be presented for final approval at the next regular meeting of the Board:

August 16, Monday	Staff In-Service – Staff Only
August 17, Tuesday	Staff In-Service – Staff Only
August 18, Wednesday	First Day for Students
September 6, Monday	Labor Day - No School
October 14, Thursday	1st Quarter Ends (41 days)
October 15, Friday	Records Day - Staff Only
October 18, Monday	Professional Devolvement- Staff Only
November 24, Wednesday	Conference Release Day-No School
November 25 & 26, Thursday & Friday	Thanksgiving Break - No School
December 17, Friday	2nd Quarter Ends (41 days)
December 20, Monday	Records Day - Staff Only
December 21, Wednesday-December 31, Friday	Winter Break - No School
January 3, Monday	Professional Development - Staff Only
January 4, Tuesday	School Resumes
January 17, Monday	Dr. MLK, Jr. Day - No School
February 11, Friday	Conference Release Day-No School
February 14, Monday	Presidents Day - No School
March 16, Thursday	3rd Quarter Ends (49 days)
March 17, Friday	Records Day - Staff Only
March 20, Monday - March 24, Friday	Spring Break - No School
March 27, Monday	Professional Development – Staff Only
March 28, Tuesday	School Resumes
May 25, Thursday	Last Day for Students
	4th Quarter Ends (45 days)
May 26, Friday	Records Day
	Last Day for Staff

j) Adoption of Resolution - Payment In Lieu of Transportation*

It is recommended that the Board adopt the following resolution declaring transportation impractical for a certain pupil, pursuant to the requirements of Ohio Revised Code §3327 and the procedures set forth by the Ohio Department of Education:

WHEREAS the student identified below have been determined to be a resident of this school district, and eligible for transportation services; and

WHEREAS after a careful evaluation of all available options, it has been determined that it is impractical to provide transportation for this student to the selected schools; and

WHEREAS the following factors as identified in Revised Code §3327.02 have been considered:

a. The time and distance required to provide the transportation

b. The number of pupils to be transported

c. The cost of providing transportation in terms of equipment, maintenance, personnel, and administration

d. Whether similar or equivalent service is provided to other pupils eligible for transportation

e. Whether and to what extent the additional service unavoidably disrupts current transportation schedules

f. Whether other reimbursable types of transportation are available; and

WHEREAS the option of offering payment-in-lieu of transportation is provided in Ohio Revised Code:

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Finneytown Local School District Board of Education hereby declares that it is impractical to transport the student identified below and offers the parent/guardian of said student payment-in-lieu of transportation:

Isabella Yanez (Gabriella Yanez, parent)

176-25 Mr. Plaut moved, second by Mr. Rea, that the Board approve the following **Notification of Change Orders - GMP 1.2 New 7-12 building:**

Change orders associated with the GMP 1.2 project, including structural adjustments, mechanical and drainage modifications, electrical improvements, and added building features to improve functionality, durability, and overall project coordination during construction.

CO #	Narrative	Description	Cost
CO-001	GMP1-RFI-039	Sidewalk Replacement Add Turn-down Edge	$2,851.04
CO-002	GMP1-RFI-055	Recessed 12" Thickened Slab in Media Center	$1,249.08
CO-003	GMP1-RFI-015	Added Teacher Call Buttons	$6,865.12
CO-004	Bulletin #2 and RFI #021_R1		$0.00
CO-005	GMP1-RFI-049	Pump Inertia Bases	$8,911.71
CO-006	GMP1-RFI-079	Change lintel at Stair 3 duct opening	$2,631.81
CO-007	Bulletin #4 - Roof Warranty	Warranty Upgrade from 20 to 30 years	$51,711.81
CO-008	GMP1-RFI-042	Footing Step at NW corner	$20,707.83

CO-009	Storm Pipe Conflict & Temp Roads	Temp Drive Widening & Storm Pipe Conflict	$34,343.97
CO-010	Bulletin #7 Brick Allowance Reconciliation		-$172.57
CO-011	Item 1	Duke pathway for PE underground only.	$45,977.80
CO-012	Item 2	Low voltage pathways and fiber.	$29,483.31
CO-013	Bulletin #6 – Item #1 (except LFO work)	Duke pathways, less PE underground. This includes necessary changes to storm lines and bollards.	$64,069.03
CO-014	Item #9	Bike Racks	$14,817.61
CO-014	Item #10	Tobacco Free Signage	
CO-014	Item #12	Updated Roof Steel	
CO-014	Item #15	OH Door Changes	
CO-014	Item #16	Added Closers	
CO-014	Item #18	Option #2 (AC1)	

177-25 Mr. Rea moved, second by Ms. McMullen, that the Board approve the following **Resolution Authorizing the Negotiation, Execution, and Consummation of A Real Estate Transfer to Sell the Old Whitaker Elementary School Site to the Springfield Township Board of Trustees:**

Resolution Authorizing the Negotiation, Execution, and Consummation of A Real Estate Transfer to Sell the Old Whitaker Elementary School Site to the Springfield Township Board of Trustees (Ohio Revised Code §3313.41)

The Superintendent recommends approval of a Real Estate Transfer Agreement ("Agreement") in substantially the same form attached hereto as Exhibit 1, and requests authority to finalize and execute the contract with the Springfield Township Board of Trustees and to take such actions as may be necessary to effectuate the same.

Rationale:

1. The Board of Education of the Finneytown Local School District ("Board") owns certain real property known generally as the Old Whitaker Elementary Site (the "Real Property").

2. The Board wishes to convey the Real Property to the Springfield Township Board of Trustees (the "Township") upon the terms contained in the Agreement in order to allow for the rapid redevelopment of the Real Property under the guidance of the Township, while adequately compensating the District for the value of the Real Property, all subject to the terms and conditions set forth further in the Agreement.

3. R.C. 3313.41(C) authorizes the Board to sell real property to any subdivision or taxing authority "upon such terms as are agreed upon."

The Board of Education resolves as follows:

1. The Real Property is no longer needed by the Board for school purposes.

2. The Board has determined that there are no community schools, STEM schools, or college preparatory boarding schools within the territory of the District, so the Board is not required to offer the Real Property to the governing body of any of these entities as provided in ORC Section 3313.411, et seq.

3. The Board authorizes the Superintendent, the Board President, and the Treasurer, or their designees, in consultation with the Director of Business Operations and legal counsel, to finalize and execute the Agreement in substantially the same form and upon substantially the same terms and conditions as are set forth within the Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit 1, with such modifications as they deem to be in the best interests of the District. The Board does not need to review the Agreement again unless there is a material change to the terms of the Agreement.

4. The Board further authorizes the Superintendent, the Board President, and the Treasurer, or their designees, in consultation with the Director of Business Operations and legal counsel, to enter into such ancillary agreements, to execute such documents, and to take such further action as they may deem reasonably necessary for the consummation of the sale of the Real Property as set forth in the Agreement.

5. All formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

6. Any prior actions taken consistent with this resolution are hereby ratified, affirmed, and approved.

The next regular meeting of the Finneytown Board of Education will take place on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, Brent Board Office Meeting Room, 8791 Brent Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45231. Open forum will begin at 6:00 pm.

178-25 There being no further business, Mr. Rea moved, seconded by Ms. Lee, that the meeting be adjourned. The President declared the meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Jelicia McMullen, President

ATTEST:

Anita E. Ruffin, Treasurer