FINNEYTOWN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting- February 17, 2026
Brent Board Office Meeting Room
8791 Brent Dr
Cincinnati, OH 45231
Open Forum 6:00 PM
Regular Meeting 6:30 PM

The Finneytown Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, in the Brent Board Meeting Room, 8791 Brent Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45231. Ms. Catanzaro, Mr. Engleman, Ms. Laird, and Mr. Plaut were present. The President called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

020-26 Mr. Plaut moved, seconded by Ms. Catanzaro that the Board approve the Agenda as presented. With all Ayes, the motion passed.

021-26 Mr. Plaut moved, seconded by Ms. Catanzaro that the Board **Waive the Reading of the Minutes and Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 20, 2026 and the Special Meeting of February 11, 2026.** With all Ayes, the motion passed.

Administrative Report

Students Athlete:

Bryce McMullen 8th grade Basketball provided a recap of the 8th grade basketball team, highlighting the positive impact of Coach Derrick. The team finished the season with an 8-8 record, advancing to the finals. Bryce reflected that in addition to improved ball movement, teamwork was the primary area of development during the season.

Facilities Update

Mr. Grant Anderson, Director of Business Operations, presented a "Spring 2028" campus vision, which includes a new OFCC building, PAC/gym renovations, and the restoration of baseball and softball fields. The new building is scheduled for completion in December 2026. Demolition of old structures will occur from January to June 2027, after which construction of the baseball and softball fields can commence. The project remains on schedule despite using nine weather days, with internal work on the academic side expected to begin by March/April 2026.

School Calendar Modification

Mr. Smith shared that the district is modifying the school calendar to recover instructional time lost during the snow/cold closures January 26-30. After spring break, students will report to school on Tuesday, March 24. This change converts professional development days into instructional days to ensure the district meets core responsibilities for quality instruction and testing preparation.

Certificate of Appreciation

Board members were given Certificates of Appreciation.

Public Address

Lee and Katrina Harrill advocated for a Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) to provide a voice for parents and teachers. They presented data showing a staffing crisis and emphasized the critical need for early intervention. The Harrills chastised the district for investing in facilities over student support systems and committed to returning monthly until the SEAC is established.

Board Coordination Matters

Board Member Reports

Ms. Catanzaro shared that she attended the OSBA "Election to Action" virtual training on January 30-31 which covered various governance topics and was inspired by the discussions. Fine Arts and Music programs are actively progressing with elementary music focusing on rhythms and composition. The band is preparing for the next marching season and Winter Guard recently placed fifth in their first competition with another one scheduled for the coming week. FMPA has several upcoming events and fundraisers, including a Chick-fil-A Dine to Donate on March 18, Butter Braids pickup on March 26, a concert on March 12, and a Marching Band informational meeting and show reveal on March 10. She completed her report by acknowledging Mr. Geisel's Manilow Music Award nomination.

Ms. Maggie Laird reported that The Finneytown Athletic Association is concluding winter sports and seeking new leadership, coaches, and volunteers. The High School Musical is scheduled for March 6-8, with attendance encouraged. During a Springfield Township Trustee Meeting, Gwen McFarlin was honored for her leadership roles. The Township also discussed the potential elimination of property tax which would result in a loss of 80% of township revenue. Citizens were urged to research the property tax reform initiatives due to its impact on public schools. Additionally, the Public Works Department was thanked for 554 overtime hours during snow events. Finally, Ms. Laird shared that Wildcat Service, led by Renee Heath, successfully supported many families during the holidays.

Mr. Chad Engleman reported that the Finneytown Alumni Network held their quarterly meeting in January where they elected their bi-annual officers. He indicated that more information can be found about the FAN's activities on their website (finneytownalumni.org) and through their social media pages.

Mr. Seth Plaut congratulated Brady Bowles and LaShauna Tinsley who are both on the record books for the most wins for the boys and for the girls respectively.

022-26 Mr. Engleman moved, seconded by Ms. Catanzaro 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 January 31, 2026*

U.S. Bank	0.0955%	$ 998,335.73
STAR Ohio (construction #1)	3.8400%	$ 4,577,607.77
STAR Ohio	3.8400%	$ 24,632,564.60
STAR Ohio (construction #2)	3.8400%	$ 3,349,223.58
STAR Ohio (OFCC local share)	3.8400%	$ 154,998.52
STAR Ohio (OFCC state share)	3.8400%	$ 3,582,939.95

c) Interest Earned on Depository and Investment Accounts as of January 31, 2026*

General Fund 001	$ 80,538.67
Construction Fund 004	$ 25,733.29
Classroom Facilities Fund 010	$ 9,694.61

d) Monthly Bond Project Spending and Commitment Report*

[See attachment]

e) Approval Financial Forecast*

The Board approved the Financial Forecast.

RC: Ms. Catanzaro, Yes; Mr. Engleman, Yes; Ms. Laird, Yes; and, Mr. Plaut. Motion passes.

023-26 Mr. Engleman moved, seconded by Mr. Plaut that the Board adopt the **Superintendent's Consent Calendar as follows with the removal of item b) approval of overnight student trip:**

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:

Armand Tatum	Intervention Specialist effective May 29, 2026	(personal)
Isabel Sommer	Special Education Aide effective February 9, 2026	(personal)
Linda Waltz	Intervention Specialist effective February 1, 2026	(personal)

Cathy McNair	School Social Worker effective June 30, 2026	(retirement)
Jennifer Brunsman	Art Teacher effective May 29, 2026	(retirement)
Jerri Green	Educational Assistant effective May 29, 2026	(retirement)

c) Consideration of New / Revised Policies*

The Board considered the following new/revised policies, which will be presented for final adoption at the next regular meeting of the Board:

8300	**CONTINUITY OF ORGANIZATIONAL OPERATIONS PLAN**
8305	**INFORMATION SECURITY**
8400	**SCHOOL SAFETY**
8462	**STUDENT ABUSE AND NEGLECT**
8600	**TRANSPORTATION**
8600.04	**BUS AND ALTERNATIVE VEHICLE DRIVER CERTIFICATION**
8640	**TRANSPORTATION FOR NON-ROUTINE TRIPS**
8650	**TRANSPORTATION BY ALTERNATIVE VEHICLES**

d) Notification of Change Orders - GMP 1.2 New 7-12 building.

These change orders include added blinds and roller shade modifications, gym foundation rework and structural revisions, electrical updates for vape detectors, AHU lighting, and cooler outlets, steel redesign, site stone for transformer access, minor architectural adjustments (casework, door hardware, wall chase), AV rack reconfiguration, and coordination updates—some resulting in budget transfers and others reflecting net-zero cost changes.

e) Notification of Change Orders - GMP 2.1 Demolition

These change orders address environmental and site-related work, including removal of an existing underground storage tank (UST), abatement of asbestos fittings in the MP administration area, and the scheduled removal of the temporary LFI driveway in 2027.

f) Notification of Change Orders - LFO project

These change orders encompass utility relocations and sanitary sewer upgrades, PE building structural and plumbing modifications (including gas line rerouting, footing extensions, storm and drain work), site and safety improvements such as striping, barriers, stair towers, and temporary walk paths, select building enhancements (attendance window, metal panel replacement, pump replacement), and added electrical infrastructure in the gym lobby.

g) Recommendation to Approve Alternate - GMP 1.2 New 7-12 building

Approved alternate package #18 - Privacy Fencing.
$112,925.52

h) Acceptance of Donations*

The Board accepted the following donation(s):

A cash donation of $1,000.00 to the DECA program at Finneytown Secondary Campus from Holly Centrulo February 4, 2026.

RC: Mr. Engleman, Yes; Ms. Laird, Yes; Mr. Plaut; and Ms. Catanzaro, Yes. Motion passes.

Open Forum 6:00pm
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024-26 Mr. Plaut moved, seconded by Ms. Catanzaro that the Board adopt **Revised Policy 1540:**

1540 - SUSPENSION OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACTS

The Board of Education recognizes that no contract entered into with a member of the administrative staff in accordance with Board Policy 1520 may be suspended except in the manner provided herein. Accordingly, this policy was developed with input from the District's administrative staff.

The reasons for which the Board will consider suspending an administrator's contract are:

A. a decrease in the District's enrollment;

B. a return to duty of an administrator after a leave of absence;

C. financial conditions affecting the District;

D. any other financial reasons that the Board, in its sole discretion, finds warrants a reduction in force;

E. loss of funding for a particular program, project or grant;

F. changes in the curriculum or academic program of the School District;

G. the reorganization of the management structure of the School District.

The following procedures will be followed in the event that the Board determines it is necessary to reduce its administrative staff through a suspension of contracts:

A. If it is necessary to achieve a reduction in the administrative staff, the Board may proceed to suspend contracts in accordance with the recommendation of the Superintendent. Given that administrative positions are not interchangeable, the primary factor in any reduction of administrators will be the best interest of the District.

B. Any administrator whose contract is to be suspended as the result of a reduction in the administrative staff shall be notified, in writing, of his/her intended suspension at least fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the next regularly scheduled Board meeting at which the action is to be taken.

C. The suspension shall not become effective sooner than thirty (30) days after said action.

Administrators whose contracts are suspended pursuant to this policy and who were employed by the District previously under a continuing contract as a teacher or who had a continuing contract as a teacher elsewhere prior to being employed by the District as an administrator and who has served the District for at least two (2) years, shall be offered a position in the District as a classroom teacher in his/her area of certification/licensure, subject to the provisions of Policy 3131.

Administrators whose contracts are suspended shall be on the administrative recall list for a period of twelve (12) months from the last day of active employment by the District unless the administrator has accepted, prior to such time, other employment.

Administrators who are on the administrative recall list shall have the right of recall only to their prior position (i.e., "Assistant Principal at the Middle School") and only if the Board re-institutes that position. However, the Board will consider such administrators for openings occurring in any other administrative position for which the administrator is qualified and holds the appropriate certification/licensure. The primary factor in filling administrative positions will be the best interests of the District.

An administrator shall be notified of a recall by certified mail as well as by electronic mail and must accept, in writing, the employment within fifteen (15) days of service of the recall notice. It is the administrator's responsibility to maintain a current mailing address and e-mail address with the Board. Failure to accept recall within fifteen (15) days shall be interpreted as an indication that the administrator does not wish to return to active employment in the District and shall result in the removal of the administrator from the recall list. If the recall occurs after August 1st, the administrator must respond in writing within five (5) days or s/he will be removed from the recall list.

The superintendent met with the administrative team on January 27, 2026 and solicited their input and comments on this policy prior to adoption of this policy by the Board.

Discussion: Mr. Plaut shared that that revised policy was to restore text stating the board "will not RIF (reduction in force) without the consent of the superintendent." The rationale for restoring the language was to maintain professional standards and address trust issues.

RC: Ms. Laird, Yes; Mr. Plaut; Ms. Catanzaro, Yes; and Mr. Engleman, Yes. Motion passes.

The next regular meeting of the Finneytown Board of Education will take place on Monday, March 16, 2026, Brent Board Office Meeting Room, 8791 Brent Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45231. Open forum will begin at 6:00 pm.

025-26 There being no further business, Mr. Engelman moved, seconded by Mr. Plaut that the meeting be adjourned. By consensus, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Seth Plaut, President

ATTEST:

Anita E. Ruffin, Treasurer