FINNEYTOWN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting- March 16, 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 Monday, March 16, 2026, in the Brent Board Meeting Room, 8791 Brent Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45231. Ms. Catanzaro, Mr. Engleman, Ms. Laird, Mr. Plaut, and Mr. Reeb were present. The President called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

026-26 Ms. Catanzaro moved, seconded by Ms. Laird that the Board approve the **Agenda as amended** to include Item 10: Adoption of Revised Policy 1540. With all Ayes, the motion passed.

027-26 Mr. Engleman moved, seconded by Mr. Reeb that the Board **Waive the Reading of the Minutes and Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 17, 2026.** With all Ayes, the motion passed.

Administrative Report

Project-based Learning (Jen Dinan, Mike Kennedy, and Tammy Dietz)

Project-Based Learning (PBL) is the district's preferred, standards-aligned model, designed for all students to engage with authentic problems through iterative cycles culminating in public products. District leaders are aligned on advancing deeper learning and adult agency, prioritizing facilitative leadership- dialogue, questioning, and shared ownership- to strengthen teacher agency. PBL is systematically embedded across curricula with rubrics, mini-workshops, and benchmark checks to ensure rigor. Teachers report that PBL increases understanding and engagement, and fosters creativity and ownership, as seen in projects like "math influencers".

Staff learning emphasizes six learner-centered practices, expanding from small groups to full departments and grade-level teams, with strong teacher buy-in reflected in independent implementation, productive pushback, and widespread PBL language use. While PBL operations include regular co-design and department meetings, board observation opportunities, ongoing discussions about higher-ed preparation, and forthcoming rubrics and measurement tools to convert PBL efforts into trackable data.

Facilities Update

The new building remains on target to open in December 2026 for January 2027 occupancy, with athletic fields expected by spring 2028. Permanent power is established, the gym roof is installed, and academic floor drywall is underway, keeping the project on schedule despite weather delays. Summer 2026 will involve a new parking lot and stadium-front area closures, though gym access will be maintained; post-opening traffic will reroute buses via Mockingbird and parents to the front circle, with traffic flipping from Cherry Blossom to Fountainbleau over winter break 2026–2027. Multi-use turf fields are planned, with bottom lots available for summer 2026 band practice, but summer 2027 is anticipated to be challenging due to parking and baseball field constraints.

Public Address

Lee and Katrina Harrill continued their advocacy for special education. They reported that even though they have requested transparent special education funding reports, the establishment of a Special Education Advisory Committee, and an independent external review, there has been no progress and highlight a leadership gap with no identifiable Director of Student Services or Special Education. According to the Harrills students are experiencing significant delays and insufficient support, such as a child with emotional regulation challenges receiving documentation instead of intervention, and staffing disparities in the educational aide-to-IEP student ratio, leading to calls for prioritizing student support over facilities investments. The Harrills indicate they are committed to their continued advocacy, stating they will return "month after month until we see change".

Michael Hamill addressed the board regarding two concerns. First, a growing movement to place property tax elimination on the ballot. He questioned if the board had a contingency plan. Second, he raised concerns about unions, specifically mentioning Becky Pringle, a president who has committed her organization's three million members and resources to a coordinated political effort. This effort supports the "Sunrise Movement," which Hamill described as a "very dangerous group" aiming to subvert political activities and disrupt schools. He urged the board to discuss these issues and be prepared for their potential impact.

Board Coordination Matters

- **Board Member Reports**

Mr. Engleman shared his availability for Facilities and Finance meetings.

Mr. Reeb shared that he attended the Finneytown Theater alumni night, thanking Mike Steele, Scott Haarlemart, and Thomas Steele for their efforts in organizing the event and engaging alumni. He also saw the play "Into the Woods," praising its amazing set design, fantastic acting, and Zach Jung's direction. Despite the play's dark themes, he found it a refreshing and excellent musical theater performance.

Ms. Catanzaro shared that she attended several events, including a Hamilton County event for elected women, the high school musical, and an elementary living wax museum, praising the efforts involved in each. Updates from the FMPA meeting included upcoming fundraising events like a mattress sale, spaghetti dinner, and golf outing. She reported the Finneytown Music Parents Association (FMPA) covered a significant band fee shortage with FMPA reserve funds. The music department is preparing for Ms. Fields' medical leave and seeking a long-term substitute and a replacement for the Voices Reversals program. At the elementary PTA meeting, discussions covered donations, upcoming Air testing, the PBL showcase, and the return of Field Day for K-5 grade students. The elementary carnival is planned with attractions like baby goats, a larger bounce house, and a free arcade, with organizers actively seeking sponsors and volunteers.

Ms. Laird shared that she attended several events throughout the District. The athletic department is seeking two baseball coaches and soccer umpires/referees (a paid opportunity suitable for high school students). Many sport organizations also face leadership needs as current members age out, requiring new individuals to step up. Critically, the Secondary PTA is in urgent need of a president, vice president, secretary, and membership to continue its vital work. After Prom also requires donations or volunteers to ensure the event's success and student safety. These various roles are crucial for maintaining essential school and community programs, and a blanket invitation is extended for volunteers across all support organizations.

Mr. Plaut added that upcoming events include a track meet on April 4th, Prom and After-Prom on April 18th, with calls for volunteers for concessions and After-Prom. The Fourth Quarter begins on April 24th, marking the end of spring break, and a special work session is scheduled for April 8th at 4:30 PM to discuss district matters. Additionally, congratulations were extended to state-bound wrestlers Brady Vols and Mashawn Tinsley, the Crusaders youth football program is gearing up for a new season, and the OSBA BLI conference is set for May 8th and 9th in Columbus.

028-26 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 February 28, 2026*

U.S. Bank	0.08995%	$ 552,910.58
STAR Ohio (construction #1)	3.8000%	$ 4,507,283.15
STAR Ohio	3.8000%	$ 28,380,171.00
STAR Ohio (construction #2)	3.8000%	$ 3,344,978.24
STAR Ohio (OFCC local share)	3.8000%	$ 155,450.26
STAR Ohio (OFCC state share)	3.8000%	$ 1,905,473.89

c) Interest Earned on Depository and Investment Accounts as of February 28, 2026*

General Fund 001	$ 73,505.02
Construction Fund 004	$ 23,011.48
Classroom Facilities Fund 010	$ 7,852.05

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

e) Approval of Payment - FY26*

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
02/18/2026	Drill Design Solutions (Drill Design Package)	$4,000.000

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

029-26 Mr. Engleman moved, seconded by Mr. Plaut 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 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:

Michael Fairman	Educational Aide effective March 31, 2026	(personal)

b) Approval of Contract – Supplemental 2025-2026*

The Board approved the following supplemental contracts, effective August 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026:

Charles William	Head Girls Varsity Basketball Coach	$8,024.00
Derrick Kassem	Boys 8th Grade Head Basketball Coach	$1,900.00
Gerri Williams	Cheer Basketball Reserve	$ 802.00
Greg Davis	Head Junior Varsity Boys Basketball Coach	$3,167.00
Melanee Waggenor	Girls Varsity Assistant Basketball Coach	$3,167.00

c) Approval of Payment Revision – Supplemental*

The Board approved the revised supplemental contract payment amount, effective August 11 to June 30, 2026:

Sam Fronk	Co-Pep Band Leader	$950.00

d) 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 15, 2026

Return: Sunday, May 17, 2026

Transportation: District van, driven by staff members certified as drivers

Supervision: Two staff members Anticipated Cost per Student (limit of 7): $701.00

e) Adoption 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 February 17, 2026:

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**

f) Consideration of New / Revised Policies*

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

5200	**Attendance**
5223	**RELEASED TIME FOR RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION DURING THE SCHOOL DAY**
5410	**PROMOTION, PLACEMENT, AND RETENTION**
5517	**ANTI-HARASSMENT**
6109	**ACCEPTANCE OF PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD**
6152	**STUDENT FEES, FINES, AND CHARGES**
6830	**AUDIT**
7540.02	**DIGITAL CONTENT AND ACCESSIBILITY**

g) Approval of Memoranda of Understanding Between Finneytown Local School District Board of Education and The Finneytown Education Association

The Board approved the following memorandum of understanding:

BETWEEN
THE FINNEYTOWN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
AND
THE FINNEYTOWN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered by and between the Finneytown Local School District Board of Education (the "Board") and the Finneytown Education Association (the "Association") (collectively "the Parties").

WHEREAS, the Board and the Association are parties to a collective bargaining agreement ("CBA") expiring on July 31, 2027, and

WHEREAS, the Parties agree that the interests of the District will be better served by providing further clarity on internal substitution pay not currently addressed in Article 2.05 of the CBA.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and obligations contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Board and the Association agree as follows:

1. At the Elementary School, when a teacher is absent for more than half and up to a full school day and no external substitute is available, teachers who receive students shall receive the portion of the substitute pay rate (Currently $110), divided by the number of teachers who receive students.

For example:

- Substitute Pay Rate: $110
- Number of Receiving Teachers: 3
- **Each teacher receives**: $110 ÷ 3 = **$36.67**

2. At the Elementary School, when a teacher has an absence which results in them being away from their class for a half of a school day or less, each teacher who accepts students shall each receive the portion of half the substitute pay rate (Currently $55), divided by the number of teachers who receive students.
   For example:
   - Substitute Pay Rate: $55
   - Number of Receiving Teachers: 3
   - **Each teacher receives**: $55 ÷ 3 = **$18.33**
3. (a) Effective March 2, 2026, when a teacher at the Elementary School is absent for less than one hour, Administration will cover the absent teacher's class.
   (b) From August 11, 2025 through February 27, 2026, at the Elementary School, when a teacher has an absence which results in them being away from their class for **less** than two hours, each teacher who accepts students shall each receive a flat rate of $15.

   For example:
   - Internal Substitution Rate: $15
   - Number of Receiving Teachers: 3
   - **Each teacher receives** $15 (flat rate per teacher).

4. At the Elementary School, if an intervention specialist is placed as a substitute on more than one (1) day during a calendar week, this member shall be paid the current substitute rate of pay for any additional full or half days starting on the second substitution day of the week.
   For example:

   If an intervention specialist is placed as a substitute in a classroom for a full or partial day on Monday, and then another full or partial day on Friday, this member will receive corresponding full or half day pay for Friday.

5. There are no other understandings or agreements between the Parties in relation thereto, oral or otherwise, except as expressly set forth herein.

6. All other terms and provisions set forth in the CBA shall remain in effect through July 31, 2027, unless modified, in writing, by mutual agreement of the parties.

7. This MOU shall be deemed effective for the contract years August 1, 2025 - July 31, 2027.

h) Approval of Administrative Contract*

The Board approved the following Administrative Contract, effective August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2029:

Jessica Martin	Assistant Principal	$ 96,999
Tom Snyder	Assistant Principal	$ 91,936

i) Approval of Administrative Contract*

The Board approved the following Administrative Contract, effective August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2028:

Gerald Warmack	Assistant Principal and Athletic Director	$ 106,862

j) Approval of Administrative Contract Revisions*

The Board approved revisions to the following Administrative Contracts, effective August 1, 2026 through July 31,2027**:**

Grant Anderson	Director of Business Operations	$ 129,326
Meredith Baker	Principal	$ 110,068
Jen Dinan	Assistant Superintendent	$ 139,438
Carol Miller	Principal	$ 126,215
Anita Ruffin	Treasurer	$ 130,000
Lisa Samuel	Assistant Principal	$ 96,790
Anthony Smith	Superintendent	$ 166,400
Anton Walker	Assistant Principal	$ 107,132

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

030-26 Mr. Plaut moved, seconded by Mr. Reeb that the Board adopt the **Revised Policy 1540.**

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

031-26 Ms. Catanzaro moved, seconded by Mr. Englemen that the Board enter **Executive Session** pursuant to ORC Section 121.22 (G)(1) for the purposes of employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee.

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

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:20 PM.
The Board exited Executive Session at 8:55 PM.

The next regular meeting of the Finneytown Board of Education will take place on Monday, April 20, 2026 at 6:30pm in the Brent Board Office Meeting Room, 8791 Brent Drive Cincinnati, OH 45231. Open forum will begin at 6:00pm

032-26 There being no further business, Ms. Catanzaro moved and Ms. Laird seconded that the meeting be adjourned. By consensus, the meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM.

Seth Plaut, President

ATTEST:

Anita E. Ruffin, Treasurer