FINNEYTOWN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of Regular Meeting, July 20, 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, July 20, 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 6:33 pm.

061-26 Ms. Catanzaro moved, seconded by Mr. Reeb that the Board approve the **Agenda as amended to include Item o) Approval of Contracts – One Year Limited Retire/ Rehire- Certified (St Xavier) to the Superintendent's Consent Calendar, Remove Item 12- Notification of Change Order, and Replace removed Item 12 with New Item 12- Approval of Substitute Rates.** With all Ayes, the motion passed.

062-26 Ms. Laird moved, seconded by Mr. Engleman seconded that the Board **Waive the Reading of the Minutes and Approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 15, 2026 and the Special Meeting of June 22, 2026.** With all Ayes, the motion passed.

Administrative Report

GPA Update

Mr. Smith shared that the district intends to raise the student-athlete GPA minimum from 1.0 permitted by the Ohio High School athletic Association (OHSAA), to 2.5 to promote academic scholarship, while implementing year-round monitoring and study tables to support student success. This policy update will be enacted through formal board readings rather than a memorandum.

Facilities Update

The new MS/HS building remains on schedule for a January 2027 move-in, with interior work currently underway now that the structure is watertight. Campus logistics will maintain existing student drop-off procedures while improving safety through new access gates and adding parking behind the gym. Additionally, the school has engaged Elevar Design Group for future renovations to the PAC, gym, and athletic fields, with planning and fundraising efforts currently in progress.

Public Address

Mr. Lee Harrill reported that the district has not filed any special education caseload waivers in the last three years, though the average elementary caseload of 15.5 is nearing the state maximum of 16, raising concerns that autism programs lack the necessary tighter ratios.

Mr. Michael Hamel expressed that he supports an education philosophy that advocates shifting from union-based to merit-based teacher compensation, increasing community engagement by involving business leaders in the classroom, and expanding the traditional "three Rs" curriculum to include respect, and responsibility.

Board Coordination Matters

Board Members Reports

Mr. Reeb reported that Springfield Township recently celebrated the championship victories of St. Xavier High School's baseball and tennis teams and introduced a new police K-9 unit. Upcoming community events include a dual National Night Out and Back to School Bash on August 6, a small business fundraiser on September 24, and a fire department open house on October 3. He also shared that residents should be aware of rising electric rates- which will be discussed by the township's aggregation consultant at the upcoming August meeting.

Ms. Catanzaro acknowledged a transformational yet restricted donation from Finneytown Alumni Association (FAN); noting that future contributions are uncertain. She also plans to report back on an upcoming OSBA board member event.

Ms. Laird noted she has been working on the strategic plan with Mr. Smith and Mr. Plaut and has learned a great deal during the process. She also highlighted an upcoming meeting intended to improve coordination among support organizations.

Mr. Plaut shared that work is being cone to finalize the strategic plan that focuses on student achievement. The Board Retreat is scheduled for July 25th and members have been asked to monitor their emails for essential documents to review before the retreat to ensure the meeting remains productive. Meanwhile, booster clubs are preparing for upcoming football and soccer seasons, and registration for soccer and volleyball has concluded.

Acknowledgement of Records Commission Minutes from June 30, 2026

Ms. Ruffin confirmed there were no changes to the records retention schedule and no requests to destroy records that were not on the records retention schedule.

063-26 Mr. Plaut 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 were 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 June 30, 2026*

U.S. Bank	0.08800%	$ 250,959.51
STAR Ohio (construction #1)	3.8200%	$ 2,791,416.90
STAR Ohio	3.8200%	$ 25,654,869.81
STAR Ohio (construction #2)	3.8200%	$ 3,387,666.08
STAR Ohio (OFCC local share)	3.8200%	$ 157,434.08
STAR Ohio (OFCC state share)	3.8200%	$ 2,405,451.93

c) Interest Earned on Depository and Investment Accounts as of June 30, 2026*

General Fund 001	$ 82,605.45
Construction Fund 004	$ 20,640.38
Classroom Facilities Fund 010	$ 7,070.50

d) Monthly Bond Project Spending and Commitment Report*

e) Approval of Transfers – General Fund to Band Uniform Replacement Fund FY27*

The Board approved the following transfers of funds:

300-5100-9318	Band Uniform Fund	$2,000.00
001-7200-910	General Fund	($2,000.00)

f) Adoption of Resolution - Establish Petty Cash Accounts*

The Board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH PETTY CASH ACCOUNTS

WHEREAS, Section 3313.291, ORC, permits the Board of Education of a school district to establish petty cash accounts from which the treasurer may draw funds by signed check for purchases made within the district; and

WHEREAS, the resolution shall specify the maximum amount of money that may be placed in the account and designate the district officials who may draw funds from the account; and

WHEREAS, the resolution shall specify the requirements and procedures for replenishing the account.

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board, that thee following petty cash accounts will be established and replenished on the imprest basis by the district officials authorized for the custody, care and the making of disbursements from the respective accounts:

Petty Cash Fund	Amount	Designated District Official
Treasurer's Office	$200	Treasurer and/or Accounts Payable Specialist
Finneytown Secondary	$200	Finneytown Secondary Principal's Secretary
Finneytown Elementary	$100	Finneytown Elementary Principal's Secretary
	$500	

RC: Mr. Reeb, Yes; Mr. Plaut, Yes; Ms. Laird, Yes; Mr. Engleman, Yes; and, Ms. Catanzaro, Yes. With all Ayes, the motion passed.

064-26 Mr. Plaut moved, seconded by Ms. Catanzaro 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 were 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:

Kathryn Abney	2nd Grade Teacher effective June 30, 2026	(personal)
Rebecca Facktor	4th Grade Teacher effective June 30, 2026	(personal)
Mike Grote	Intervention Specialist effective June 30, 2026	(personal)
Maximillian Wildenhaus	Social Studies Teacher effective June 30, 2026	(personal)

b) Approval of Contracts – One Year Limited Certified*

The Board approved one year limited contracts for the following new certified staff members, effective August 17, 2026 through May 28, 2027:

Applebury, Cherie	ELA Teacher	Finneytown SC
Armor, Amy	IVS	Finneytown Elementary
Blythe, Kaylee	Social Studies Teacher	Finneytown SC
Clark, Carissa	School Counselor	Finneytown Elementary
Coffing, Erin	Art Teacher	Finneytown Elementary
Cudnik Sarah	3rd Grade Teacher	Finneytown Elementary
Curry, Kamya	IVS	Finneytown SC
Hauck, Samantha	5th Grade Teacher	Finneytown Elementary
Jones. Nakhira	ELA Teacher	Finneytown SC
Kesselring, Kenzie	IVS	Finneytown SC
Mahaffey, Danielle	IVS	Finneytown SC
Peregoy, Clayton	IVS	Finneytown SC
Rabold, Courtney	Math Teacher	Finneytown SC
Walker, Forrest	ELA Teacher	Finneytown SC
Willingham, Tiyanna	IVS	Finneytown SC

c) Approval of Contract – One Year Limited Exempt*

The Board approved a one year limited contract for the following new exempt staff member, effective July 6, 2026 through June 30, 2027:

Laura Froehle	Payroll and Benefits Specialist	$60,000.00

d) Approval of Administrative Contract*

The Board approved the following Administrative Contract, effective August 17, 2026 through July 31, 2028:

Laura Schneider	Director of Special Education	$104,000.00

e) Approval of Contracts – Two Year Retired/Rehired Administrator*

The Board approved two year limited contracts for the following retired/rehired administrator, effective August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2028:

Jen Dinan	Assistant Superintendent

f) Approval of Payment – Certified Staff Members*

The Board approved payment to the following certified staff members who will perform duties outside of the regular work schedule, effective August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2027:

Amanda Vordenberg	KG Camp	$26.00/hr.
Angie Creutzinger	KG Camp	$26.00/hr.
Britany Utley	KG Camp	$26.00/hr.
Karen Bause	KG Camp	$26.00/hr.
Lilly Volz	KG Camp	$26.00/hr.
Liz Jungkunz	KG Camp	$26.00/hr.
Nancy Rouse	KG Camp	$26.00/hr.
Shely Westerfield	KG Camp	$26.00/hr.
Whitney Walker	KG Camp	$26.00/hr.

g) Approval of Payment – Classified Staff Members*

The Board approved payment to the following classified staff members who will perform duties outside of the regular work schedule, effective August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2027:

Jenny Weirich	KG Camp	$26.00/hr.
Vicky Sweeney	KG Camp	$26.00/hr.

h) Approval of Payment – Certified Staff Members*

The Board approved 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:

Sonya Garner	Assessment	$26.00/hr.

i) Approval of Payment – Certified Staff Members*

The Board approved payment to the following certified staff members whowill perform duties outside of the regular work schedule, effective August 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026:

Madeline Matson	2 Extended Days

j) Approval of Payment – Certified Staff Members*

The Board approved payment to the following certified staff members who will perform duties outside of the regular work schedule, effective August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2027:

Jen Bayless	10 Extended Days
Al Bolton	10 Extended Days
Autumn Christensen	15 Extended Days
Diana Cosco	5 Extended Days
Marina Deters	10 Extended Days
Tammy Dietz	10 Extended Days
Kerry Finley	10 Extended Days
Haley Hansberry	15 Extended Days
Mike Kennedy	10 Extended Days
Madeline Matson	3 Extended Days
Nancy Rouse	10 Extended Days
Caroline Slone	10 Extended Days
Janelle Sowders	10 Extended Days
Emily Styles	15 Extended Days
Britany Utley	10 Extended Days
Lara Walker	10 Extended Days
Whitney Walker	10 Extended Days

k) Approval of Payment – Certified Staff Members*

Its recommend that the board approve payment to the following certified staff members who will perform duties outside of the regular work schedule, effective August 1, 2026 through August 15, 2026:

Brenna Miller	**ELA Summer Work**	**$26.00/hr.**
Cherie Applebury	**ELA Summer Work**	**$26.00/hr.**
Forrest Walker	**ELA Summer Work**	**$26.00/hr.**
Lara Walker	**ELA Summer Work**	**$26.00/hr.**
Nakhira Jones	**ELA Summer Work**	**$26.00/hr.**

l) Consideration of New / Revised Policies*

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

1422.02 Rescind	NONDISCRIMINATION BASED ON GENETIC INFORMATION OF THE EMPLOYEE
1662 Rescind	ANTI-HARASSMENT
3122.02 Rescind	NONDISCRIMINATION BASED ON GENETIC INFORMATION OF THE EMPLOYEE
3362 Rescind	ANTI-HARASSMENT
4122 Replacement	NONDISCRIMINATION, EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY, AND ANTI- HARASSMENT
4122.02 Rescind	NONDISCRIMINATION, EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY, AND ANTI- HARASSMENT
4362 Rescind	ANTI-HARASSMENT
7541 Rescind	ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN
9270	EQUIVALENT EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE SCHOOLS & PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR FOR STUDENTS NOT ENROLLED IN THE DISTRICT

m) Approval of Agreement- Springfield Township, SRO*

The Board approved the following agreement:

Finneytown Local School District with Springfield Township to provide a certified law enforcement officer to act as a resource for law enforcement duties at Finneytown Local School District for the 2026-2027 school year at a cost of $60,480.00.

n) Recognition of District Support Organizations*

It is recommended that the Board recognize the following District Support Organizations:

Finneytown Athletic Boosters
Finneytown Elementary PTA
Finneytown Music Parents Association
Finneytown Schools Educational Foundation
Finneytown Secondary PTA

Additionally, it is recommended that the Board recognize the **Finneytown Athletic Association and Finneytown Alumni Network** as an Official Community Partner.

o) Approval of Contracts – One Year Retired/Rehired Certifed (St. Xavier)*

The Board approved two year limited contracts for the following retired/rehired administrator, effective August 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027:

Michelle Yauss Intervention Specialist

RC: Mr. Engleman, Yes; Ms. Laird, Yes; Mr. Plaut, Yes; Ms. Catanzaro, Yes; and, Mr. Reeb, Yes. With all Ayes, the motion passed.

065-26 Ms. Laird moved, seconded by Mr. Engleman that the Board approve **Contracts – One Year Limited Classified***

The Board approved one year limited contracts for the following classified staff members, effective August 17, 2026 through May 28, 2027:

Hopkins	Jonathan	Educational Aide	FSC
Owens	Diandre	Educational Aide	FSC
Plaut	Grace	Educational Aide	FSC
Smith	Andrenee	Educational Aide	FSC
Weiler	Michael	Study Hall	FSC

RC: Ms. Laird, Yes; Mr. Reeb, Yes; Ms. Catanzaro, Yes; Mr. Plaut, Abstain; and, Mr. Engleman, Yes. With majority Ayes, the motion passed.

066-26 Mr. Engleman moved, seconded by Mr. Plaut that the Board **Adopt Resolution SELECTING ELEVAR DESIGN GROUP, INC. AS DESIGN PROFESSIONAL AND AUTHORIZING NEGOTIATION AND EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT FOR THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

The Superintendent recommended Elevar Design Group, Inc. (the "Design Professional") as the most qualified firm to serve as the design professional and to provide the design and related construction administration services for the Capital Improvements Project (the "Project"). The Superintendent and Treasurer also request authority to negotiate and execute an agreement with the Design Professional for those services.

Rationale:

1. The Board requires a design professional to provide the design and related construction administration services for the Project.
2. Sections 153.65 through .71 of the Ohio Revised Code prescribes a qualifications-based selection process, which is required to be followed by public entities when design professional services are needed.
3. In accordance with the statutory process, the District publicly advertised and issued a request for qualifications for design professional services. Three firms submitted statements of qualifications in response to the request for qualifications for the Project.
4. The evaluation committee evaluated the statements of qualifications in accordance with the criteria outlined in the request for qualifications, and ranked the top three firms in the following order: (1) Design Professional, (2) McGill Smith Punshon, Inc., and (3) Levin Porter Associate, Inc.; thus the evaluation committee determined the Design Professional to be the most qualified to perform the design and construction administration services for the Project.
5. The Design Professional has proposed pricing for its services for the Project in the amount of $906,000.00, which is comprised of a not-to-exceed basic services fee of $897,000.00 that includes, among other services, surveying and geotechnical engineering, and reimbursable expenses in the not-to-exceed amount of $9,000.00.
6. Based on the ranking and recommendation of the evaluation committee, the Superintendent recommends that the Board select the Design Professional as the firm most qualified to perform the design and related construction administration services for the Project.
7. The Superintendent and Treasurer also request authority to negotiate an agreement with the Design Professional for the design and related construction administration services for the Project and to execute the agreement on the Board's behalf at the satisfactory conclusion of negotiations in an amount not-to-exceed $906,000.

The Board of Education resolves as follows:

1. Based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board adopts the ranking provided by the evaluation committee and selects Design Professional as the firm most qualified to perform the design and related construction administration services for the Project.

2. The Board authorizes the Superintendent and Treasurer, working with other administrators and legal counsel, to negotiate and execute an agreement with the Design Professional to perform the design and related construction administration services for the Project in an amount not-to-exceed $906,000.00, which the Board believes is fair and reasonable, and to execute any other related documents consistent with the intent of this resolution on the Board's behalf.

RC: Mr. Plaut, Yes; Mr. Reeb, Yes; Ms. Catanzaro, Yes; Mr. Engleman, Yes; and Ms. Laird, Yes. With all Ayes, the motion passed.

067-26 Mr. Engleman moved, seconded by Mr. Plaut that the Board approve Certfied and Classified Substitute Rates:

The Board approved the following rates for Certified and Classified Substitutes:
Daily Substitute Teacher - $110
Daily Building Substitute Teacher - $130
Daily Long-term Substitute Teacher - $130
Daily Substitute Educational Aide - $15 hourly
Substitute Secretary - $16 hourly Substitute

RC: Mr. Reeb, Yes; Ms. Catanzaro, Yes; Mr. Engleman, Yes; Ms. Laird, Yes; and, Mr. Plaut Yes. With all Ayes, the motion passed.

068-26 Ms. Laird moved, seconded by Mr. Plaut that the Board accept **Notification of Change Orders:**

The following change orders were presented for Board of Education notification: updates include interior finish revisions, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing modifications, utility and infrastructure improvements, site and structural coordination, code compliance adjustments, project scheduling updates related to weather and construction coordination, testing and commissioning revisions, and other design refinements necessary to support project completion and long-term building performance.
This covers Change Orders 038 to 050.

RC: Mr. Engleman, Yes; Ms. Laird, Yes; and, Mr. Plaut Yes; Mr. Reeb, Yes; and, Ms. Catanzaro, Yes. With all Ayes, the motion passed.

The next regular meeting of the Finneytown Board of Education will take Place on Monday, August 17, 2026 in the Brent Board Office Meeting Room, 8791 Brent Drive Cincinnati, OH 45231. Open forum will begin at 6:00pm.

069-26 There being no further business, Ms. Laird moved and Mr. Plaut seconded that the meeting be adjourned. By consensus, the meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Seth Plaut, President

ATTEST:

Anita E. Ruffin, Treasurer