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

The Finneytown Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, August 17, 2026, in the Brent Board Meeting Room, 8791 Brent Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45231. Mr. Engleman, Ms. Laird, Mr. Plaut, and Mr. Reeb were present. The President called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

076-26 Mr. Plaut moved, seconded by Ms. Laird that the Board approve the **Agenda as amended to include Item 4 Revision)** Waive the Reading of the Minutes and Approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of July 20, 2026, the Special Meeting of July 25, 2026**, and the Special Meeting of August 13, 2026;** replace **Item 11- Announcements with New Item 11- Approval of Resolution approved a tax increment financing exemption pursuant to ORC 5709.73(c);** and, insert **Item 12- School Compensation Agreement (Whitaker Project)**. With all Ayes, the motion passed.

077-26 Mr. Engleman moved, seconded by Mr. Plaut that the Board **Waive the Reading of the Minutes and Approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of July 20, 2026, the Special Meeting of July 25, 2026 and the Special Meeting of August 13, 2026.**

Administrative Report

Facilities Update

Mr. Anderson, Director of Business Operations, shared that the construction project has reached its one-year milestone and remains on track for a second-semester opening, with the building now enclosed and HVAC systems operational. Work is currently focused on window installation and the setup of major kitchen equipment, supported by minor acceleration measures like Saturday overtime. Duke Energy has finalized essential power upgrades, providing dual feeds for future-proofing, while the new facility will utilize a natural gas generator for critical systems. A pending board-approved change order addresses security needs by adding a required hand railing and four new vehicle gates to restrict campus traffic. Finally, a newly completed driveway and parking area behind the gym will serve construction crews during the day and provide event parking in the evenings.

Public Address

Michael Hamel

Mr. Hamel urged focus on core academics, critical thinking, and leadership, while expressing concern over social media and ideological influences. He called for decisive action rather than multi-year plans.

Lee Harrill
Mr. Harrill disclosed filing a formal state complaint regarding ESY eligibility and caseloads but expressed optimism about new special education leadership. They proposed establishing a Special Education Advisory Committee to improve transparency and family engagement.

Board Coordination Matters

Board Members Reports

Mr. James Reeb Jr.
Mr. Reeb shared he and Ms. Catanzaro met to draft Ms. Ruffin's evaluation and are finalizing the document to distribute to board. After receiving input from additional board members, an executive session is planned to review the evaluation with Ms. Ruffin. Additionally, Mr. Reeb expressed gratitude for the recent work retreat, which he found to be a valuable experience.

Mr. Chad Engleman
Mr. Engleman reported that the Finneytown Alumni Network (FAN) recently held their quarterly award meeting, where they discussed their ongoing finances, the Legacy Project fundraising, and the implementation of new software infrastructure to support these efforts. In addition to these initiatives, the network is organizing a fall golf event and has provided sizable grants to other school district support organizations to help alleviate their financial stress. For more detailed information on these activities and upcoming events, FAN encourages everyone to visit their website or social media channels.

Ms. Maggie Laird
Ms. Laird reported that she attended a Zoom meeting for the athletic association, where they discussed fall sports logistics, site challenges, and the search for new, affordable financial software. Additionally, she highlighted the significant behind-the-scenes volunteer efforts of support organizations, noting that members contributed over 50 hours each during the month of July.

Mr. Seth Plaut
Mr. Plaut announced that the Legacy Dinner at the Grove is scheduled for September 26th. He also promoted the Crusaders youth football program, noting that their first home game takes place Saturday, August 22 at 1:00 PM. Additionally, he encouraged community support for the Boosters, who are seeking volunteers for concessions and new memberships following a successful fall kickoff. He confirmed that the board is ready to adopt the 15th revision of the strategic plan that is centered on student growth, community involvement, and fiscal responsibility. This plan utilizes SMART goals with assigned teams and specific deadlines to ensure accountability and progress.

078-26 Mr. Engleman moved, seconded by Mr. Plaut that the Board adopt **the Strategic Plan.**

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

079-26 Mr. Plaut moved, seconded by Mr. Engleman that the Board adopt the Board Handbook.

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

080-26 Mr. Plaut moved, seconded by Ms. Laird that the Board adopt the **Treasurer's Consent Calendar** as follows:

The Board adopted the Treasurer's "Consent Calendar". All items appearing with an asterisk (*) after the title constitute the "Consent Calendar" and were adopted by one single motion.

a) Monthly Financial Report*

b) Depository and Investment Balances as of July 31, 2026*

U.S. Bank	0.00900%	$ 3,271,031.03
STAR Ohio (construction #1)	3.8200%	$ 1,441,966.45
STAR Ohio	3.8200%	$ 25,209,778.50
STAR Ohio (construction #2)	3.8200%	$ 3,398,698.41
STAR Ohio (OFCC local share)	3.8200%	$ 157,946.78
STAR Ohio (OFCC state share)	3.8200%	$ 10,179.712.51

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

General Fund 001	$ 83,626.02
Construction Fund 004	$ 18,550.42
Classroom Facilities Fund 010	$ 14,805.85

d) Monthly Bond Project Spending and Commitment Report*

e) Financial Forecast*

f) Approve Payment- FY27*

The Board approved payment of the following invoice(s) for purchases that were made prior to the issuance of a valid purchase order:

DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
07/27/2026	AP Global Insurance SIC Master Cyber Policy 07/01/26- 06/30/27	$ 4,000
07/20/2026	Hamilton/ Clemont Coop Technology Platforms	$52,852.37

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

081-26 Mr. Plaut moved, seconded by Ms. Laird that the Board adopt the **Superintendent's Consent Calendar as follows:**

The Board of Education in adopted the Superintendent's "Consent Calendar." All items appearing with an asterisk (*) after the title constitute the "Consent Calendar" and were adopted by one single motion.

a) Acknowledgement of Resignations*

The Board acknowledged the following resignations, which have been previously accepted by the Superintendent:

Matt George	Teacher effective July 23,2026	(personal)
Carrie Klus	Tutor at St. Vivian effective July 31, 2026	(personal)

b) Approval of Contracts – One Year Limited Classified*

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

Tiffany Geier	Special Education Aide
Shelly Keating	Education Aide

Kara Keipert	Education Aide
Olivia Perkis	Education Aide
Emonnie Tubbs	Education Aide
Naizsa Withrow	Special Education Aide
John Zimmermann	Education Aide

c) Approval of Payment - Technology Support*

The Board approved payment to the following supplemental contract, effective August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2027:

Al Bolton Technology Support $25/ hr. (Not to exceed 10 hrs. per week)

d) Approval of Payment - Treasurer's Office Accounting Support*

The Board approved the following Treasurer's Office support pay rate for FY27:

Lawrence Loos Accounting Support $27/ hr.

e) Approval of Payment- Full-time Tutors (St. Vivian)*

The Board approved payment for the following full-time tutors, effective August 1, 2026 thru June 30, 2027:

Katherine Weigand Full-time Tutor at St. Vivian $32.78

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

The Board adopted 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:

1. The time and distance required to provide the transportation
2. The number of pupils to be transported
3. The cost of providing transportation in terms of equipment, maintenance, personnel, and administration
4. Whether similar or equivalent service is provided to other pupils eligible for transportation
5. Whether and to what extent the additional service unavoidably disrupts current transportation schedules
6. 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:

Elijah and Vivian Blom (Thomas Blom, parent)

Milo Carraher (Natalie Carraher, parent)

Margaret Crowell (Sarah Crowell, parent)

Bailey, Bella, Brock and Bryson Rutledge (Brock Rutledge, parent)

Zion Sydnor (Heather Sydnor, parent)

Isabelle Yanez (Gabriella Yanez, parent)

g) 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 July 20, 2026:

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
4122.02 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

h) Change Order – Bulletin #18*

Recommendation: Approve Change Order associated with Bulletin #18 for the Finneytown Secondary Campus project in the amount of **$106,441.**

Background:
Bulletin #18 includes modifications to the site work associated with Alternate #17, as well as additional safety improvements requested by the District. The modifications are necessary to improve student safety and site circulation.

The original Alternate #17 included **7,572 square feet of sidewalk at $9.85 per square foot, for a total of $74,592**. The modified sidewalk configuration included in Bulletin #18 is more efficient and reduces the unit cost to **$8.32 per square foot**.

Cost Summary:

Bulletin #18 Item	**Cost**
Modified Alternate #17 sidewalks – student safety	$70,530
Modified Alternate #17 handrail changes – student safety	$9,468
Additional owner-requested vehicular gates – student safety	$20,344
Subtotal	**$100,342**
GC mark-ups	$6,099
Total Bulletin #18 Cost	**$106,441**
Less: Original Alternate #17	**($74,592)**
Net Adjustment to Change Order	**$31,849**

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

082-26 Mr. Reeb moved, seconded by Mr. Plaut that the Board approve the **Substitute Teachers Provided by Comprehensive Substitute Solution**s:

The Board approved the following substitute teachers who are employed by Comprehensive Substitute Solutions and may be assigned to fill absences for the Finneytown Local School District, effective August 17, 2026:

Amann, Michael
Ayler, Charles
Baldock, Jason
Binford, Cornelia
Blum, Kathy
Campbell, Taylor
Campbell-Goodman, Steven
Casada, Abigail
Champion-Hughes, Bianca
Chebure, Andrew
Cook, Gary
Copeland, David
Denmark, Christina
Douglas, Harold
Earhart, Olivia
Fisk, Summer
Gentry, Jennifer
Gibson, Veronda (Vee)
Giffin, David
Gray, Kiara
Grosser, Mary
Haarlammert, Stephanie
Hall, Dennis
Hardy, Diane
Hartman, Ronald
Hawkins-Hyde, Kellie
Howard, Elaine
Howard, Shirl
Hunter, Toccara
James, Simon
Jenkins, Derrick
Johnson, Gila
Karle, Gail
Kaufman, Fletcher
Kelley-Gerton, Lisa
Kennedy, Angel
Kreiner, Joel
Lalley, Teresa
Lowitz, Terry
Madriz, Gabriela
Madry, Thomas
Martin, Artis
Maxam, William
McAdow, Emma
Mcclendon, Jada
Miles, Linda
Monhollon, Leah
Ostenkamp, Dorothy
Page, Candace
Phipps, Marilyn
Pittman, Felicia
Pollington, Connie
Powell, Christina
Price, Tanya
Redburn, Jalen
Richey, Sheila
Robinson, Marilyn
Ruffner, Sara
Sanders, Alex
Schnur, Bethany
Shaw Phyllis
Sheridan, Elissa
Simpson, Estacia

Sooy, Victoria	Thorman, Joanna	Weiler, Michael
Tennyson, Emma	Turner, Estalle	Wise, Donnise
Thomas, Nyla	Washington, Autumn	Witcher, Diana
Thompson, Saige	Watson, Kendall	Yisrael, Nesyah

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

083-26 Mr. Plaut moved, seconded by Ms. Laird that the Board approve the **RESOLUTION APPROVING A TAX INCREMENT FINANCING EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 5709.73(C); WAIVING ALL REQUIRED STATUTORY NOTICE PERIODS; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SCHOOL COMPENSATION AGREEMENT, AND PROVIDING RELATED AUTHORIZATIONS.**

WHEREAS, Sections 5709.73 et seq. of the Ohio Revised Code permit townships to authorize tax increment financing real property tax exemptions for improvements declared to be for a public purpose, which exemptions exempt from real property taxation the increase in the assessed value of the parcels of property after the effective date of the resolution granting such exemptions; and

WHEREAS, Section 5709.74 of the Ohio Revised Code further authorizes a township to require owners of improvements subject to a tax increment financing real property tax exemption to make semi-annual payments to the township in lieu of real property taxes ("Service Payments in Lieu of Taxes"), which payments are approximately equivalent to the amount of real property taxes which would be payable on the increase in the assessed value of the parcels of property but for the exemption; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 177-25, passed on December 15, 2025, the Board of Education of the School District previously authorized a Real Estate Transfer Agreement with the Township related to the Exempted Property (the "Real Estate Transfer Agreement"), whereby title to the Exempted Property will be conveyed to the Township in order for the Township (through its CIC) to facilitate the development of the Exempted Property for the benefit of all parties and the general public and further setting forth the terms by which the Township has agreed to reimburse the purchase price of $1,224,670 to the School District over time utilizing excess TIF funds; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a letter dated December 30, 2025, the Township of Springfield, Hamilton County, Ohio (the "Township") notified the Board of Education of the Finneytown Local School District (the "School District") of its intent to grant an exemption from real property taxation at a rate of one hundred percent (100%) for a period of thirty (30) years (the "TIF Exemption"), as authorized by Section 5709.73(C) of the Ohio Revised Code, for improvements to certain real property located within the boundaries of the Township and the School District, which such real property is described in **Exhibit A** of the School Compensation Agreement (each as defined herein) (the "Exempted Property"); and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Sections 5709.73, 5709.75, and 5709.82 (the "Township TIF Statutes") permit the Board of Trustees of the Township and the Board of Education of the School District to enter into the School Compensation Agreement (Whitaker Project) attached hereto in substantially the form of **Exhibit B** (the "School Compensation Agreement") in order for the Township to distribute Service Payments in Lieu of Taxes to the School District pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5709.75(C)(1) in an amount equal to the real property taxes that the School District would have received but for the TIF Exemption with respect to the Exempted Property; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Education of the School District intends to approve the TIF Exemption pursuant to the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Section 5709.73(D) on the condition that the Township enter into the School Compensation Agreement set forth herein, and with the understanding that the disbursements pursuant to the School Compensation Agreement will be in addition to (and not in lieu of) any payments made to the School District pursuant to the terms of the Real Estate Transfer Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. This Board of Education hereby approves and consents to the authorization of the TIF Exemption with respect to the Exempted Property and further authorizes and directs the President of this Board of Education, the Superintendent, the Treasurer, and their appropriate designees, each together or individually, to further evidence such approval and consent by executing any and all documents necessary to give effect the TIF Exemption, subject to (i) the execution of the School Compensation Agreement, and (ii) the terms of an executed Real Estate Transfer Agreement with the Township. Such execution on behalf of this Board of Education by the President of this Board of Education, the Superintendent, or the Treasurer, and their appropriate designees, each together or individually, shall constitute conclusive evidence of this Board of Education's approval of any such documents.

Section 2. This Board of Education hereby waives all applicable notice and waiting requirements applicable to the TIF Exemption, including, without limitation, the notice requirements of Ohio Revised Code Sections 5709.73, 5709.83, and other generally applicable Ohio law, and specifically the forty-five (45) business day and fourteen (14) day notice periods described in those Sections and waives any defects or irregularities relating to the authorization of the TIF Exemption.

Section 3. Pursuant to the Township TIF Statutes and Ohio Revised Code Section 5709.83, this Board of Education hereby directs the Treasurer of this Board of Education, together with their appropriate designees, to certify and deliver a copy of this Resolution to the Board of Trustees of the Township not later than fourteen (14) days prior to the date the Board of Trustees of the Township intends to authorize the TIF Exemptions.

Section 4. This Board of Education hereby authorizes and directs the Superintendent, Treasurer, and Board President, individually or in any combination, together with their designees, to execute, acknowledge and deliver in the name and on behalf of this Board of Education, the following:

(i) The School Compensation Agreement substantially in the form of **Exhibit B** attached hereto, together with such changes thereto not inconsistent with this Resolution and not substantially adverse to the School District as may be permitted by the officials executing such agreement on behalf of the School District. The approval of such changes by the Superintendent, Treasurer, and Board President and that such changes are not substantially adverse to the School District shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution of the School Compensation Agreement by such officers.

Section 5. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board of Education concerning and pertaining to the adoption of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board of Education, and that all deliberations of the Board of Education, and any of its committees, that resulted in such formal action were taken in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 6. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect on August 17, 2026 and shall remain in effect until such time as this Board of Education, by subsequent, written resolution, determines to rescind this Resolution.

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

084-26 Mr. Engleman moved, seconded by Mr. Reeb that the Board approve **THE SCHOOL COMPENSATION AGREEMENT (WHITAKER PROJECT).**

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

The next regular meeting of the Finneytown Board of Education will take place on Monday, September 21, 2026, Brent Board Office Meeting Room, 8791 Brent Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45231. Open forum will begin at 6:00 pm.

085-26 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