

**Board of Education Meeting
October 11, 2010**

The Board of Education of the Findlay City Schools met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in the Gymnasium at Lincoln Elementary School.

President Hoffman called the meeting to order. Present were: Mrs. Dysinger, Mr. Hoffman, Mrs. Lockard, Mr. Pochard, Mr. Shrader, Superintendent Wittwer and Treasurer Barnhart.

CELEBRATIONS

Welcome to the students from the University of Findlay who are observing the Community Forum!

Lincoln Principal, Barbara Peterson celebrated her staff. Student achievement is Lincoln's focus this year.

Mrs. Lockard celebrated the Findlay High School marching band on their superior rating.

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

Cathy Zellner from RCM Architects presented the newest renderings of Glenwood and Donnell.

Dr. Wittwer, Mr. Kupferberg, Nancy Allison and Nate Weihrauch gave updates on the upcoming middle school transition.

COMMUNITY FORUM

There was a review of goals and ground rules for the forum.

Public Participation

1. Concern regarding when Donnell and Glenwood are completed what happens when the students get sent back to their building, will they be divided again?
 - Mr. Kupferberg explained that during the second transition year they will try to place students with the teacher they will be with in the new building. The plan is that students will remain with the same teachers and both students and teachers will change buildings together.
2. Will all grade level students be with each other in one building during the transition?
 - Mr. Kupferberg explained that all 7th graders will be at Glenwood and the 6th and 8th grade students will be placed in Central. Once the new buildings are ready, they will both be 6th, 7th and 8th grade middle schools.
3. On the athletic teams at Central when there are two, how will you divide them up?
 - The transition team has not finalized that yet.
4. On the new uniforms for next year at the middle schools, will they be Trojans Blue and Gold and will they be used after the transition years.
 - Mr. Marcum stated they will all become Trojans next year. If there are three teams they will be Findlay White, Findlay Blue, and Findlay Gold. Once the new schools are open they will become Glenwood Trojans and Donnell Trojans.
5. Will the students still have all the same opportunities as they do now?
 - Mr. Weihrauch stated it will all be based on numbers. The transition team hopes there will be as many or more opportunities for students.
6. Would you consider no cuts at the middle school level?
 - Dr. Wittwer stated that the transition team is not to that point yet. They will not know that until we see how many students actually try out. With declining enrollment, the numbers could be lower.
7. I see that the need for some supplemental positions will decrease. What will you do with that money?
 - The number of supplemental positions is evaluated every year.
8. I understand that under the transition year you may need those supplemental positions but what about when the schools open?
 - We may not need the same number of coaches but we may need something else. We take a look at supplemental positions every year. There is a lot of dialogue that has to happen to get the best possible coaches in the positions available.
9. What are the teams names going to be next year.
 - Findlay Gold, Findlay Blue and Findlay White if there are three.
10. What is the special meeting tomorrow night?
 - To meet with the city for the after school life of the Central Middle School building.

11. Have you given any more consideration in asking the students about the mascot change?
 - Mrs. Lockard responded by saying although we did not take a student vote, we did, for about two months ask for public input on the mascots. We did an informal poll of our coaches and 95% of the coaches wanted to go to the Trojans. We took the input we did receive. In addition to The Courier we talked about it many times in our public board meetings. Mrs. Dysinger said many people were passionate about both. Keeping Glenwood and Donnell building names to preserve traditions and moving toward the future with new mascots seemed to be the best of both worlds.
12. Is there any chance you would make the teams less generic?
 - Findlay Blue, Findlay White and Findlay Gold are names for the transitions years, then they will become Glenwood Trojans and Donnell Trojans.

A comment was made by a community member that she didn't know board meetings were open to the public, and word needs to get out that they are open to the public.

13. What will happen if the buildings are not done in January 2013?
 - If the buildings are finished Dr. Wittwer said he would recommend we move in then. If not, the 8th graders will not get the opportunity to be in the new buildings. If there is a glitch in the building process and we cannot move in, we would address that then.
14. Is it educationally sound to do it in January?
 - That is something we are talking about with our staff.
15. You have mentioned several times that the teachers will transition with the students. Will they be split into teaching teams so when they move the teacher goes with them or will they be split again after the move?
 - Dr. Wittwer stated the transition team is working very hard to be sure that the teams of teachers and students will move together.
16. I believe you need to reconsider the mascots again. Atoms are the only Atoms in the United States.
 - Mr. Hoffman stated the mascot will NOT be called little Trojans or junior Trojans. Remember there will be no Spartans either way. Should we not be Trojans at all? I understand your question. We are the Findlay Trojans and sometimes our opponents go to the lowest common denominator to try to beat us but our response is to just crush them on the field.
17. We have a bullying issue in our schools now. We have several cases of bullying and we will have more bullying because of what they are called.
 - Dr. Wittwer stated we take bullying very seriously at Findlay City Schools. Those situations happen outside of school. We know that middle school students make good choices and some bad choices. We will not comment on situations that are in the hands of the police. We do not tolerate it and we continue to in-service our staff. We cannot control the TV media and we have had conversations with them about the bullying issues. Mrs. Dysinger stated that a program called Second Step will be implemented into our schools. Teachers and students will learn this new process.

Dr. Wittwer reminded everyone of the contractor open house December 9th at 3:00 p.m. He also extended an invitation to the October 12th meeting regarding a conversation with the city and the county about what happens to Central. It will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Central Middle School's auditorium.

Mrs. Dysinger thanked the members of the transition teams. She stated they made her realize when people sit down to figure something out that seems extremely difficult they manage to figure it out.

Mr. Hoffman thanked everyone for participating in the Open Forum.

2010-10-001 ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Dysinger, seconded by Mr. Shrader to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Roll call: Mrs. Dysinger, aye; Mr. Shrader, aye; Mr. Hoffman, aye; Mrs. Lockard, aye; Mr. Pochard, aye. President Hoffman declared the motion carried.

President

Treasurer

Read and approved October 25, 2010.