

**Board of Education Meeting
March 23, 2009**

The Board of Education of the Findlay City Schools met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria at Donnell Middle School.

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

CELEBRATIONS

Mrs. Dysinger celebrated Donnell Middle School. She also celebrated the fact that seven teachers from Findlay City Schools were finalists for the Golden Apple Award this year!

Don Williams celebrated his staff members for the wonderful job they have been doing. Donnell has special evening events for their parents and have been very pleased with the participation. The PTO does an outstanding job!

Mr. Pochard celebrated Les Miserables. He stated this was just another example of the excellent things Findlay students are doing. He also congratulated all the winter sports athletes who did so well during the season this year.

Mr. Shrader celebrated all the National Honor Society inductees. He stated it is a great honor and tradition and he was impressed with how many students were inducted.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

FEA President Dee Groman congratulated ECLIPSe grant recipients; thanked the staff for their involvement with professional development; stated that the students were excited about there being ten days until spring break, but only fourteen more instructional days until OAT testing; anticipated a smooth ending to the school year; and noted the next roundtable is scheduled for April 28 and they would be looking at next years' supplemental contracts.

2009-03-006 Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Mrs. Lockard, seconded by Mr. Shrader to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on March 9, 2009.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Wittwer shared proposals from auctioneers concerning the old Washington school building.

Mr. Barnhart presented letters regarding tonight's bid awards, and a waiver form for an exit conference concerning the financial audit.

CONSENT ITEMS

2009-03-007 Consent Items A-I

It was moved by Mr. Pochard, seconded by Mr. Hoffman to approve Consent Items A-I as follows:

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

A. Leaves of Absence (will use paid sick leave, if available)

The superintendent recommends that leaves of absence be granted to the following certificated personnel:

Heather Bryan (FHS, Science)
Effective: Feb. 17 - Feb. 20, 2009 and Feb. 27, 2009
Reason: FMLA

Jill Erford (Lincoln, Kindergarten)
Effective: Feb. 19 - April 3, 2009
Reason: FMLA

Nicole Fort (Wilson Vance, Grade 5)
Effective: Feb. 24 - April 21, 2009
Reason: FMLA

B. Leaves of Absence (without pay)

The superintendent recommends that leaves of absence, without pay, be granted to the following certificated personnel:

Jill Erford (Lincoln, Kindergarten)
Effective: April 4 - April 17, 2009
Reason: Extended FMLA

Janelle Feasel (Jefferson, Grade 2)
Effective: March 26 - March 27, 2009
Reason: Personal

Rachael Hertel (Jacobs, Special Education)
Effective: March 23 - April 3, 2009
Reason: Extended FMLA

C. Appointments

The superintendent recommends approval of the following appointments, at salaries in accordance with the adopted salary schedule, and contingent upon subsequent receipt by the Board of a report from B.C.I. which is not inconsistent with the applicant's answers on the employment application:

1. Curriculum Writing @ \$20.68/hour - Sherri Federici (3 hours)
2. Home Instructor, Step 0 @ \$20.68/hour - Denise Sheehe
3. Lincoln's Block Grant At-Risk Reading Tutoring Stipend - Norma Hottinger @ \$1,725.00
(To be paid from 001-1910-141-2008-000000-248)
4. Supplemental Duty Assignment
Jennifer Romantic - Central, asst. 7th & 8th grade girls' track coach @ \$1,745.86

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL (D thru F)

D. Resignations

The superintendent recommends that the following resignations be accepted:

Carolyn Salisbury (Glenwood, Food Service Worker)	(9 years)
Reason: Personal	Eff: March 23, 2009
Lynn Kuznicki (Washington, Secretary)	(8 years)
Reason: Relocation	Eff: June 10, 2009

E. Leave of Absence (will use paid sick time if available)

The superintendent recommends that the following leave of absence be granted to the following classified personnel:

Kathleen Tooman (FHS, Food Service Worker)
Effective: Jan. 24 - March 16, 2009
Reason: FMLA

F. Appointments

The superintendent recommends approval of the following appointments, at salaries in accordance with the adopted salary schedule, and contingent upon subsequent receipt by the Board of a report from B.C.I. which is not inconsistent with the applicant's answers on the employment application:

1. Grounds Position
Shawn Gibson
Salary: Base 1 @ \$14.38/hour
Effective: April 1, 2009
2. Substitute and/or Per Diem Employees
Naomi Davis - substitute food service worker @ \$8.61/hour
Matt Long - substitute noon hour monitor @ \$8.67/hour
3. Supplemental Duty Assignment - Non-Certificated Personnel

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provision of the Ohio Revised Code 3313.53, the duly appointed representatives of the Findlay Board of Education have offered the following extra-duty position, listed below, to the certificated employees of the district and have advertised the position to certificated personnel not employed by the district, and

WHEREAS, no qualified certificated individual has been found for this position,

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Findlay Board of Education hereby deems it appropriate to employ non-certificated personnel for the specified position for a period not to exceed one (1) year and that the compensation shall be according to the adopted salary schedule for said position:

Jen Williams - Central, head track coach @ \$2,060.43

G. Resolution Accepting Tax Rates

The superintendent recommends approval of the resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor, (this is a corrected copy from March 9, 2009 Agenda which was shown as Exhibit C) and now shown as EXHIBIT A.

H. Resolution for State Consent to Issue Bonds

The treasurer recommends the approval of the Resolution Requesting State Consent to Issue Bonds of the school district; and to submit questions of such issuance to the electors. (see EXHIBIT B)

I. Division of Liquor Control Permit Transfer

The superintendent recommends that the Board of Education request the Division of Liquor Control document show our objection to the issuance of this permit but we will not request a hearing, as shown in EXHIBIT C.

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

ACTION ITEMS

2009-03-008 Acceptance of ECLIPSe Grant

It was moved by Mr. Shrader, seconded by Mrs. Lockard to approve the superintendent's recommendation for acceptance of the ECLIPSe Grant from The Findlay/Hancock County Community Foundation for \$500.00 to Paul Waldman and Jeff Walton to the Millstream Career & Technology Center Electric Vehicle Project, as shown in EXHIBIT D.

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

2009-03-009 Acceptance of ECLIPSe Grant

It was moved by Mr. Shrader, seconded by Mrs. Lockard to approve the superintendent's recommendation for acceptance of the ECLIPSe Grant from The Findlay/Hancock County Community Foundation for \$120.00 to Beth Smith to cover supplies for the Work and Family Class Project, as shown in EXHIBIT E.

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

2009-03-010 Resolutions of Commendation

It was moved by Mr. Hoffman, seconded by Mr. Pochard to approve the superintendent's recommendation for approval of Resolutions of Commendation for Findlay City Schools' staff members who recently presented training sessions for the District's "Professional Learning Community" professional development programs:

February 16 - Tony Fenstermaker, Laura Julien, Karen Ouwenga, Anne Potteiger, Linda Savieo, Lora Trout, and Tami Wallace

March 4 - Laura Almond, Peter Brooks, Barb Duval, Lisa Hazen, Laura Julien, Melissa Heydinger, Tim Irvin, and Tami Wallace

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

2009-03-011 April Board Meeting

It was moved by Mr. Pochard, seconded by Mr. Shrader to approve the superintendent's recommendation to move the Board's April 13th business meeting to April 20th at Wilson Vance Intermediate School.

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

2009-03-012 Acceptance of Bid for FHS Tennis Courts

It was moved by Mr. Shrader, seconded by Mr. Hoffman to approve the superintendent's recommendation for the acceptance of the low bid from Bluffton Paving in the amount of \$111,204.00 for the refurbishing of the Findlay High School Tennis Courts Project as well as the alternate bid of \$23,970.40 for parking lot work.

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

2009-03-013 Acceptance of Bid for Flood Mitigation Project

It was moved by Mr. Hoffman, seconded by Mr. Shrader to approve the superintendent's recommendation for the acceptance of the low bids from Hume Supply in the amount of \$96,000.00 for the General Construction; Helms & Associates in the amount of \$51,390.00 for plumbing; and Lake Erie Electric in the amount of \$77,000.00 for electrical work for the Flood Mitigation Project.

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

2009-03-014 Acceptance of Bid for FHS Courtvard Replacement

It was moved by Mr. Pochard, seconded by Mr. Shrader to approve the superintendent's recommendation for the acceptance of the low bids from Muhlenkamp Building in the amount of \$147,581.00 for the General Construction; and Hume Supply in the amount of \$25,742.00 for electrical work related to the Findlay High School Courtyard Replacement Project.

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

REPORTS

There was none.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

There was none.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Dr. Wittwer held all comments for the Community Forum that followed at 7:00 p.m.

BOARD'S COMMENTS

Mr. Shrader wished everyone a relaxing spring break. He also wished the travelers safe travels.

2009-03-015 Executive Session

It was moved by Mrs. Lockard, seconded by Mr. Shrader to go into executive session to discuss purchase of property and employment of personnel at 6:35 p.m.

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

The Board of Education returned to regular session at 6:50 p.m.

10 – Minute Recess to Community Forum – moved to Donnell's upper gym.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/COMMUNITY FORUM

The Board of Education welcomed everyone to the Community Forum!

Review of Ground Rules for the forum by BJ. Fischer (See Power Point)

Introduction of Board Members: Dr. Dean Wittwer, Superintendent; Bruce Miller and Julie Sabourin, Garmann/ Miller; Jerry Murray, RCM Architects; and B.J. Fischer, Facilitator.

Power Point Presentation – (See Power Point Presentation)

- Dr. Wittwer explained the ENP (Exceptional Needs Program) and how Findlay City Schools came to be accepted into the program. He explained that this was the time for the community to take advantage of the flood effects that still exist. Findlay City School board members and administration realize that these are tough economic times but this offer may not come around again. The question isn't ... can we afford to take advantage of the Ohio School Facilities Commission's offer to pay for 32% of the cost for two new middle schools and a new Millstream Career and Technology Center, it is can we afford not to take this opportunity for the long term.

- First and most importantly, we need to address the need to greatly improve safety, security, and educational environment for our students!
- Central would no longer be used as a middle school but would continue to be a part of the Findlay City Schools and for our community for preserving the gym and auditorium, housing school administration offices, digital academy, and alternative school and the other space rented to private business office space. There would be ongoing efforts to secure private partnerships that could help restore and improve the auditorium for the community performances.
- Glenwood and Donnell sites for the new middle school buildings, one on the north side and one on the south side of town were discussed and also putting Millstream at the high school location.
- Going from three middle school buildings to two larger buildings will be more cost effective in utilities, transportation, staffing, and programs and making sure all middle school students have the same educational opportunities in both new facilities.

Bruce Miller and Jerry Murray, District Architects

- Bruce Miller gave an overview of the OSFC program into which Findlay City Schools has been accepted. He stated it was a wonderful opportunity for the citizens of Findlay to receive \$19.1 million from the state.
- Jerry Murray is a Findlay resident and has children in the district. He is extremely mindful of the heritage of our older buildings. The design team will be sure that both new buildings fit in the community environment that currently exists. This wonderful opportunity will never happen again in his career and he is excited to move forward with community input on how to proceed. Findlay students deserve the same educational advantages as the other communities that have new facilities.

Public Participation

1. Bruce Miller was asked if there would be an elevator in the new Donnell building.
 - a. Mr. Miller stated that is a requirement for OFSC. It will be ADA compliant and meet all of OFSC requirements.
2. It was stated that this was a much better design than last time but was the size of two larger middle schools a concern to teachers and administrators.
 - a. Mr. Renn, principal of Central Middle School, stated that he treasured the size of the three small middle schools but he was looking forward to the two new middle schools. With these design plans the teaching environment will be better for the students and teachers. The design allows for a true middle school environment with the encore areas easily accessible to all grade levels.
3. At the new south building, where do the students go outside?
 - a. Mr. Miller stated the green space was available on the left side of the property. Dr. Wittwer stated there is only 17.9 acres available but Donnell always has access to the tennis courts, the park & pond area and the practice football field. There is also the track at the stadium.
4. What happens to the funds set aside for abatement/demo if we choose to sell the properties?
 - a. Mr. Miller stated that you either use it or lose the state portion of those funds. He reminded everyone that these facilities when finished will be turn key. The security, furniture, outside signage, landscaping and tech backbone will be in place.
5. Could the parking lot and green space be switched around?
 - a. Mr. Miller and Dr. Wittwer both stated that these are preliminary designs and that those things will certainly be looked at and neighborhood meetings will be held to discuss issues such as that.
6. During the construction period will the students that currently go to Central remain at Central?
 - a. Dr. Wittwer stated we do not know that for sure. We do know that we will have 500 students at Glenwood and 800 students at Central. The amount of money the district will not have to spend on trailers is a great advantage that Findlay City Schools has over other districts. This expense can cost up to \$1,000,000.
7. How many total classrooms exist now in each building and when you go to two middle schools what will the total number of classrooms be?
 - a. A member of the Community Facilities Committee answered this question. He stated that he personally counted and the number of academic classrooms would be exactly the same when going from three to two middle schools.
8. How many students will be placed in each classroom?
 - a. There will be 25 students per 900 sq. ft. classroom.
9. Why are we focusing on Millstream Career and Technology Center?
 - a. Mrs. Lockard referenced the community survey which showed most community members think we do a good job preparing our students for college but for the students that do not go to college we need to do a better job preparing them for the work force.
 - b. Dr. Wittwer explained that Millstream South was displaced with the movement of Washington Intermediate School to 1100 Broad Ave., formerly Ben Franklin. Millstream Tech is now located in a rented space at 1200 Commerce Parkway.

10. Where will the neighborhood division lines be drawn?
 - a. Dr. Wittwer explained that Transportation Supervisor, Jerri Strait, has proposed up to 14 different possible scenarios using the numbers from 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders this year. They will be the first classes to be affected by this. He has narrowed it down to three and presented those to the community. (see power point)
11. The North Middle School has potential to grow but the building on the Donnell site does not have room for expansion. What happens if more room is needed in the south end? Will the boundaries be changed?
 - a. Dr. Wittwer stated that the land at the Glenwood site allowed for growth and the Donnell site can grow on the west side a little bit. Donnell is a tight urban development and it makes more sense to add an addition on to the north building. The district is not growing, in fact the enrollment is declining. The buildings can house 640 students and we are not expecting the declining enrollment pattern to change. If that would happen they could take a look at the boundary lines.
12. What about the division of elementary schools?
 - a. We are looking very closely at that. Central currently has divided elementary boundaries. Wilson Vance gets divided now. The transportation supervisor is working very hard on this issue.
13. Will both middle schools and the career tech be built at the same time?
 - a. Mr. Miller stated Millstream Tech will likely be started first, then the north building and then the south building. The south building is the most complicated. The bids will be taken about a month apart. The longer it takes the more it will generally cost.
14. What about merging three staffs into two?
 - a. Dr. Wittwer reminded everyone that this process will take about 4 years. During this time we will be mindful of this and through attrition we hope to be able to handle the reduction in staff that will be needed. We need to pass the bond issue first and then focus on the issue of staffing the buildings.
15. What is the physical size of the classrooms?
 - a. Mr. Miller stated that the classroom size would be 30 X 30 approximately 900 sq. ft. We currently do not have any classrooms of this size in our middle schools. The science labs will be 1100 sq. ft. and art rooms approximately 1200 sq. ft. We currently have about 600 sq. ft. per classroom. Mr. Murray said that when we moved the Washington staff and students into a 1969 building they thought they had died and gone to heaven, well when we move from the 1925 building to the 2011 building it will be amazing. He encourages community members to travel to some of the communities that have new buildings and see for themselves the difference this environment makes in the learning process.
16. A Donnell Middle School teacher spoke and said that environment does make a difference in the education your children get. It is hard to learn when it is too cold or too hot. If the lighting is not good or the acoustics are not good, it makes the teaching and learning environment difficult. She stated our students and the children of Findlay deserve new buildings to have the best possible learning environment. This was met with applause.
17. A community member stated that the north building plan looked tremendous, but the south parent drop off was not good.
 - a. Mr. Murray suggested that they continue to hold neighborhood forums so that the residents that live close to the site can have some input on the placement of such things. He stated we need your help as a community to make this the best possible building it can be. The community said that a school must remain on this site so we have to make it work even though it is a challenge.
18. There was concern with traffic down the alley. Will there be too much traffic? Should some of the homes on Baldwin and Lime Street be purchased by the district?
 - a. Mr. Murray stated that the current alley would have to be improved.
19. In the Donnell floor plan there seems to be more special education classrooms. Is this how it will be set up?
 - a. Dr. Wittwer stated that there would be approximately the same square footage in each building and the exact locations of classrooms had not been decided. There would still be bussing if there were only enough students to fill one classroom. The classrooms will be balanced.
20. A community member said he understood the need for new middle schools but was there justification to build the career tech center?
 - a. OSFC money targets the career tech center because of the flood. The goal has been to get all the career tech centers under one roof for a long time and this is the opportunity to do that. When we did a survey last May it said we did a great job at preparing students for college but not so good on those who did not go to college. This is another justification for the new career tech center.
21. Will the county be helping with the cost since the county students attend the career tech center?
 - a. Dr. Wittwer said that Findlay City Schools would be looking into that. In the 1970's Findlay chose not to have a JVS which left it up to Findlay to provide career tech options.

22. How much of the land does the Donnell Foundation own?
 - a. Dr. Wittwer stated that the foundation does not own any of the land. It is Findlay City School property.
23. A Millstream parent spoke and stated that her daughter had graduated from Millstream Career and Technology Center and had to walk back and forth four times a day for classes at the high school and tech center. She was sick all the time. This parent was happy to see plans to make the high school a comprehensive high school to house all the students on one campus.
24. Do two schools opposed to three schools reduce the opportunities for students?
 - a. Dr. Wittwer stated that two middle schools will allow more opportunities for students. They would be able to offer foreign language at the middle school level for example.
25. Will there be more public parking available?
 - a. It will not increase public parking because there will be no new space available. Mr. Murray stated that the community wants to keep the site the way it is.
26. What will happen to Central?
 - a. Dr. Wittwer stated that it was important to have a plan for Central. Several options have been considered but at this time there has been very little interest from the county and city offices. We will move the administrative office, digital academy, and an alternative school back into Central and use the facility with hopes that we can partner with some community organizations to utilize the building space. It is important for the community to have the gym and auditorium.

Jerry Murray asked for a show of hands from those who were excited about this project moving forward. A very positive response was given.

2009-03-016 ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Dysinger, seconded by Mr. Hoffman to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

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

President

Treasurer

Read and approved April 20, 2009.