

**Board of Education Meeting
April 27, 2009**

The Board of Education of the Findlay City Schools met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. in the Library at Wilson Vance Intermediate 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. Lockard celebrated the Golden Apple Award winners: Laura Finney, Chamberlin Hill; Teresa Lambert, Donnell; and Patti Spiegel, Liberty Benton.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

FEA President Dee Groman said the kids are counting down with 22 days left until summer break; noted testing is over for the 4th grade and the challenge is now to keep the kids engaged until the end of the school year; said there is a roundtable meeting on Tuesday; and said she hoped the heat wave would break to make for a better end of the year.

2009-04-012 Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Shrader, seconded by Mr. Pochard to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 20, 2009.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

ACTION ITEMS

2009-04-013 Approval of 2009/2010 FHS Student/Parent Handbook

It was moved by Mr. Pochard, seconded by Mrs. Lockard to approve the superintendent's recommendation for approval of the 2009/2010 Findlay High School Student/Parent Handbook which was presented to the Board of Education at the April 20, 2009 board meeting as Exhibit H.

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

2009-04-014 Resolution to Proceed with the Issue of Bonds

It was moved by Mr. Shrader, seconded by Mr. Hoffman to approve the superintendent's recommendation for approval of the Resolution Determining to Proceed with the Issue of Bonds and Certifying Same to the Board of Elections, as shown in EXHIBIT A, and to be placed on the ballot August 4, 2009.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Dr. Wittwer thanked all the teachers for the time and effort they put into preparing our students for testing. He assured everyone that the principals were taking precautions and addressing the Swine Flu issue.

BOARD'S COMMENTS

There was none.

2009-04-015 Recess to Community Forum

It was moved by Mrs. Lockard, seconded by Mr. Pochard to go into recess at 6:50 p.m.

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

2009-04-016 Resume Regular Session for the Community Forum

It was moved by Mr. Shrader, seconded by Mr. Pochard to resume regular session at 7:00 p.m. for the Community Forum.

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

COMMUNITY FORUM

The Board of Education welcomed everyone to the Community Forum!

Introduction of Board Members: Dr. Dean Wittwer, Superintendent; Jerry Murray, RCM Architects; and B.J. Fischer, Facilitator.

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 not afford 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 preserving the gym and auditorium, housing school administration offices, digital academy, and the other space rented to private businesses. There would be ongoing efforts to secure private partnerships that could help restore and improve the auditorium for the community performances.

Approximately 20 community members attended the forum and their questions and comments are below.

Public Participation:

Do we have additional expenses we are not talking about such as the clean up of Central to be able to put students back in the basement?

Dr. Wittwer stated that we have received FEMA dollars and we have already begun to do flood mediation in the basement of Central Middle School. There are plans to do flood gates and sewer work this summer to help prevent possible flooding in the future.

What about the football field at the Donnell site?

Donnell Stadium will not be touched. Dr. Wittwer presented the map of changes that have been made to the first site plan to show leaving the practice football field as green space. After having a neighborhood meeting with homeowners that live near the school it was suggested that they would like to see the green space left on the east side of the building which is currently the practice football field.

Will the Brownfield near the Glenwood site be cleaned up?

Dr. Wittwer stated that the board is currently in negotiations with the property owner to purchase the land next to Glenwood Middle School. The board and Hancock Regional Planning are also pursuing a grant through the Ohio EPA to pay for the clean up. Mr. Pochard stated that it was important to clean up the site whether or not we build on the land because students walk across it everyday.

If the levy passes, during the transition time where will the students go to school? Will the students that start at Glenwood stay at Glenwood? Will my child have to start middle school twice?

Dr. Wittwer shared that approximately 130 students will go to Glenwood and the rest will be housed at Central. If necessary, Central could hold 1000 students. It appears that approximately 800 will be housed there during the transition time. This could save the district up to \$1,000,000 by not having to purchase trailers to house the students during the building stage. It is important to understand that we will do everything possible to make this transition time as easy for students and parents. Mrs. Dysinger said she understood their concerns because as a mother she would want to know where her children were going to school as well. She assured everyone that the utmost care and consideration would be taken with students. Starting school at Central or Glenwood and ending at Donnell could happen. When it is all finished every middle school student will have a new building. We will have a lot of meetings with parents after this passes.

Will the subdivisions be divided?

Dr. Wittwer stated that we would do our best to keep subdivisions together. Currently, Wilson Vance students are divided between Central and Donnell. We will make every attempt to not have one side of the street go to Glenwood and the other Donnell. Bright Road and Tiffin Avenue could be possible dividing lines. Our transportation director will do everything possible to make this happen. Mrs. Dysinger stated that when you see the maps and they have little dots on them where our current 4th graders live that they are not dots to our transportation director they are students. She cares deeply about each student that she is responsible for transporting.

How will there be room for growth at Donnell?

Mr. Murray stated that Donnell is basically land locked. Mr. Pochard stated that in order to expand in that location we would have to purchase personal property. The statistics show that enrollment is declining. By the time the buildings open the enrollment is projected to be 6,100 students, but should that change there is plenty of room for growth at the Glenwood site. Dr. Wittwer stated if there was a sudden growth spurt in Findlay it would probably be east and if needed we could redraw the boundaries.

Do you anticipate any changes in the estimated cost with the changes at the Donnell site?

Mr. Murray stated that the OSFC cost is based on this moment. What we are seeing in Findlay today is prices to build are down. If we come in under budget then everyone saves. We have no way of knowing if the current rates will stay or change.

Was any thought given to widening Lime Street?

Mr. Shrader stated that at the neighborhood meeting at Donnell there was discussion about making Lime Street one way. There were concerns about the bus drop off. Dr. Wittwer pointed out that the site map bus drop off had been changed to keep the students away from the building. Currently, the students are dropped off at the corner of Liberty and Baldwin and that would remain the same. Mr. Murray stated that they are working very hard on the Donnell site to keep the aesthetics of the building the same. When you look at the front of the new structure it will mimic the old building. It is important to the neighborhood and community to keep the appearance of this neighborhood school. There are limitations using this current site but amenities as well, such as the use of the stadium for the middle school students.

Will you call it Donnell?

Yes, the reason we have been referring to the new building as north and south is so that the community would realize we were talking about two new buildings and not the existing buildings.

Closing remarks were given by Bond Levy Chair Ann Buis. She stated that it was very heartening to see so many people with great passion for the schools. There were many great engaging questions. She was pleased to see people with the right priorities.

2009-04-017 ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Hoffman, seconded by Mr. Shrader to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

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

President

Dysinger

Read and approved May 26, 2009.