

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
FINN ACADEMY: AN ELMIRA CHARTER SCHOOL  
610 Lake Street Elmira, New York 14901**

**October 15, 2018  
6:00 PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:08 PM by Renee.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

	Present	Absent
Kathryn Coletta	___x___	_____
Jill Koski	___x___	_____
Kevin Murphy	_____	___x___
Maya Patel	___x___	_____
Cynthia Raj	___x___	_____
Katie Stowell	_____	_____
Renée Sutton	___x___	_____
Lynn Winner	_____	___x___
Nichole Bocage (parent representative)	___x___	_____
Jenica Drehmer (parent representative)	_____	___x___
Martina Baker (ex-officio)	___x___	_____
Aimee Ciarlo (ex-officio)	___x___	_____

**IV. WELCOME & MISSION MOMENT**

At Finn Academy - An Elmira Charter School, we will engage students deeply in the arts, music, and in daily fitness. We will emphasize the importance of college attendance. We will nurture the character traits of leadership, scholarship, reflection, kindness, perseverance, and aspiration. We will strategically partner with community resources to be a model of best practice in education and to make a measurable difference in student learning. We seek to increase the number of college and career ready students our community launches into a life and a future- by better preparing them for demands and rigor of high school.

Leaders shared about the opening of the Finn Library and honored Barbara McDowall, great grandparent of a current Finn Scholar for her leadership and hard work in making the library a reality. The board discussed ways to honor Mrs. McDowall's contribution to Finn in a more concrete way.

**V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Resolution to approve agenda as amended to add minutes from the 9.24.18 Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees to the resolution under governance.**

**So Moved: Jill                      Seconded: Cynthia                      In Favor: All**  
**Opposed: None**

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**VII. PARENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

Nicole passed along a comment from a parent about improving communications between office staff and parents. Leadership shared that voicemail at the school has been a problem but they are working on the issue. Contact information on the school's website also needs to be updated to reflect changes in the names of some staff. Nicole also provided positive feedback about the library and parent suggestions that open house is getting rather crowded.

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. FINANCE**

Discussion: Lisa Kirisits and Martina are tracking the progress of three different parcels of per-pupil funding owed us by the ECSD, one going back to AY1617. Christy Strobel, Finn's registrar is also working to provide the relevant data for the scholars in question. There is also still a discrepancy in the security deposit returned to us after our lease with the district in our first year - we are working to resolve through our attorneys at the urging of our auditors. Martina also gave an update on the process of negotiating afternoon transportation with the ECSD. This is now another area we are working to resolve through our attorneys.

Martina requested a Facilities committee meeting to discuss impending renovations to the third floor. Mike Muldoon will be providing us with a proposal for what expansion to the third floor will likely cost.

**Resolution:** To approve the purchase of projectors for classrooms from CDW in the amount of \$6,578.0.

Discussion: This amount covers 22 projectors. The projectors are expected to assist teachers in delivering the new math curriculum.

**So Moved: Jill**

**Seconded: Maya**

**In Favor: All**

**Opposed: None**

## **B. GOVERNANCE**

**IX. Resolution:** To approve the minutes from the September Meeting of the Board of Trustees and the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees held 9.24.18.

**So moved: Maya**

**Second: Katie C.**

**In favor: All**

**Opposed: None**

## **A. ACADEMICS**

Discussion: Academics committee discussed comparative data regarding projected proficiencies and overall proficiency rates which add a few more helpful data points. NWEA data is going home in weds folders. Individual score reports went out last weds to families to review.

**Resolution:** To approve the proposed change in end date for the spring term from June 28 to June 26 to match the changes to the draft school calendar made by the ECSD.

**So moved: Renee**

**Second: Cynthia**

**In favor: All**

**Opposed: None**

## **X. REPORT OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Discussion: The school sent out a survey to Finn parents/families and have gotten a number of responses. There has also been a scholar survey so there is a lot of data to comb through. Aimee will report out on the findings when they are available.

Our charter renewal consultant is coming on Nov. 16 to do a readiness audit.

We have submitted our response to the audit from the New York State Comptroller's Office. MB is preparing the corrective action plan for board approval at the November meeting.

## **XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Resolution: To move into Executive Session for purpose 1.f (below):**

**So Moved: Jill                      Seconded: Katie C.                      In Favor: All**  
**Opposed: None**

(1.f. Upon a majority vote of its total membership, taken in an open meeting pursuant to a motion identifying the general area or areas of the subject or subjects to be considered, a public body may conduct an executive session for the below enumerated purposes only, provided, however, that no action by formal vote shall be taken to appropriate public moneys: f. the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation;)

**Resolution:** To return from Executive Session

**So Moved: Renee                      Seconded: Katie C.                      In Favor: All**  
**Opposed: None**

**Resolution:** To approve the personnel packet as presented under Executive Session.

**So Moved: Renee                      Seconded: Jill                      In Favor: All**  
**Opposed: None**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution to adjourn meeting at: 8:40**

**So Moved: Maya                      Seconded: Katie C.                      In Favor: All**  
**Opposed: None**