

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

**February 11, 2019  
6:00 PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:10 PM by  
Renee.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

	Present	Absent
Kathryn Coletta	_____	_____X_____
Jill Koski	_____X_____	_____
Maya Patel	_____X_____	_____
Cynthia Raj	_____	_____X_____
Katie Stowell	_____X_____	_____
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_____	_____
Jeremy Wheeler (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.

Finn will be installing sensory paths on the wall or floor. These are decals and encourage different sensory activities of scholars as they walk through.

**V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Resolution to **approve**/amend/add/table/delete agenda items

**So Moved:** Jill                      **Seconded:** Katie                      **In Favor:** All  
**Opposed:**

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**VII. PARENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

Though the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Expedition celebration was announced in school newsletters prior to date, some parents felt like it was sprung on families with only 3 days' notice. Also some people had to stand outside in the rain for 10 minutes for this same expedition celebration. School leaders were aware of the problem and agreed that they will strive to do better.

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. FINANCE**

**Proposal to redo the floor in the nurse's office where the tiles are peeling up, making it hard to mop those floors. This will get the floors redone for the Feb. break.**

Discussion:

If Chemung River Friends gets their grant, they will install an Osprey camera on the Chemung River. This would be about a joint venture of Finn, Audubon, and CRV. It would tie into several of expeditions here (Birds, Water) but could be viewed by anyone. The money would be coming (comfortably) out of expedition support and field support budget lines.

Proposal from Hunt that was put together for Streeter Design services for the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor library. This space needs a vision

and the facilities committee should convene to discuss. This proposal of \$15,000 is to do that design service, and needs to be done before that space can ever be used/renovated.

**Resolution:** To approve the bid from Parkway Paints and Flooring Inc. in the amount of \$2,800.00 to install new VCT and Vinyl Base in the Health Office.

**Resolution:** To approve the payment of \$2,500 to Chemung Riverfriends for installation of an osprey camera on the Chemung River, if they receive the additional grant funding requested for the completion of the project.

**Resolution:** To approve the proposal from HUNT Architects for MEP Services for redesign of 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

<b>So Moved:</b>	<b>Jill</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Maya</b>	<b>In Favor:</b>	<b>All</b>
				<b>Opposed:</b>	<b>None</b>

## B. GOVERNANCE

**Resolution:** To approve the minutes from the January meeting of the Board of Trustees.

<b>So Moved:</b>	<b>Maya</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Jill</b>	<b>In Favor:</b>	<b>All</b>
				<b>Opposed:</b>	<b>None</b>

## C. ACADEMICS

Discussion:

The board discussed a proposal for older FINN scholars to participate in the YAP program. After learning more about the program and how it fits with Finn's core values and mission, the board had no objection to attending the YAP program; school leaders can work with teachers to pull this off as they would any other school-sponsored excursion.

The board also discussed the 2017-2018 Accountability Dossier sent from SUNY in mid-February. School leaders did not find any surprises in the dossier - which did not vary much from the end of year SUNY visit – and have discussed internally, as well as with our renewal consultant.

## IX. REPORT OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jeremy discussed professional learning - building consistencies around what good instruction looks like in the classroom; Inquiry Based Model; emphasis and focus on building teachers' toolbox for teaching math. Finn recently purchased an on-line lesson planning tool that will foster consistency in lesson planning. The software allows school leaders to look at the plans and provide feedback, allows individuals to share their plans and view them from year to year. Jeremy also noted that they are rescheduling the 6<sup>th</sup> grade schedule to facilitate transitioning 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grade by

adding social science and science curricula into part of the school day. Meeting with parents soon to inform them of the change.

Aimee discussed how the learning classroom has become part of Finn’s teacher support plan and improvement plan – teachers go into that classroom to observe as well as have someone go into their classroom. Some people are being told to use the learning classroom resource, and some people are accessing it on their own.

Aimee also announced that Finn is planning an Aspiration Day (similar to a career day) and hopes to involve members of different trades, college students/college readiness, service men and women from the military, various careers in the area.

Martina updated the Board on the status of procuring afternoon transportation from the ECSD. A meeting between both parties’ lawyers has been arranged for later in the week.

Parents’ requests for transportation are due April 1<sup>st</sup>. So by May 1<sup>st</sup>, parents who are willing to go on the record can contact the district requesting a response from them in writing (not via the Parent Portal) by such and such a date, otherwise a non-response will be considered a denial of transportation.

The next SUNY visit has been scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The board interview is May the 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. Pre-visit documents are due April 5<sup>th</sup>.

**X. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**So Moved: Renee                      Seconded: Katie                      In Favor: Aye**  
**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: Lynn                      In Favor: All**  
**Opposed: None**

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

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

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution to adjourn meeting at: 8:15**

**So Moved: Lynn**

**Seconded: Maya**

**In Favor: all**

**Opposed: None**