

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

**March 11, 2019  
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	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Jill Koski	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Maya Patel	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Cynthia Raj	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Katie Stowell	<u>      </u>	<u>  x  </u>
Renée Sutton	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Lynn Winner	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Nichole Bocage (parent representative)	<u>      </u>	<u>  x  </u>
Jenica Drehmer (parent representative)	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Martina Baker (ex-officio)	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Aimee Ciarlo (ex-officio)	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Jeremy Wheeler (ex-officio)	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>

**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.

Several extended day options have been organized and rolled out so far this academic year: Radical readers, a reading group lead by the literacy teacher, Mrs. Cutie; intramural sports lead by Mr. Purifoy; and most recently, the make space has kicked off with Mr. Lambert. Attendance in all these options has been excellent and teachers and school leaders have received a lot of very positive feedback from scholars and families.

Each year the kindergarten classes collect food items for donation to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. This year they challenged the whole school to help them collect food, with a goal for 2000 items. Together, the school collected 3001 food items for donation, and were featured in news clips in the local media. The scholars' generosity earned the whole school a dress-down day.

**V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

<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>

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**VII. PARENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

Jenica reported that she has heard only positive feedback from families this month, particularly about extended day activities and transitioning the rising 7<sup>th</sup> graders to a middle school model. She also reported that communication from the school has been excellent.

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. FINANCE**

Finance committee should meet soon to review the draft budget, then do a public presentation for families.

**Resolution:** To approve the contract with Integrated Systems for the purchase of an additional 25

service hours for an amount of \$2,250.00.

**Resolution:** To approve the draft January Financial Statements as prepared by Kirisits and Associates.

**So Moved:** Jill

**Seconded:** Lynn

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None.

## **B. GOVERNANCE**

Governance Committee met to discuss enrollment numbers for next year, evaluation tools developed for school leaders and the board's self-evaluation, and trustee terms that will expire this year.

**Resolution:** To approve the Board and Leadership Evaluation tools as recommended by the Governance Committee upon feedback from the full board.

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

**So Moved:** Maya

**Seconded:** Katie

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None

## **C. ACADEMICS**

Academics Committee met to discuss winter NWEA test results. PLs have been organized to help teachers delve into the data and identify individual students' needs. Also having conversations with teachers and scholars for test-prep.

Empire Charter Consultants circulated a press release highlighting charter school performance in NY. Finn Academy performed better than the aggregate score for central NY host districts (Elmira, Syracuse, Rochester and Utica areas) in both Math and ELA, and approached (with a score of 35% proficiency) the Central NY area Charter Schools aggregate score of 36% for ELA.

State testing dates are on the dashboard and have been highlighted in the last few Newsletters sent home to families.

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

Overall attendance continues to be excellent. Aimee continues to work with a small number of families where

attendance is a chronic problem.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade has transitioned to a new schedule that is more of a hybrid middle school model: math, literacy block, expedition, science or social science instruction. Literature went home to families and an orientation was held on Friday for scholars. Today was the first day and it seemed to go well.

**X. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**So Moved: Renee                      Seconded: Jill                      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: Lynn                      In Favor: All**

**Opposed: None**

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

**So Moved: Renee      Seconded: Kaite C                      In Favor: All**

**Opposed: None**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution to adjourn meeting at 7:24**

**So Moved: Jill                      Seconded: Maya                      In Favor: All**

**Opposed:**

**None**