

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

**April 8, 2019
6:00 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:05 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.

April 5, 2019 was International Yoga day. All 400 adults and scholars squeezed into the gym to participate in 10 minutes of yoga with a local Yoga instructor. The event was highlighted on a local TV station.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Resolution to approve/amend/add/table/delete agenda items to include a resolution under Governance regarding a give-back day.

So Moved: Lynn	Seconded: Katie	In Favor: All
		Opposed: None

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

VII. PARENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Jenica reported that Finn Family Crew’s preparations for the Gala fundraiser event are coming along well. Jenica also commented on the many efforts that the school create a supportive testing environment around the last round of state tests. Every scholar received a hand-written note card from a teacher and younger scholars filled the hallways with art and inspirational messages.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. FINANCE

Discussion: The new hallway lighting will decrease our future utilities cost. Parkway Paining and Flooring are a preferred vendor and recommended to us by our landlord (Streeter). Martina gave the board an update on efforts to recover money owed the school from the 2016-27 school year and the 2017-18 school year by the Elmira City School District. Greg Terps is recommending that we stop driving the bus owned by Finn Academy. Lisa Kirisits, our CFO will be visiting on May 13 to review the budget for next year.

Resolution: To approve the quote from DeMuth Electric Inc. in the amount of \$4,966.00 to replace hallway lighting.

Discussion: This change will reduce our utilities cost.

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

Resolution: To approve the proposal from Parkway Painting and Flooring in the amount of \$4,375.00 for the replacement of the main entrance front stair treads.

Discussion: This is a preferred vendor and recommended by our landlord (Streeter)

Resolution: To empower the COO, in consultation and collaboration with advisors, to sell the Finn Academy bus and remove it from all insurance policies.

So Moved:	Maya	Seconded:	Katie	In Favor:	All
				Opposed:	None

B. GOVERNANCE

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

Resolution: To authorize out school leadership to make the current school year coterminous with that of the district by giving back one unused school day.

So Moved:	Katie	Seconded:	Lynn	In Favor:	All
				Opposed:	None

C. ACADEMICS

Jeremy described two committees of teachers that are currently being formed, one on outcomes/assessments and the other on curriculum to report to the Academics Committee monthly on ongoing efforts in both of these areas. The curriculum committee will focus on building the transition into middle school.

Jeremy also reported that he has observed that the new math curriculum is going well for teachers. He is providing PLs on the math curriculum; one recent PL focused on making the math activities more focused and more hands-on for learners. Two teachers are currently doing on-line workshops with the curriculum (1 5th and 1 2nd grade).

IX. REPORT OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Discussion: Enrollment decreased by 5 scholars this month, mostly because a family moved out of town. The school is now at 43% eligible for free lunch, putting us at or close to the boundary for being eligible as a whole school for free lunch. Lea is running the numbers. Renee reminded leadership that Kirisits has a staff person who specializes in this area who can help work up the numbers.

Aimee reported that Kindergarten has filled for next fall and there is no need for a lottery for K, but there will be a lottery for 1st through 7th grade waiting lists (will not know exactly how many open slots there are in each grade until the end of this school year).

Recruitment for staff for next year is ongoing. Martina just attended a recruitment session.

Representatives from our authorizer will be visiting the school for two days in early May to gather data for a pre-renewal report.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution to adjourn meeting at 7:40

So Moved: Renee

Seconded: Lynn

In Favor: All

Opposed: None