

Academics Committee Meeting
The Board of Trustees
Finn Academy: An Elmira Charter School
610 Lake Street Elmira, New York 14901

December 9th, 2020
4:00pm

Present: Jeremy, Theresa, Deb Breen, Katie S., Maya, Cynthia, Katelyn, Kristen, Jennifer, Asha, Kayla

Purpose:

- 1. To ensure the academics program is aligned with the mission vision and priorities of the organization.*
- 2. To ensure the academics program is continuously improving; and, meeting the rigor and goals as expected by the Board of Trustees.*
- 3. To communicate directly to the BOT updates and progress related to Finn Academy's Academic Program.*

Meeting Activities

Welcome and Overview:

Data Report:

- Academics Work Plan Goals Review

The committee discussed setting achievable workplan goals that balance aspiration with the constraints of the current realities of teaching remotely. Several teachers in attendance weighed in with their thoughts on realistic goals, challenging ourselves to close the gap on the SUNY benchmark of 75% by one half, and considering that we will have 2 cohorts of scholars who will be taking this test for the first time (3rd and 4th grades). One teacher shared her concerns for the validity and therefore utility of the NWEA scores for remote scholars, citing evidence that some scholars received significant assistance from family members in taking those assessments.

Academic growth and performance- NY State assessments are currently still scheduled for the spring and tests have been ordered with the understanding that we will carry through. However a SUNY memo indicated that if schools were still remote at the time, the NY State assessments might once again be cancelled. Last year's mock assessments helped us provide an accountability report to our authorizers and the data were useful so we will continue that practice.

The committee also noted that science has traditionally been an area where we've been close to, at, or above the 75% benchmark.

Curriculum and Instruction Report Updates:

- IST Report (Deb Breen)
Deb Breen gave a presentation to the committee about her role and activities as Finn's IST over the past two and a half years. She also shared a google site that she has created to be a resource location for teachers. Deb also reviewed the teacher learning plan outline and the tiered coaching plan being implemented this year. She will have 21 coachees spread across the three tiers.

At Risk (interventions/SPED) Program Report:

- Current RTI Numbers (Theresa)
- Current SPED Enrollment, # of teachers etc.,

Theresa shared the most updated RTI numbers for scholars by grade level for both ELA and Math, explaining how her team arrives at the number of scholars who qualify for RTI using various screeners like F & P. Typically a school has around 20% of its scholars receiving interventions. Finn currently has more than that in each of its grade levels. The committee discussed whether COVID and remote instruction and limited data were contributing to these numbers and whether the trends are changing.

Theresa also noted that Finn typically has around 12% of scholars with disabilities. Two of our scholars with disabilities have moved on from Finn, but we have gained three new scholars with disabilities.

Outcomes and Assessment Report: Tabled for our next meeting

- Remote Progress report review (if time)
- NYS mock assessments slated for November/December postponed until we are in person

Action Items:

1. What are the key items to report to the BOT? Overview summary document, tiered coaching outline presented by Deb, latest RTI numbers and the recently adjusted projected proficiency estimates from Theresa.
2. Next meeting Date: 1.7.20 4PM