



## Governance Committee Meeting

### Minutes

December 3, 2020

3:00 pm

*Finn Academy Mission: At Finn Academy, a K through 6 charter school, we promote an inclusive, rigorous, and nurturing environment to best prepare our children for their future and to cultivate a community of scholars, leaders, and friends.*

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*Governance Chair: Maya Patel*

*Governance Members (Board): Jill Koski, Katie Stowell, Katie Coletta*

#### 1. Welcome & Attendance

Present: Maya, Jill, Katie, Katie, Martina, Aimee

#### 2. Policy Review

COVID snow day pilot –

- Aimee shared information about a pilot program from NY State Ed allowing schools to cancel snow days by moving to remote instruction on those days. The committee and school leaders present felt that it would not be necessary for Finn to participate as we still have a few buffer days in our calendar to meet the minimum 180 days of instruction.
- The committee also did not see how we could justify having a snow day when the school is still in remote mode. Martina will warn those staff who come into the school building regularly to teach their remote classes to take computer and materials back and forth with them in case of snow.

#### 3. Enrollment & Recruitment

- Review current enrollment summary
- Enrollment Plan

- Aimee reviewed the current enrollment status of the school (345 currently enrolled; planned for 380). Pulling scholars from wait lists in the current situation (uncertainty about how/when we can return inbuilding) does not seem feasible.
- The committee discussed ways to improve/expand recruitment, particularly of vulnerable populations (ELL, economically disadvantaged, scholars with disabilities). Aimee compiled a list of ideas for recruitment and marketing from this discussion to incorporate into the enrollment and recruitment plan.
- The committee discussed creating hard-copy recruitment materials like pamphlets and fliers, and really highlighting our mission of inclusion and commitment to supporting students from vulnerable populations. The committee also discussed how to host recruitment session with social distancing restrictions on the size of gatherings.

#### 4. Other Business

- Racial and social equity workshops

Aimee presented information about participating in a series of workshops facilitated by Dr. Luvelle Brown. These workshops are free and the series can be from 3-7 consecutive meetings. These workshops are intense and would take the place of PD meetings. The committee agreed that these workshops would be valuable. Aimee will confer with Jeremy and others to determine when and how a workshop series could be fit into the PD schedule.

- Martina briefed the committee on a change in the COVID testing requirements from the governor (no longer required to test 100% of staff and students before re-entry, schools have a month to test 20%). In light of these change the ECSD announced plans for a staggered return starting with Pre K-2<sup>nd</sup> on Dec. 14. Martina will gather more information from the ECSD superintendent prior to the board meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Martina asked the committee to consider continuing to support Finn's consultancies with both Empire Charter Consultants and North East Charter Schools Network because she and Aimee both rely on their services and expertise in a variety of ways – each of these consultants provides a different, valued perspective.
- Jill reminded the committee that our next charter renewal is right around the corner and the committee agreed that we need to start focusing on that goal again and soon. The board needs to consider how to move forward with strategic planning, whether to engage a consultant, and if so, which or whom.