

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

**March 8, 2021  
6:00 PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER by Renee Sutton at 6:04 PM**

**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___	_____
Martina Baker (ex-officio)	___X___	_____
Aimee Ciarlo (ex-officio)	___X___	_____
Jeremy Wheeler (ex-officio)	___X___	_____
Michelle Augustine (ex-officio)	_____	___X___

IV. WELCOME & MISSION MOMENT

At Finn Academy 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.

Aimee shared that the lunch and cards provided by the board for Staff Appreciation Day were well received.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Resolution to approve/amend/add/table/delete agenda items to include a discussion about Summer Session under Governance

So Moved: Jill

Seconded: Katie S

In Favor: All  
Opposed: None

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

VII. PARENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. FINANCE

**New Business:** Karen Burhans of Kirsits and Associates reviewed the 990 form for the year ending June 2020 with the board. She also updated the board on the status of the intercepts that have been filed and reviewed the December and January financial statements.

**Resolution:** To approve the proposal for web services from Scope Design, as presented.

**Resolution:** To approve the December and January financial statements as presented by Kirsits and Associates.

**Resolution:** To approve the proposal from ESpark as presented.

**Resolution:** To approve the proposal from EdVistas, Inc. as presented.

**Resolution:** To approve the proposal from Capabilities, Inc. as presented.

**Resolution:** To approve the quote from CDW-G, as presented.

So Moved: Maya

Seconded: Lynn

In Favor: All

**Opposed: None**

**Resolution:** To approve the 990 for submission as presented by Kirisits and Associates. TABELLED until next

**B. GOVERNANCE**

The board discussed with leadership the feasibility of offering or cancelling the upcoming summer session. The Board acknowledged the challenges of teaching and learning in the building with high summer temperatures while wearing masks, and the challenges of conducting field studies while maintaining social distancing and other restrictions having to do with COVID-19. They also acknowledged the feedback from both teaches and families reviewed at the last governance committee meeting. However, considering the general sense that students are behind because of the need to pivot to remote instruction last spring and this past fall, the board supports offering summer session in some form this year, especially for those scholars at greatest risk of academic loss. The board agreed to meet for a special session on Wednesday to discuss the various options in depth.

The board met with representatives from two different organizations under consideration for consultation during charter renewal preparations.

**Resolution:** To approve the Retention Policy as presented.

**So Moved:** Jill                      **Seconded:** Lynn                      **In Favor:** All  
**Opposed:** None

**C. ACADEMICS**

The board discussed the most recent NWEA scores, growth projections and Mock State Test scores shared at the last academics committee meeting. Math scores continue to be a big concern and indicate backslide, rather than progress. These scores support the need for additional work with scholars, especially in math, to mitigate some of the academic backslide related to teaching and learning during the pandemic.

**Resolution:** To approve the Kagan Cooperative Learning Professional Development proposal, as presented.

**IX. REPORT OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**X. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

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

**Opposed:** None

(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: d. discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation; 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:** Katie                      **Seconded:** Lynn                      **In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None

**Resolution:** To approve the personnel packet as presented

**So Moved:** Cynthia                      **Seconded:** Katie S                      **In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution to adjourn meeting at 8:43**

**So Moved:** Lynn                      **Seconded:** Cynthia S                      **In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None