



Governance Committee Meeting

March 3, 2021

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.

Governance Chair: Maya Patel

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

1. Welcome & Attendance

Present: Maya, Jill, Katie S, Katie C, Aimee, and Martina

2. Enrollment Update

- Current applications – 15 for K, 5 for 1st, 4 for 2nd and 1 for 6th. There is usually a surge of applications during the Spring so these numbers are expected to go up quite a bit.
- Recruitment strategies – Finn now has a 30 sec commercial through WETI that will be sharable via FB soon. There is also a simple brochure that has been mailed out with cover letter to 12-15 different community organizations and agencies. Aimee and Martina have done several enrollment sessions so far this spring with more scheduled, both in person and zoom.

3. Summer Session

- Review of survey results – Aimee shared results from both a staff survey and a family survey. Most (but not every) families are satisfied with summer session and value this experience for their children. Most (but not all) of Finn's teachers would not volunteer to staff summer session if this were an option. The committee discussed these results as well as some of the feedback about temperatures in the building, the need to wear masks in the heat, offering stipends for teachers, etc.
- Discussion regarding 2020-2021 – the committee discussed the feasibility of holding summer session in the upcoming summer and felt that the combination of staff exhaustion after an unusually challenging year, building temperatures, COVID-related constraints on field studies, and the continued need for masks made requiring summer session 2021 seem unfeasible.
- Discussion regarding future years – The committee agreed that any changes to summer session and its requirements do not need to carry over to future years. The question of

summer session as a required component of the Finn school year will be discussed again in the near future.

4. Board's Annual Crew Survey -Martina will provide the board secretary with a list of e-mail addresses for all staff. The committee discussed adding new questions about remote teaching, teacher retention and revising certain old questions to make them more evaluative and useful. Aimee requested that any questions in the crew survey to be used for evaluative purposes be clearly indicated to participants.
5. School Leadership Evaluations – the board would like to revise the instruments it uses for leadership evaluations, soliciting feedback from peers and teachers to make these more meaningful for school leaders. Aimee shared two resources. Maya and Katie C will review these and report back.
6. School Policy Review/Discussion
 - Updated retention timeline/policy – minor changes were suggested and approved.
7. Employee Policy Discussion
 - Colleague-to-colleague unused sick time donation – Martina explained this policy to the committee and the committee agreed that any affordable benefit that makes Finn more attractive to teachers was a good idea to pursue.