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

July 8, 2021
12:00pm

Present: Jeremy, Aimee, Theresa, Cynthia, Lynn, Maya

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:

Jeremy reviewed NWEA Grade Level Data, both norms and projected growth data in relation to building level academic goals and goals SUNY communicated via webinars and a memo in May.

- Did kids meet RIT proficiency? (building goals were **10% increase**, **SUNY goals continue to be 75%** of those enrolled in at least their 2nd year)
  - While K, 3, 4, and 5 all showed an increase in MATH RIT proficiency, **only 4th showed a 10% increase from fall to spring.**
  - The % of students meeting grade level norms in MATH range from 42% (5th grade) to 65% (K). **The average of 3rd-6th grades is 48%**
  - Grades K, 5, and 6 showed an increase in READING RIT proficiency and **only 6th grade met the 10% increase from fall to spring goal.**
  - The % of students meeting grade level norms in READING ranged from 34% (4th grade) to 81% (6th grade). The 6th grade exceeded SUNY's 75% goal. **The average for grades 3-6 is approx. 55%.**
  - The committee would like to be able to compare these scores to those from last winter (there were no end of year NWEA scores last year). The committee would also like to be able to compare our scores with those for comparable schools.
  - Theresa will pull out the numbers for remote scholars to help us make sense of some of the variability on the data.

- This year there are more complexities in projected growth than we'd been looking for pre-COVID:
  - 50% of all students will meet or exceed median growth percentile

        - Our data reflect projected growth percentile, rather than median growth percentile. Jeremy will have to rework the numbers to reflect median growth percentile for the annual accountability report and will share those numbers in August. However, they are not likely to be very different from those reported here.
        - The % of students K-8 that met or exceeded their projected growth targets in MATH ranged from 40% (1st grade – the only grade that did not meet the 50% benchmark) to 70% (6th grade). **The average for grades 3-6 is 66%**
        - The % of students K-8 that met or exceeded their projected growth targets in READING ranged from 34% (3rd grade) to 65% (6th grade). K, 5th and 6th met the 50% benchmark. **The average of grades 3-6 is 47.5, very close to the 50% benchmark.**
    - 55% of initial low achieving students will meet or exceed median growth percentile
        - Jeremy is working on these data and will present them at the August meeting.
    - Median growth percentile for students with disabilities will be equal to or greater than that for general education students.
        - The % of SPED students meeting or exceeding their projected growth percentiles is encouraging, ranging from 33% to 100% for MATH in grades 3-6 and 50% to 100% in READING in grades 4-6. None of the 3 SPED students in 3rd grade met or exceeded their projected growth targets for READING.
        - Jeremy will reconfigure these data using mediate growth percentile and present in the August meeting.

Curriculum and Instruction Report Updates:

At Risk (interventions/SPED) Program Report:

ICT update

- Theresa reviewed the history of the integrated co-teaching proposal approved by the board. This fall we will roll this out with grades 5 and 6 because the upcoming/rising 5th and 6th are higher needs. We do not have the currently have the capacity to do this at every grade level, and the SPED needs at lower grade levels are smaller. Once we can show that we can successfully implement ICT at these higher grades we can move backwards into 4th and 3rd grades. We did contact those families and let them know that we are rolling this out in 20/21. Next steps with training – Theresa has quite a few books that she's selected for coteaching. The training will help all teachers. Will start with engaging our ICT teachers who are identified.
    - There will be 1 cotaught class in the rising 5th grade, and 1 class taught in the traditional mode. Theresa is anticipating 2 ICT classrooms in the 6th grade based on the number of SPED students in that grade level.

Summer session updates

- Teacher preparation/training for summer session is scheduled for next week. Karen Kuty will be supervising 5 literacy students from Elmira College to support instruction. Summer session will also

pilot an interactive read aloud program. In math teachers will launch CGI (cognitive guided inquiry) problem sets. We will be allocating a little bit more time to math within the day: 90 min for math and 60 min for ELA.

Outcomes and Assessment Report:

Action Items:

1. Summary main points for BOT report – highlights from the data report
2. Dashboard update with new charts