MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FINN ACADEMY: AN ELMIRA CHARTER SCHOOL
610 Lake Street Elmira, New York 14901
December 13, 2021
6:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER by Cynthia Raj at 6:06 pm

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
Kathryn Coletta	_____x___	_____
Jill Koski	___x_____	_____
Maya Patel	____x____	_____
Cynthia Raj	____x____	_____
Ashley Skiff	____x____	_____
Katie Stowell	_____	____x____
Holly Strickland	___x_____	_____
Renée Sutton	___x_____	_____
Lynn Winner	___x_____	_____
Martina Baker (ex-officio)	___x_____	_____
Aimee Ciarlo (ex-officio)	____x____	_____
Karen Kuty (Teacher Rep)	____x____	_____

Sabrina Morrison (Parent Rep)	___x_____	_____
Jen Halladay Fetterman (Parent Rep)	____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 provided an update and overview of the annual holiday Owl Tree program, which continues to help Finn families enjoy the Holiday season through donations of gifts and groceries.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Resolution to approve/amend/add/table/delete agenda items to include a resolution to approve financial statements under IX.B. Finance

So Moved: Holly **Seconded: Lynn** **In Favor:**
Opposed:

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VII. PARENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Neither Parent Reps had any feedback to share this month. FFC projects: Owl Tree, this month's fundraiser and a virtual Art Project with Mrs. Barody.

VIII. TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Karen reported that the first round of external evaluations has been completed and the feedback from these evaluators has been very positive.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. GOVERNANCE

New Business: To provide all staff members with one (1) additional Personal Day for the 2021-2022 academic year; to shift school calendar from in-person school day on January 3rd to asynchronous remote instruction for scholars and an instructional planning day for staff, pending confirmation with SUNY and State Ed that such a change does not impact our number of instructional days.

These recommendations are based on a desire to alleviate teacher and staff burnout as they have been coping with elevated needs with families and scholars and home-life. It would still count as an instructional day because it will be asynchronous. Leadership has surveyed teachers for feedback and

provided the Board with an overview of the instructional packet to be sent home with scholars prior to the holiday would look like. Discussion also included providing enough advanced notice to families so that they can prepare for the change to the school calendar and keeping these proposed changes in mind when constructing next year's school calendar.

Resolution: To approve the minutes from the October 4, November 4, and November 8 meetings of the Board of Trustees.

So Moved: Jill Seconded: Maya In Favor: All
Opposed: None

B. FINANCE

Lisa Kirisits joined the meet to review the October financial statements and reported that the school's balance sheet is healthy, despite lower-than-budget enrollment this academic year..

Resolution: To approve the October financial statements as presented by Kirisits and Associates.

So Moved: Jill Seconded: Katie C In Favor: All
Opposed: None

C. ACADEMICS

Lynn summarized the reports from the most recent academics committee meeting in which the instructional team presented a detailed comparison of state test scores for ELA and math between Finn and surrounding districts. The data presented were encouraging and also shared with staff.

A joint meeting of governance and academics will be scheduled to discuss the format of Summer Session for summer 2022. Leadership will survey staff and families and meet with staff to discuss possibilities.

X. REPORT OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Martina reported continuing efforts to collect accurate FRPL data from families. The Finn population eligible for free and reduced lunch is now at 53%. She also provided a billing update and reports that all districts are on track, except our host district, and that our registrar continues her efforts to resolve any issues involving proofs of residence.

Martina also updated the board on the filing of an intercept for a school district in the Thousand Islands region for 4 scholars that attended Finn's remote instruction for a full year AY 20-21.

Martina also provided an update on new COVID guidance which allows a rapid test for symptomatic scholars who know they have not been exposed to someone who has COVID for return to school. Lynn suggested reaching out to Elmira College again to see if they can perform these tests for us as testing in our area is under a great deal of strain.

Aimee updated the board on the work of external evaluators, Dr. Owens, Director of the Education Department at Elmira College and David Hubman, and instructor at the college, past building leader and superintendent. She is preparing to discuss a more formal partnership with them as we head into renewal.

Aimee also reminded the board that we are once again in enrollment season and is hosting a meeting tomorrow to review/revise our recruitment plan and build some in person session into the recruitment sessions calendar. She reported that 5-10 families have already reached out in search of applications for next school year.

The leadership team also expressed appreciation of Finn Family Crew and their support to families, leadership, and staff.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

So Moved: Maya **Seconded: Katie C** **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 at 7:36

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

Resolution: Pending fingerprint approval, to accept the personnel package as presented during Executive Session

So Moved: Katie C **Seconded: Lynn** **In Favor: All**
Opposed: None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution to adjourn meeting at 7:38

So Moved: Lynn **Seconded: Kaite C** **In Favor: All**

Opposed: None