AGENDA OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FINN ACADEMY: AN ELMIRA CHARTER SCHOOL
610 Lake Street Elmira, New York 14901
October 16, 2023
6:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
Kevin Brimmer	____X____	_____
Kathryn Coletta	___X_____	_____
Jean Papandrea	____X____	_____
James Pfiffer	___X_____	_____
Holly Strickland	___X_____	_____
Renée Sutton	_____	___X_____
Martina Baker (ex-officio)	___X_____	_____
Aimee Ciarlo (ex-officio)	____X____	_____
Ryan Dunlap (Teacher Rep)	_____	_____X___
Sabrina Morrison (Parent Rep)	_____	_____X___
Jen 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.

The Finn staff recognized the volunteer members of the Board of Trustees as this week kicked off School Board Appreciation Week.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Resolution to approve/amend/add/table/delete agenda items:

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

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

VII. PARENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

- Fall Carnival held this past weekend. Awesome. Some things didn't go as planned. Face painters and glitter tattoo artists were very popular, balloon artists could have been here for two hours. 140 people. Pumpkin painting got rid of all pumpkins. Snacks and drinks for sale for $1.
- Beef sticks raised $5,000.

VIII. TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. GOVERNANCE

Resolution: To approve the submission of the 2023-2024 School Safety Plan to NYS Education Department.

So Moved: Katie **Seconded: Kevin** **In Favor: All**
Opposed: None

A prospective Trustee introduced herself. She is a former 8th grade social studies teacher in Binghamton. Will meet with the Leadership Team to learn more about the time commitment and responsibilities as a member of the Board of Trustees.

B. FINANCE

New Business: June 2023 Audit Review

Resolution: To approve the August Financial Statements as prepared by Kirisits and Associates.

Resolution: To approve the submission of IRS forms 8955-SSA and 5500-SF as prepared by Chemung

Canal Trust Company Retirement Plan Management Unit.

Resolution: To approve the 2022-2023 audit, as presented, by Kirisits and Associates.

So Moved: Jean **Seconded: Kevin** **In Favor: All**
Opposed: None

(Karen Burnhans via Zoom) one of our accountants in Buffalo discussed the 2022-23 audit process and documents.
A single audit was done this year. Clean opinion which is great. No findings or adjustments. We had a small downturn in the bottom line (net profit). Reduced enrollment. Special ed aid is down because of state rate reduction. Expenses went up $5.6 million to $6 million.
Financially speaking, the budget process is conservative because of the enrollment shortage. Hard to know how many students will enroll. Difficult to balance it paper-vs-enrollment.
Look at the age of school and balance sheet. Got $1.3 million surplus. Down a bit because of enrollment. Covid is responsible. A lot of families home-school or move out of the area. Things are starting to turn in a better direction.

C. ACADEMICS

Summer session: for most kids take up to 10 weeks to get where they were in June. Summer is great for improving scores and the data tracked from start to end of Summer Session showed that the program is important and a success.

At risk students: how Finn implements program support for students and teachers. Finn is the same as any public school in terms of students who need support and don't need support.

Staff development: get teachers and instructional leaders together to set goals and implement them. Develop a calendar of ideas: Experiential learning is so important to kids.

The coaching program is great. Lots of great materials and opportunities for teachers to observe each other. Lots of teacher support.

X. REPORT OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Annual Veterans Day breakfast takes place on Thursday November 9th at the School; any veteran is invited not just those connected to Finn.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

So Moved: Holly **Seconded: Kevin** **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: Jim **Seconded: Katie** **In Favor: All**

Opposed: None

Resolution: To approve the Personnel Packet as presented during Executive Session.

So Moved: Kevin **Seconded: Jim** **In Favor: All**

Opposed: None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution to adjourn meeting at:

So Moved: Holly **Seconded: Jean** **In Favor: All**

Opposed: None