AGENDA OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FINN ACADEMY: AN ELMIRA CHARTER SCHOOL
610 Lake Street Elmira, New York 14901
December 11, 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_____	_____
Patricia Richards	____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 Chorus participated in Artic League TV event. Their performance was recorded and aired during their annual Telethon broadcast.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

So Moved: Kevin	**Seconded: Pat**	**In Favor:**	**All**
		Opposed:	**Opposed**

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

VII. PARENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

- Book Fair Week Tuesday through Friday this week. We have flyers from Five Below (store), all this week; as a fundraiser, Finn gets 10 percent of all purchases made and the funds will go to Finn Family Crew. The Winter Concert will be held this week. All spots filled on holiday tree gift program. Finn family Crew partnered with family resource center to purchase 6-8 blankets for children. Friday December 29 Finn families to attend Elmira River Sharks game.

VIII. TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

- Dec. 13, 3:30-4:30 will be the enrichment celebration: third graders selling stickers to give money to SPCA. Fourth graders finish their craft and hope to raise $150. Fifth graders doing the "science" of baking. Sixth graders finalize arguments for debating various issues.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. GOVERNANCE

New Business: Public Relations for Finn (PorchFest, Business Before Business)

- Public relations issues: We need to develop a public relations strategy to publicize who we are and what we do. Too many people in the community don't know about Finn or have misconceptions. Put it on the Jan. agenda to discuss. Need to form a committee of people outside of Finn to work on this. Need to come up with a budget and a source of funding. Educate the community about why we are an alternative to traditional public school. We need to be comfortable telling the public who we are and what we do. Do more publicity. Use students and parents to tell our story.

Resolution: To approve the minutes from the November meeting of the Board of Trustees.

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

B. FINANCE

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

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

C. ACADEMICS

- We want sample test questions for NYS assessment for the board to see. Board members need to read those questions. Difficult questions. Gone from all paper to some computer based testing. Pat mentioned that kids need to know where symbols are on the keyboard, which will make it more difficult. Most of the tests are read passages and answer questions based on the passage you read. Now the science portion asks the kids to pull in outside info. Is the test testing the scholar's knowledge or what they read? Lots of problems with computer testing. Scholars can't go back and add or change answers. Tests need to be updated and made easier. We need to come up with a list of changes we need to make in teaching tech to our students to help them do better on the exams. Covid issues have had a big effect on students' test results. The state needs to do a better job of seeking feedback from schools, students and parents about the state exams. State tests are in April.
- NWEA tests are a great tool to show what scholars know and can't do in comparison to other scholars in the classroom. Shows growth rather than one snapshot at a time. We need to look at all of the finite skills that our teachers are developing and how we support them to develop quality teachers. Important to know what we're teaching our teachers and how we evaluate them. We have three instructional coaches for teachers. We have a tier system for staff. Teachers meet with coaches. We have amazing coaches and a coaching program.

X. REPORT OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Aimee: enrollment issues: we have many enrollment sessions, but often they are not attended. Word of mouth is the best publicity. Trying to figure out other ways to reach people who are not connected with Finn.
- Renee: we need to do strategic planning for pre-k planning. Aimee; local school districts own pre-k. We can't have pre-k without their permission. on-site unless local school districts allow us.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

Opposed: None

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

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

Opposed: None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution to adjourn meeting at 7:32 p.m.

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

Opposed: None