AGENDA OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FINN ACADEMY: AN ELMIRA CHARTER SCHOOL
610 Lake Street Elmira, New York 14901
February 12, 2024
6:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER: 6:07 p.m.

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 enrichment group gave $150 check to SPCA and $350 to Children's Miracle Network. We've raised almost $1,000 for charities over the last few years.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

VII. PARENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

VIII. TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Staff wonders about the status of health insurance issues and busing. We asked NE Charters Network to find out what is going on in the commissioner's office. Should decide within next week. Looking at possibly buying our own buses. Questions about admin structure for additional admin position to help cover work done by the admin team. It all depends on finances. Some concerns with staff with pay scale and are there steps for pay increases. Martina to work and present to staff to explain how finances work, where funds go and how it works. Possibly make it a mandated meeting for staff.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. GOVERNANCE

New Business: PR Committee Update

PR committee update: What do we do about the program? What's next? Should we wait until next year to roll out a social media campaign for the most bang for buck? Wait until after the election. AI is causing problems with social media and how it gets distributed. Not reliable. What of Dusty's suggestions can we implement this year? Use the community influencers to help promote and publicize us. Ask the admin to get a teacher and parent to be on the committee. Ask partner organizations to put our events on their pages.

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

Resolution: To nominate Matthew Seybold to a two-year term on the Finn Academy Board of Trustees.

Resolution: To approve the revised Employee Handbook, as presented.

Resolution: To approve revisions to the Finn Academy Proofs of Residency policy, as presented.

Resolution: To approve revisions to the job description for the Teacher Representative to the Board of Trustees, as presented.

Resolution: To accept the resignation of Holly Strickland from the Board of Trustees.

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

B. FINANCE

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

Resolution: To approve the payment to Schindler Elevator Service, as presented.

Resolution: To approve payment to Bill's Plumbing and Heating, as presented.

Resolution: To approve payment to DeMuth Electric, as presented.

Resolution: To approve a Limited Facility Use Agreement with Lights Out Hoop Group.

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

C. ACADEMICS

Our ELA and math results with surrounding districts was reported. Great instructional support is supplied to teachers. Finn outperformed our host district in all eight categories for the second year in a row. Beat Elmira Heights in six of eight for the second year in a row. Lot of this is due to instructional support brought into the classroom: strategy and support. We must be careful regarding our test scores and patterns, and we need more years to see if the patterns continue. Our culture focuses on the whole child, education, social, and cultural needs, etc. Our kids are happy. Our students show a lot of respect for each other and the adults. Staff evaluations halfway through the year with observations of teachers. Very rigorous program. 70 percent of staff were effective, and 13 percent were highly effective, with great knowledge of resources. All the classroom support is improving. Creating an environment of respect and rapport is great. All teachers struggle with managing student behavior. Want more support? Staff communicate well with students. Teacher support is so important, and the results show it. We are doing a midyear coaching teaching survey.

X. REPORT OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Enrollment Open House to be held on February 29th. Presentation and tours of the building. Cabin Fever event at First Arena. In full swing for the enrollment period. Start meeting with staff for feedback and their hopes and dreams for next year. Find out who is coming back next year. Sent out a survey to staff to see who wants to work the summer session this year.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

Opposed: None

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

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

Opposed: None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution to adjourn meeting at: 7:29 p.m.

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

Opposed: None