AGENDA OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FINN ACADEMY: AN ELMIRA CHARTER SCHOOL
610 Lake Street Elmira, New York 14901
April 15, 2024
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_____	_____
Matthew Seybold	___X_____	_____
Renée Sutton	_____	_____
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.

Positive Communication Challenge: almost 1,000 emails, connections to families. Reward: catered lunch for staff.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

School calendar (waiting on ECSD calendar) want to finalize 2024-25 calendar get it approved ASAP. Resolution to amend the original resolution to empower the leadership team to finalize the 24-25 school calendar.

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

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

VII. PARENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

VIII. TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. GOVERNANCE

Discussion: Adjust our give-back days. We propose 2.5 days and end the school year 2.5 days earlier. A half day for scholars but a full day for staff to finish the rest of their daily tasks. June 26 is the last day of school now but it would be adjusted.

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

Resolution: To adjust the 2023-2024 school calendar, as presented.

Resolution: To empower the Leadership Team to finalize the 2024-2025 school calendar.

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

B. FINANCE

Discussion: Feb. financial statements: our enrollment less than budgeted for but have reserves to cover that. Need to consider it for next year's enrollment. Looking to renegotiate our lease with Streeter landlords. Talked about leasing or renting out the building to outside groups, pros and cons. Because we are a 501©3 nonprofit, we must be careful because we can't make money.

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

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

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

Resolution: To approve the payment to Falkowski Excavating & Sewer Service, as presented.

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

C. ACADEMICS

Report: Jean reported went over data on winter math/reading NWEA. We scored in 47th percentile in growth measured against other schools, 6th grade did great in math. Our team identifies areas in need of improvement. Very detailed data.
Schoolwide: in 46th percentile
K and 1st grade did great in math
ELA: we in 45th percentile nationwide, K, 1st and 6th did best in terms of national percentile.
Grade 4 and 5 exceeded projects in math and ELA (see data sheets for more info)
Summer session: two weeks, 100 scholars and 15 staff members already confirmed. Architecture is an expedition learning topic. May use Elmira College buildings, Quarry Farm, JD Isles do live videos on architecture places to visit.
NYS Assessments end May 14, some computer based, and some paper based.
Did coaching update, lesson plans, feedback and all support teachers get in classroom. Went response to intervention. Teachers and admin. and interventionists to determine who needs intervention. Parents can ask for it as well.
Jim asked that acronyms be explained to board members who don't know what they mean.
11% of our population have IEPs (receive Special Education services)
Patty noticed that some students who missed preschool/covid scored lower (second and third grades) Shows importance of preschool.

X. REPORT OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Leadership team: Had slight uptick last month on illnesses. Discipline data 20 office referrals, one in school suspension and 2 out of school suspension. We lost one scholar and gained four scholars.
District payments to us are due May 1 and then June 1 final billing to close out year. No changes in free and reduced lunch a 59%. Everyone in school gets fee breakfast and lunch every day.

Leadership report: We did transportation survey for 3 weeks. Best return rate so far. Looking for info from families regarding changing dismissal times. We need to discuss it more in the committee meeting.
Enrollment update: held lottery on April 10 for grade 3,4,5 not for 2 and 6 because we have enough openings next year. Feel great about K enrollment (accepted 57). Third grade is a big concern with 24 kids on the waiting list.
State testing: Kids working hard on state testing, computer and paper. Pros and cons for both. Computer problems can impact on our scores. Significant technology issues.
We meet with every staff member how year going, will you be back next year, what grade do you want to teach. Consider scholar and staff dynamics.
Academic director update: Mrs. Cassetta leaving in June, and we have a prime candidate, existing staff member, who wants the position.
Staff insurance: meeting with folks from Brown and Brown for preliminary presentation. Finn is going to provide Paid family leave to teachers. Covers 67% of their income. Covers dads too. Can get 10 new sick days every year and can roll over to a maximum of 45 days.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

Opposed: None

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

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

Opposed: None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution to adjourn meeting at: 7:27 p.m.

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

Opposed: None