

Charter School for Applied Technologies  
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo, New York 14207  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 01/10/2023**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: In person,** Joseph Berti, John Cinquino, Michael Keller, Andrea Pasioka, Danielle Salasavage, Kevin Cornacchio,

**UNABLE TO ATTEND:** Lisa Smith, Ian Donnelly, Steve Kottakis, Jina Gentry, Michael Stevens

**OTHERS PRESENT: In person:** Andrew Lyle, Garrick Loveria, Tanya Moore, Sue Jurewicz, Ann Morgante, Brett Lutterbein, Dara Seeley, Tara Jefferson, Daniel Scholze, Jessica Johnson, Trevor McCabe, Keith Banas, Thomas Sullivan (via audio tele-conference).

**MINUTES**

Motion to approve the December 13, 2022 Minutes, including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee, made by Mr. Cornacchio seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Minutes approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**PRESENTATION**

None

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**Cabinet Report-** Mr. Lyle reported that he has had discussions with the Charter School Office on the possibility of a PreK program. More info will be provide in New Business. He asked the Board to review pages 5-10 of the packet on Workforce Development and the labor market in Western New York now and in the future as it relates to our internship programs and work with the Northland Workforce Training Centerd. In the coming week, NYSED will be reporting on school standings. As soon as the data is available, we will provide it to the Board.

**Quality Assurance/Administrative Team-** Mr. Lyle mentioned that the QA Committee will be meeting next week. They will have a detailed report at the February Board meeting.

9-12: Mr. Lutterbein reported that the High School Band & Choir Holiday performance was outstanding. The Holiday dance in December was well attended and there were no issues at the dance. Regents exams will be administered the week of January 23. It will provide us with data to see how well our students have achieved and what improvements need to be made moving forward.

6-8: Mr. Lyle reported that several Middle School band students competed in solo competitions and did very well. There have been a few teacher transitions recently. The school needs a Project Lead the Way teacher.

K-5: Mrs. Jurewicz also commented on their successful Holiday concert. They are currently having an incentive program with students on showing respect as we focus on social/emotional needs. Mid-year testing is underway. Our partners with UB recently completed the last group of teacher training on the Tier II program.

Mr. Loveria briefly discussed the Cullen Foundation and their future funding goals. One of their cohorts is supporting schools who emphasize Career Pathways, which bodes well for future funding from Cullen for the ECCP program

Mr. Lyle mentioned his recent visit to the Curtis-Wright Museum in Hammondsport, NY. He discussed with the museum staff the blueprints that we have on display in the Family Support Center and their possible interest in visiting CSAT in future to see the prints and the Elementary building which was, at one time, a Curtis-Wright facility.

### **PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEE**

**Finance-**Mr. Cinquino distributed information on the 3-month interim financial statement. A few highlights from the report:

Cash Balance is high but will be spent down in the next few months

The ESSER grant funds have been spent and the school will now see reimbursement

Investments are down from our previous highs because of downturns in the markets

Net Assets reflects downward but is attributable to the investment loses

There is a slight increase in the Middle School building lease

The interim report, while up and down in some areas, is mostly normal for this time period

Mr. Berti inquired about a large school uniform order. Mr. Lyle noted that the school placed a mass order because inventory sold fast and the cost of the new school fleeces increased. The increase was offset with a higher price for the fleece.

### **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

**Appeals-**Mr. Lyle reported on one appeal of a 7<sup>th</sup> grader for physical and disruptive behavior. The student and mother met with school officials and mother agreed it was best for him to move on. The decision on permanent suspension was sustained.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Transportation-**Mr. Lyle reported that the bus situation has, unfortunately, not changed. There are consistently up to 10 buses that are running late (past 3:45pm). The new starting bell idea was rejected by Buffalo Teachers union and political pressure has not made much difference. David Quackenbush and Nate Kuzma, Buffalo Board of Education attorney, will continue to meet to discuss the issue. The Charter School Office is aware of this as well.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**PreK Research-** Mr. Lyle mentioned that Gov. Hochul allocated \$12 million in grant monies for PreK programs for the entire state. While it seems like a good amount of money, there are many hurdles to climb to even consider a program at CSAT. You need to have a dedicated space, a program in place and qualified and certified staff before you can apply for a grant. That alone will prove costly. We have spoken to Reach Academy Charter in Buffalo as they did establish a PreK program. They said the main reason the program was established was for staff retention, as the program offers staff a place for their children to attend. We have not surveyed our staff yet as we don't know if it's affordable to do so.

**Enrollment-**Mr. Loveria announced that current enrollment stands at 2349. The recruitment period is underway and our commercial is now running on Ch. 4. The applications are tracking very well overall. The second-grade bubble is a concern here and elsewhere. We are having an incentive for those who apply to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade for next years lottery to enroll early.

**Personnel-**Mr. Lyle reviewed the personnel report. He highlighted the number of new hires, along with a few position changes and resignations. We continue to actively recruit substitute teachers. Other than that, the report is self-explanatory.

A motion to accept the Personnel report made by Mrs. Pasieka, seconded by Mr. Keller. Motion approved.

Mr. Berti proposed to the Board the addition of a new member, Ms. Kristin Elmore-Garcia. Ms. Garcia has attended several of our meetings and is interested in serving. A motion to approve the addition of Ms. Garcia to the CSAT Board of Trustees was made by Mr. Berti, seconded by Mr. Cornacchio. Motion approved.

A motion to adjourn the regular meeting@ 5:30pm was made by Mr. Keller, seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Motion approved

**Next Meeting: February 14, 2023 @ 4:30pm**