

Charter School for Applied Technologies
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo, New York 14207
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 12/13/2022

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: In person, Joseph Berti, John Cinquino, Lisa Smith, Andrea Pasioka, Danielle Salasavage, Ian Donnelly, Kevin Cornacchio, Steve Kottakis, Jina Gentry

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Michael Keller, Michael Stevens

OTHERS PRESENT: In person: Andrew Lyle, Garrick Loveria, Sue Jurewicz, Ann Morgante, Dara Seeley, Michele Fiorella, Tara Jefferson, Nicole Killian, Daniel Scholze, Jessica Johnson, Trevor McCabe, Keith Banas, Kristin Elmore-Garcia, Thomas Sullivan (via audio tele-conference).

MINUTES

Motion to approve the November 8, 2022 Minutes, including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee, made by Mr. Berti seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PRESENTATION

Fine Arts Presentation-Mrs. Johnson informed the Board about the school's three Holiday Concerts. The Elementary concert was held last night. The Middle School concert is tonight @6:30pm and the High School concert is Thursday @6:30pm., both at Cardinal O'Hara High School auditorium. Mrs. Johnson also distributed information on Field Trips for the Choir and Band. The Choir proposal is a trip to Cedar Point, Ohio May 18-20. The Band Proposal is a trip to Boston, Ma. June 3-5. The itinerary, costs and specifics of each trip are listed on the handout. Mr. Lyle mentioned that since the students are traveling out of state, the Board must approve the trips. After discussion among the members, the following motions were made:

A motion to approve the Choir trip was made by Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mrs. Smith. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the Band trip was made by Mr. Donnelly, seconded by Mrs. Pasieka. Motion approved.

Audit-Mr. Robert Torella of Lumsden & McCormack presented the results of the annual audit. The highlights of the audit are as follows:

- There were no audit adjustments necessary
- There were no material weaknesses found
- Revenue decreased by \$2.4 million, mainly due to investment losses
- Expenses increased by \$3.8 million
- Contracted services increased by \$550,000
- Supplies, repairs and maintenance increased by \$1.5 million
- Net loss of \$1.5 million, mainly due to investment losses
- There is sufficient cash flow
- The school has sufficient funds to cover long-term debt

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Cabinet Report- Mr. Lyle reported that there are continued issues with busing that will be addressed later in the meeting. We have had initial conversations with the state on the possibility of adding a Pre-K program. It would require a revision to our charter. The program, if implemented, would be an approved academic program with certified instructors. We recently hosted the Baird Foundation for a visit. We have submitted a proposal to them for a grant of \$25,000 for ECCP.

Mr. Berti also announced that the Trucking Association of New York has approved an additional three-year grant of \$30K for the Logistics Club (\$10K per year).

Quality Assurance/Administrative Team-Ms. Morgante reported that the first of four sessions for the Administrative Team was held on Dec. 7. The focus of the three - hour discussion/presentation was on the delivery of coherent instruction. The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 11.

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEE

Career Readiness- Mr. Kottakis reported that the committee has received a good amount of data on the activities the school provides in Career Readiness. We believe it would be helpful to solicit a student response to see how they feel about the various activities and programming. We believe asking juniors and seniors would be a good place to start.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Appeals- Mr. Donnelly briefly discussed the one appeal about a student who made an inappropriate social media post that adversely affected other students. It was ultimately decided to place the student on probation. It should be noted that no one was in danger. Mr. Cornacchio also commented on the appeal that he was involved in. It was determined to sustain the initial decision the school made.

OLD BUSINESS-

Transportation-Mr. Lyle said that all members were sent the current transportation contract. A meeting was held with Buffalo in which they promised a lot, however, we have not witnessed any significant changes. Mr. Loveria referenced pages 7-15 of the Board packet that highlighted the recent push by elected officials, parent organizations and religious leaders who are concerned that the busing issue is having a far-reaching negative effect on children. The Buffalo Common Council recently voted to ask Gov. Hochul to intervene by declaring a State of Emergency which would impose a three-bell system that would help to alleviate the busing problems. The three-bell proposal is for a gradual start of the school day at 7:30, 8:30 and 9:30. The Buffalo Teachers Federation (BTF) has rejected this proposal. The BTF and the Buffalo School Board are currently in negotiations for a new contract, so this is likely one of the tactics the BTF is using in negotiations. If this proposal is adopted soon, a change to our charter would be required. There are a lot of moving parts to this issue and updates will be provided once they are known.

NEW BUSINESS

Policy-Sexual Harassment in the Workplace. Mr. Loveria referred to pgs. 16-25 of the Board Packet on updates to the current policy. All changes are highlighted in blue. After brief discussion, a motion to adopt the amended Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Policy was made by Mr. Kottakis, seconded by Mrs. Salasavage. Motion approved.

Enrollment-Mr. Loveria announced that the current enrollment stands at 2358. We are ahead of applications from this time last year and a new promotional commercial will run on Channel in the New Year. The digital campaign is now underway. Even with all the activities in our promotions of the school, we have only spent @1/3 of what we spent last year.

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 Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mr. Kottakis. Motion approved.

A motion to adjourn the regular meeting@ 5:40pm was made by Mr. Kottakis, seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Motion approved

Next Meeting: January 10, 2023 @ 4:30pm