

Charter School for Applied Technologies
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo, New York 14207
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 11/08/2022

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: In person, Joseph Berti, Michael Keller, Lisa Smith, Andrea Pasioka, Steve Kottakis, Danielle Salasavage, Jina Gentry

UNABLE TO ATTEND: John Cinquino, Ian Donnelly, Kevin Cornacchio, Michael Stevens

OTHERS PRESENT: In person: Andrew Lyle, Garrick Loveria, Tanya Moore, Bob Shannon, Sue Jurewicz, Ann Morgante, Brett Lutterbein, Patrick Heyden, Dara Seeley, 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 October 11, 2022 Minutes, including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee, made by Mrs. Pasioka, seconded by Mrs. Salasavage. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PRESENTATION

Mr. Trevor McCabe presented an overview of the 2022 CSAT Summer Academy. The purpose of the Summer Academy was to help students catch up to, maintain or exceed grade level expectations. Students who were below grade level expectations or on the border of meeting grade level expectations were the target audience for the program. The program ran daily from July 6- 29, 2022 from 8:30am-12:30pm. Student learning was measured via pre and post ELA & Math Assessments. Grade K-1 were assessed in Math only while Grade 2-5 were assessed in both Math & ELA. We continued our partnership with U.B. education majors who worked with our students in phonics and linguistics.

Mr. McCabe reviewed the results for each grade and offered his recommendation for next year. Enrollment was an issue that affected student results. In addition, Mr. McCabe recommends a longer summer session of six weeks to see positive results.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Cabinet Report- Mr. Lyle reported that there is no improvement with busing. We will be meeting this week with Cheryl Kennedy, Buffalo Schools Transportation Director, to discuss issues we are having with First Student. We suspect Buffalo is not getting an accurate picture of what First Student is telling them. We consistently have 5 late buses, which results in students and staff not leaving until 5:30 or 6 pm some evenings. We have alerted Susan Gibbons and Karonne Watson (Charter Office Counsel) of the issues we are having. We are still working on our efforts for support among the Pastors of our students' churches to help us as well. Mr. Berti asked that each Board member receive a copy of the busing contract to help us fully understand what our options are going forward. In addition, we are exploring a new program with Buffalo State, supported by the Cullen Foundation, that trains non-certified persons to obtain their NYS teacher certification. The outlook going forward for teachers is not promising and we are not alone in trying to find qualified candidates.

Principals Report

9-12: Mr. Lutterbein reports that the High School is refining its MTSS, attendance and behavioral systems. We now have attendance teams in place to improve that area, including outreach to families and holding students more accountable for attendance. We have a masquerade dance planned for Dec. 10. Our internship groups are in place, which is a key to growth of ECCP and our career exploration program.

6-8- Mr. Heyden mentioned that he attended a PBIS conference. Upcoming events include a Grade 6 dance & Grade 7 field trips. There has been improvement in behavior of Grade 8 students thanks to the efforts of our staff. We continue to work on our plan to improve school culture.

K-5-Mrs. Jurewicz reports that other than the busing issue, things are going well at the Elementary School. We are hosting Junior Achievement on Nov. 22 for a presentation on Life Skills.

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEE

Quality Assurance- Ms. Morgante presented an overview of QA's Academic Vision and Data summary for 2021-2022. The Academic Vision has four primary goals:

*Develop a comprehensive multi-dimensional design for delivery of coherent instruction that assures rigorous practices across all disciplines.

*Build capacity for instructional leadership and collaboration within the school community.

*Provide professional development that encourages teachers to expand their pedagogical approach to learning

* Allow students the opportunity to receive a high-quality education to promote access to colleges and family sustaining careers

The data from 2021-2022 indicated the following:

*Test scores are low as supported by Gr. 3-8 iReady data

*Attendance is low with high chronic absences

*Chronic social-emotional impacts on students in all grade levels.

*Differences between Gr. 3-8 assessments and Regents exam consequences for students.

We need to keep in mind that state grade level data has not been released and that data is not relative to any base comparison. CSAT is comparable with other charters and our students can read. We need to push for rigor and emphasize MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports).

The presentation then detailed specific plans for each building to initiate the new approach to learning (see handout).

The QA Team will continue to meet monthly, focus on classroom, coaching and NEST Walk throughs, meet to review data for instructional planning and curriculum development and provide professional development to align with goals for each building.

Career Readiness- Mr. Kottakis reported that the committee reviewed the activities taking place in Career Readiness. The main focus at the moment is evaluating how the Foundational Skills relate to the Career Readiness experiences we provide for our students. At your convenience, please see pg. 5-8 of the Board packet for a better perspective of the committee's work.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Appeals- Mr. Loveria stated that there have been 3 appeals, of which 2 were declined and 1 upheld.

OLD BUSINESS-

Facilities- Mr. Shannon provided an updated budget sheet for the High School crosswalk. The project is now delayed until Spring 2023 because of supply chain issues and town delays. Also, new sidewalks will be installed at the roundabout at Kenmore & Ontario Street. The new sidewalks will certainly provide additional safety for our students who have to walk in the road due to the current condition of the sidewalks.

NEW BUSINESS

Enrollment- Mr. Loveria announced that the current enrollment stands at 2333. We are currently enrolling new students as of Nov. 12. The new enrollment numbers in December should put us at @2340 students.

Personnel- Mr. Lyle reviewed the personnel report. He highlighted the number of new hires, including a new Project Lead the Way teacher in elementary school and a new maintenance lead person. We continue to actively recruit substitute teachers. Other than that, the report is self-explanatory.

A motion to accept the Enrollment and Personnel report made by Mrs. Salasavage, seconded by Mrs. Smith. Motion approved.

A motion to adjourn the regular meeting@ 6:10pm was made by Mr. Keller, seconded by Mrs. Pasioka. Motion approved

Next Meeting: December 13, 2022 @ 4:30pm