

Charter School for Applied Technologies
2245 Kenmore Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14207
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 9/13/2022

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: In person, Joseph Berti, Michael Keller, John Cinquino, Lisa Smith, Danielle Salasavage, Steve Kottakis, Kevin Cornacchio, Jina Gentry

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Andrea Pasieka, Ian Donnelly, Michael Stevens

OTHERS PRESENT: In person: Andrew Lyle, Garrick Loveria, Tanya Moore, Robert Shannon, Susan Jurewicz, Sterling Stearns, Ann Morgante, Brett Lutterbein, Sarah Monaco, Patrick Heyden, Nadine Williamson, Dara Seeley, Thomas Sullivan, Tara Jefferson, Nicole Killian, Daniel Scholze

MINUTES

Motion to approve the August 16, 2022 Minutes, including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee, made by Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mr. Keller. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PRESENTATION

Early College & Career Pathway (ECCP)- Mr. Lutterbein and Mrs. Monaco presented to the Board a review of the Summer Bridge Program that has taken place the last two years. In 2021, 46 students participated and 2022, 99 students. ECCP is a collaboration between CSAT, ECC and Buffalo State in providing our students with the opportunity to earn college credit and to better prepare them for their college and career outlook.

Mr. Lutterbein noted that in August, CSAT students completed their second summer session at Buffalo State. The students are exposed to a college setting and receive credit for courses designed to build critical thinking and other necessary skills needed for success. The students are also provided with academic supports at Buffalo State. In addition, student participate in career readiness workshops to expose them to careers of interest. This program is not exclusive to the top academic students.

The goal is to encourage students to apply who may not be in the top of their class but who show determination and grit.

Mrs. Monaco distributed a handout which detailed the Summer Bridge grade and cumulative attendance for students the past two summer sessions. In 2021, @74% of the students received an A or B, in 2022, that number climbed to @87%. In attendance, 2021 showed 95% attendance and in 2002, that number was 96%. The students who qualified participated in the Mayor's Summer Youth Program and were paid to attend ECCP. In 2021, students earned a total of \$72,000. In 2022, they earned \$171,000. This increase was thanks in large part to the efforts of Laura Errington who coordinated the Mayor's Summer Youth program staff to match students. The goal for summer 2023 is to have @150 students attend the Summer Bridge Program.

The CSAT Foundation has been instrumental in helping secure funding for ECCP. Special thanks to the Cullen Foundation, M & T Foundation and Buffalo State Foundation for their contributions.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Cabinet Report- Mr. Lyle reported that the year is off to a great start and the staff is thrilled to have the students back in the buildings. We continue to carefully monitor the budget. The New York State Charter School Office has a new Executive Director, Dr. Lisa Long, who replaces David Frank. We look forward to working with Dr. Long.

Principals Report

K-5: Mrs. Jurewicz said that the Elementary School is happy to have students fully return after two years of COVID. The Administrative Team was busy this summer planning for professional development for teachers and staff. A new assessment team has been established. They are also pleased to announce a new Assistant Principal, Mr. Sterling Stearns.

9-12: Mr. Lutterbein reports that the High School is off to a strong start. It is refreshing to return to a "new normal" after COVID. Our teachers and staff had fully participated in professional development to start the year. This year the school will emphasize Culture as a prominent part of our school community. In addition, they will focus on the importance of attendance. In NEST, our emphasis will be on socialization and support.

6-8- Mr. Hayden echoed the words of Mrs. Jurewicz and Mr. Lutterbein on how good it is to have a full school once again. The Middle school has adopted the High School's Code of Conduct – RALPH (Respect, Accountability, Leadership, Perseverance, Honesty). Mr. Hayden reported that he has been warmly welcomed by so many throughout the school. The Middle School is dividing the school into Houses, with teachers assigned to help guide our students in a pro-active way. They are also meeting to refine our safety protocols.

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEE

None

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Appeals- None

OLD BUSINESS

Revised 2022-2023 Committee Assignments-Mr. Loveria mentioned that committee assignments have been revised and are contained on pages 7-8 of the Board packet.

NEW BUSINESS

Policy- Mr. Loveria asked Board consideration for an update to the school's Attendance Policy. It is a minor change with language to be removed highlighted in red. After a short discussion, a motion to approve the policy change was made by Mr. Cornacchio, seconded by Mr. Kottakis. Motion approved

Mr. Loveria also asked the Board to review the updated Schoolwide Safety Plan. The Safety Plan must be submitted to New York State by October 1, 2022. A vote by email will be conducted as it is due prior to the October Board meeting. A motion to approve the updated Schoolwide Safety Plan was made by Mr. Berti, seconded by Mr. Keller. The vote to approve by email was received on September 29, 2022. Motion approved.

Enrollment-Mr. Loveria announced that the current enrolment stands at 2288, which is 77 under maximum. This is not unusual at this time of year. The school recently enrolled over 100 students from Sept. 1 to now, which is not reflected in those numbers. Among the reasons for loss of students is the number of new charter schools being opened and transportation issues. An update will be provided in October.

Personnel-Mr. Lyle reviewed the personnel report. He highlighted the number of new hires. We were able to retain staff as the competition for teachers from other schools and districts is increasing. We are actively recruiting substitute teachers. You can also see we have had position changes and several resignations. Other than that, the report is self-explanatory.

A motion to accept the Enrollment and Personnel report made by Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mr. Keller. Motion approved.

A motion to adjourn to Executive Session @5:40pm was made by Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mr. Cornacchio. Motion approved. No votes were taken in Executive Session. A motion to adjourn the regular meeting@ 6:00pm was made by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Salasavage. Motion approved

Next Meeting: October 11, 2022 @ 4:30pm