

Charter School for Applied Technologies
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo, New York 14207
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 6/7/2022

MINUTES

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

VIA TELECONFERENCE: Lisa Smith, Andrea Pasioka, Ian Donnelly, Michael Stevens

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Danielle Salasavage

OTHERS PRESENT: In person: Andrew Lyle, Garrick Loveria, Robert Shannon, Susan Jurewicz, Ann Morgante, Brett Lutterbein, Dara Seeley, Thomas Sullivan, Tara Jefferson, Nicole Killian, Keith Banas, Daniel Scholze, Mark Struckmann, Gus, Therapy Dog

MINUTES

Motion to approve the May 10, 2022 Minutes, including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee, made by Mr. Kottakis, seconded by Mr. Keller. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PRESENTATION

Mark Struckmann, 2nd grade music teacher and Gus, the elementary school therapy dog came to today's board meeting to thank the Board for their support of the therapy dog program at CSAT. Mr. Struckmann told the Board about Gus, one of the original therapy dogs, who is retiring this year. Gus saw over 2000 students in his time. He was valuable in behavior interventions and as a goodwill ambassador for the school.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Cabinet Report- Mr. Lyle reported that he has not heard any updates from Susan Gibbons at SED regarding the initial visit. That report should be forthcoming soon. As regards the Buffalo News article on CSAT building a new athletic field, that report was not totally accurate. The school sent a letter to Councilman Joseph Golombek requesting a meeting to discuss the possibility of CSAT entering into an agreement to utilize the JH Williams Field that is directly behind the Family Support Center. The field is under utilized and could be an asset for our athletes. We have lost our ability to use the Brighton Field in Tonawanda next year and the Niagara Frontier League is pressuring us to look seriously at acquiring our own facility. There is no firm commitment from CSAT or City of Buffalo about this possibility. We are meeting with Councilman Golombek in the next two weeks to discuss.

The new Middle School Principal, Mr. Patrick Hayden has visited the Middle School and will be at the June 21 Board meeting. Ms. Lindsey Dust will join the administrative team at the Middle School next year as Assistant Principal.

Mr. Lyle and others discussed the teacher recruitment and retention issue. We need to come up with improved methods of both recruitment and retention. The teacher shortage is causing increased competition resulting in districts offering higher salaries that CSAT is unable to match. Teachers are also leaving the teacher profession all together.

Mr. Banas said that the key to keeping teachers at CSAT is time. Teachers here work longer and most who leave site this as the primary reason for moving on. They have to pay for day care services and would rather be home earlier to pick their children up from the bus or at their school. It is something that should be explored further.

Principals Report

K-5: Mrs. Jurewicz reported that 4th grade completed the NYS Science exam which will be scored next week. The Elementary School is wrapping up the school year with field days. We continue to deal with pandemic related concerns which have only increased with the shootings in Buffalo and Texas. Parents are very much on edge with the Texas shooting and some parents kept their children home for an extended period. We hope for a return to normal in August. Summer School will be held from July 5-29 for @120 Kindergartners. UB is again helping with the phonics portion of summer school. Students will receive both breakfast and lunch.

9-12: Ms. Morgante mentioned that graduation is June 22 at Kleinhan's Music Hall. We are still working with approximately 10 seniors who likely will not graduate in June. Exams begin June 14. We will have @100 student in the ECCP program for next year. Summer School plans are in place with Credit Recovery and an 8th grade prep program.

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEE

Quality Assurance-Mrs. Pasioka referenced pages 5-23 of the Board packet for today's meeting. The following topics were discussed at the most recent meeting.

Attendance: The absentee rate is higher than we would like. We are slightly below the state rate of 90%. You will see the absentee rate by grade level. The concern is the unexcused rate which is high.

Suspension Rates: We are noticing a reduced number of suspensions as the school year went on, which is the result of new programming that was instituted. Note that on page 13 the number of suspensions, especially at the Middle School, were down.

Grade 3-8 ELA/Math: The participation numbers were very good.

Parent Survey results: The number of respondents was very encouraging. The school scored high in a number of areas. Please take some time to review the parent comments on pages 16-22.

Finance-Mr. Cinquino presented the budget for the 2022-2023 School Year. Board members can read more details in the budget emailed prior to the meeting.

Highlights of the Budget:

Enrollment: 2365

Staff: 346

Budget Estimate: 99%

Revenue: 1% increase

Stimulus/ESSER Funds: \$2.7 million

Salaries: Union: 2% or BTM, Non-Union: 2%

Health Care: No increase, adding High Deductible/HSA Plan

K-2 Expansion- Class size reduction to address the achievement gaps in primary grades (classrooms increased by 2)

Overall Revenue is flat, except for ESSER and other government funds

Change in Net Assets: \$1.9 million loss (cash loss of \$545K)

Motion to accept the 2022-2023 Budget made by Mr. Kottakis, seconded by Mr. Cornacchio. Motion approved

Career Readiness-Mr. Kottakis briefly touched on the Career Readiness report. The committee continues its work on Program Evaluation and is excited about the ECCP Program expansion next year. The Industry Advisory Council breakfast last week was a great experience. The partnerships the school has with various local businesses are an excellent resource for our students.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Appeals- None

Facilities-Mr. Shannon informed the Board that the Town of Tonawanda is presently reviewing the Crosswalk proposal. While the project is on the docket for early July, supply chain issues will likely push the completion date to the Fall.

OLD BUSINESS

Policy on Sexual Harassment-Mr. Loveria provided the Board with an update to the Sexual Harassment policy. The changes are highlighted in blue. The Board is asked to review the proposed changes and be prepared to vote at the June 21 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Enrollment-Mr. Loveria noted that the current enrollment stands at 2331. No new students have been added.

Personnel-Mr. Lyle reviewed the personnel report. He noted that we have added new support staff in the cafeteria and cleaners. There are several resignations and non-renewals as well. 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 @6:10pm was made by Mrs. Pasiaka, seconded by Mr. Donnelly. Motion approved. No votes were taken in Executive Session. A motion to adjourn the regular meeting@ 6:45pm was made by Mr. Cornacchio, seconded by Mr. Keller. Motion approved

Next Meeting: June 21, 2022 @ 4:30pm