

Charter School for Applied Technologies
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo, New York 14207
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 5/10/2022

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: In person, Joseph Berti, Michael Keller, John Cinquino, Danielle Salasavage, Andrea Pasieka, Ian Donnelly, Jina Gentry

VIA TELECONFERENCE: Michael Stevens, Kevin Cornacchio

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Lisa Smith, Steve Kottakis, Nadine Powell

OTHERS PRESENT: In person: Andrew Lyle, Tanya Moore, Bob Shannon, Susan Jurewicz, Ann Morgante, Brett Lutterbein, Michele Fiorella, Dara Seeley, Lindsey Dust, Thomas Sullivan, Yaritza Draine, Nicole Killion, Keith Banas, Trevor McCabe

MINUTES

Motion to approve the April 19, 2022 Minutes, including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee, made by Mrs. Pasieka, seconded by Mr. Keller. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PRESENTATION

Ms. Lindsey Dust, Director of Student Services presented an overview of the student management protocols that are in place at CSAT.

CSAT has school wide expectations that all students are to follow. It is in place in grades K-8 with S.O.A.R. (BeSafe, Be RespOnsible, BeAccountable BeRespectful) and grades 9-12 with RALPH Respect, Accountability, Leadership, Perseverance, Honesty). Students who are unable to meet those expectations and are disciplined are logged into SWIS, School-Wide Information System, which is a web-based decision system used to improve behavior support in schools. Discipline is categorized into minor and major infractions and the consequences that follow the level of seriousness. In addition, CSAT uses a Progressive Discipline procedure and a Multi-Tiered System of Supports, known as MTSS. The social-emotional needs of the students this year is immense. Mr. Lyle lauded the faculty and staff on their efforts this year to support our students as they transition back from remote to in person learning.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Cabinet Report- Mr. Lyle reported on the April 26, 2022 visit by Ms. Susan Gibbons of the NYS Charter School Office. Ms. Gibbons spent the day touring the school buildings. She commented favorably on the ECCP program and had the chance to visit classrooms at all three buildings. Her day concluded with a meeting with the Cabinet in which she said she had an “amazing visit.” Ms. Gibbons did not indicate any concerns with the Ten benchmarks of our renewal. A written report on the visit will be forthcoming. A shout out to the High School regrading Regents exam results. CSAT students outperformed NYS on 8 of 10 Regents exams!!! Congratulations to faculty and staff on this outstanding achievement.

Mr. Lyle reminded the Board about the \$3 increase in shirt costs for next year. As costs for most items is going up, it is necessary to increase the price.

A reminder that High School graduation will take place on June 22, at 7 p.m. at Kleinhan’s Music Hall. Board members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Principals Report

K-5: Mrs. Jurewicz reported that State math testing is complete. The stare scoring was very strict on what was permitted on the test. Ms. Gibbons visited the K-2 classrooms during her tour and thoroughly enjoyed her visits. We are planning end of year celebrations for Kindergarten and Gr. 5.

6-8: Mrs. Fiorella also noted the visit by Ms. Gibbons. She did make mention that the substitute shortage has been difficult to deal with.

9-12: Ms. Morgante mentioned that Ms. Gibbons visited the ECCP classrooms and was eager to know more about the program and its impact on the school. Today, we inducted 54 9th graders into the ECCP program and this summer we anticipate having @100 students on the Buffalo State Campus taking part in those sessions. We will be meeting shortly with the parents of the ECCP students on expectation regarding the program. We do have a number of seniors that are struggling, @25-30 in total. They will likely be staying until June and/or August to complete their course work. The main issue with most is attendance.

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEE

Finance-Mr. Cinquino announced that there is still work to do on the 2022-2023 school budget. As a result, we will defer discussion on the budget until the June 7th meeting.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Appeals- Mr. Donnelly reported that one appeal of an Elementary School student was filed. The student had 37 major referrals. The original decision for permanent suspension was affirmed. The student will be given support services for the remainder of the year.

Facilities-Mr. Shannon provided a brief overview of the High School crosswalk project on Kenmore Avenue. Blackstone Construction is the general contractor. We are dealing with both Erie County & Town of Tonawanda. Currently, the Town is reviewing the plans. The estimated completion is sometime in the fall of 2022, provided all materials are able to be procured. The year-to-date cost is \$62,204, with a contingency amount of \$78,000. The ownership and maintenance will be assumed by the Town upon completion.

OLD BUSINESS

Revisit Personal Device Procedures-Mr. Lyle reminded the Board that this item was discussed at the April meeting with a vote at today's meeting which allows time for the students to be educated on the new procedures in time for next school year. Mr. Berti commented that enforcement is the key to a successful policy.

NEW BUSINESS

Enrollment-Mr. Lyle reports that as of May 3, the total enrollment is 2339, which is down 26. He said most of that number is families moving now. You will see on page 6 of the packet the results of the lottery. The chart shows returning students, students who applied for and were accepted with weighted preference and those fully enrolled and projections for total enrollment. Mr. Lyle noted that competition among charters does impact numbers with busing issues and the fact the Kindergarten is not required in New York State.

Personnel-Mr. Lyle reviewed the personnel report. He noted that we have added several new teachers, support staff and new substitute teachers. Other than that, the report is self-explanatory.

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

A motion to adjourn to Executive Session @6:00pm was made by Mrs. Pasioka, seconded by Mr. Donnelly. Motion approved. No votes were taken in Executive Session. A motion to adjourn the regular meeting @ 7:00pm was made by Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mr. Keller. Motion approved

Next Meeting: June 7, 2022 @ 4:30pm