

Charter School for Applied Technologies
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo, New York 14207
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 4/19/2022

MINUTES

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

Via Teleconference: Andrea Pasioka

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Nadine Powell, Michael Stevens

OTHERS PRESENT: In person: Andrew Lyle, Garrick Loveria, Tanya Moore, Bob Shannon, Ann Morgante, Brett Lutterbein, Anthony Favata, Jared Lincourt, Susan Jurewicz, Tara Jefferson, Yaritza Draine, Nicole Killion, Keith Banas, Dan Scholze, Cinde Cozad, Lily Engebrecht

MINUTES

Motion to approve the March 8, 2022 minutes, including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee, made by Mr. Donnelly, seconded by Mr. Kottakis. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PRESENTATION

Greenhouse- Cinde Cozad presented on current happenings at the CSAT Greenhouse including partnerships with local organizations and propagating of plants by students. Highlights include:

- Ongoing partnership with the Six Nation for the Haudenosaunee Garden
- Planting and growth of Lemon trees by all first-grade students
- Partnership with Dr. Linqvist from the Genomes Department at the University at Buffalo.
- Ongoing collaboration and partnership with the NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation located in Sandberg, NY to help the state increase growth of endangered plants native to the area. High School students are providing community service for this project in conjunction with the Buffalo Museum of

Science and Tiff Nature Preserve. Goals are the propagation and site installation of native plants for environmental restoration which will be conducted on June 7.

- Feeding the Gorillas! The Greenhouse has partnered with the Buffalo Zoo and is providing 280 heads of hydroponically grown lettuce to the Zoo every 60 days. This partnership saves the zoo \$3,000 per year.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Cabinet Report- A visit from Susan Gibbons from the Charter School Office is slated for April 26.. She will spend a significant portion of time at the HS to learn more about the ECCP Program in addition to visiting all other school buildings. Mr. Lyle is attempting to reschedule a meeting with David Frank to discuss bussing. He, along with Mr. Berti and Ms. Smith, have met with BPS to discuss transportation options and the ongoing concern of driver shortages. STA may be a potential third party to provide transportation. Mr. Lyle addressed the continued protocols currently in place regarding COVID 19. We continue to report cases to the county, however, cases have not increased significantly here at CSAT. Due to the rising costs of supplies, there is a potential for increase in the cost of uniform shirts. The school is still in communication with vendors, however, the cost of shirts could increase from \$11 to \$13 a shirt.

Principals Report

K5: Mrs. Jurewicz reported that the Elementary School Open House had a successful turnout. The event was tour based with staff volunteers providing families with personalized tours. ELA testing went well and students will be taking the NYS Math assessment on April 26 and Science Assessment on May 24.

HS: Ms. Morgante reported that HS graduation will be Wednesday, June 22 at Kleinhans. A survey of parents and students overwhelmingly showed that the participants preferred an in person ceremony as a group.

MS: Mr. Favata reported that the MS is getting ready for the upcoming NYS Math test.

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEE

Career Readiness- Mr. Kottakis mentioned that the Committee is reviewing the history of measuring outcomes after graduation. The group would like to focus on Pathways and how to measure success both before students leaving High School and in their long-term career goals. Subcommittee meetings to discuss this will be happening prior to our May meeting.

Finance- Mr. Cinquino discussed 2021-2022 balance and income sheet. Overall we once again continue to be very stable with consistent financial performance. Short term liabilities remain low, compared to our short-term assets, indicating good cash flow and working capital so we can meet our obligations on a long basis.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Appeals- Mr. Donnelly reported two appeals. One Middle School student was permanently suspended for aggression towards students and staff. A review was

completed and the permanent suspension was upheld. The Elementary Student case is still being reviewed and a decision will be reported in May.

OLD BUSINESS

2022-2023 K-12 Calendar: Mr. Lyle reminded the Board that the calendar was distributed at the March meeting for review and approval. If the dates are different from Buffalo Public Schools, we will change ours. A motion to accept the 2022-2023 Calendar was made by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Salasavage. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Cullen & ECCP Summer Bridge – CSAT has been awarded a grant for \$50,000 from the Cullen Foundation toward the ECCP Program. An additional \$42,000 must still be raised to fund the growth of the Summer Bridge Program which will increase from 50 to 100 students this year. 10th and 11th grade students will participate in the program this July and August.

Electronics Policy - Student Cellphone use has increased throughout the schools, creating a noticeable distraction within the learning environment. An electronics policy was reviewed and will be finalized by the leadership team. Students are to keep their devices off and stored in their locker/cubby for the duration of the school day. Vote to come in June for the 2022-23 school year.

Enrollment - Mr. Loveria reports that enrollment currently stands at 2353. No new enrollees will be accepted until the 2022-23 calendar year. CSAT received 811 applicants during Open Enrollment, which is up significantly from last year. Lori Allan & Emily Lyons have done a great job working with our marketing partners.

Personnel - Mr. Lyle reviewed the personnel report. We have two resignations: a math teacher & a K-5 cleaner. We have been able to recruit new substitutes as well as cleaners for the buildings. Other than that, the report is self-explanatory.

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

Nominations - Mr. Berti presented Jina Gentry as a new member of the Board of Trustees. Ms. Smith noted the importance of diversifying our Board of Trustees. A motion to accept the nomination of Ms. Gentry was made by Mr. Berti, seconded by Mr. Kottakis. Motion approved.

A motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:01pm was made by Mr. Kottakis, seconded by Mrs. Pasioka. Motion approved.

Next Meeting: May 10, 2022 @ 4:30pm