

Charter School for Applied Technologies
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo, New York 14207
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 3/8/2022

MINUTES

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

VIA TELECONFERENCE: Nadine Powell

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Kevin Cornacchio

OTHERS PRESENT: In person: Andrew Lyle, Garrick Loveria, Tanya Moore, Ann Morgante, Susan Jurewicz, Brett Lutterbein, Jared Lincourt, Thomas Sullivan, Nicole Killian, Keith Banas, Daniel Scholze, Tara Jefferson, Trevor McCabe, Jared Northrup and Gina Gentry (possible new Board Member)

MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PRESENTATION

Mr. Lyle presented a brief overview to the Board on CSAT's transportation issues with Buffalo Schools. We received busing until 2006 at which time Buffalo refused to transport. We then contracted with Student Transportation of America (STA) until 2008 when Buffalo renewed our contract. The issues with late buses began before COVID but have only gotten worse since COVID. We made changes to our drop off and pick up times to accommodate Buffalo, but we routinely have buses arriving after 4 pm, mainly at the Elementary School. We have incurred additional costs to pay staff to remain after 4pm and the late buses are having a negative impact on enrollment. We have reached out to Buffalo and will be meeting in April to remind them of their contractual obligations. This needs resolution as our contract with Buffalo ends in 2025, the same year as our charter renewal.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Cabinet Report- Mr. Lyle said that the teachers have been working diligently to help meet the academic and social-emotional needs of our students. We are looking at an outside firm called PAPER to provide one-on-one tutoring assistance. We met recently with Big Brother/Big Sister of WNY (thanks to the efforts of Lisa Smith) to work on social-emotional issues. The plan is to have High school Students trained as Mentors for our younger students. We have also contracted to have City Year members work at the Middle School and High School next year (thanks to Michael Stevens). Mr. Lyle circulated the 2022-2023 calendar for review and vote at the April meeting. Mr. Berti commended the school on how it is addressing the social/emotional needs of the students.

Principals Report

Ms. Morgante reported that the building principals have been meeting to develop plans to improve their accountability as well as to develop a K-12 learning model to coordinate learning outcomes. The principals have been meeting every two weeks and the administrative teams meet once a month on Saturdays. The purpose is to increase the rigor with best practices and to share our instructional vision. The key to the success of this endeavor is consistency. The goal is to present this to all faculty in August 2022. Ms. Morgante also noted that the recent High School open house was one of the best they've had. Kudos to Mr. Loveria and his team, Lori Allan and Emily Lyons, for their efforts in promoting the open house.

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEE

Quality Assurance- Mrs. Pasieka referenced the QA report on pages 5-21 of the Board Packet. She highlighted the attendance numbers which shows CSAT's average attendance @89.9%, slightly below NYS goal of 90%. The absenteeism correlates to the recent COVID spike. The High School is working diligently on improving senior attendance.

As regards to suspensions, the average percentage rate is better than the 2019-2020 school year. We are also concentrating on disproportion rates, specifically the number of SPED and Black student suspension rates. The rates are listed by month and school. We see encouraging signs that the rates are starting to drop, and plans are in place to address those issues that are causing suspensions.

Academically, the K-8 iReady diagnostics are seeing some encouraging results. Compared to the 2019-2020 school year rates, we've seen improvement in reducing those who are two or more grade levels behind. For the High School, mid-year exams were reviewed. Using the same base comparison as K-8, the numbers are a bit lower, though the staff has managed to bring students back to pre-COVID levels.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Appeals- Mr. Donnelly reported that one appeal of a High School student was filed. The original decision for permanent suspension was affirmed.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Enrollment-Mr. Loveria reports that enrollment currently stands at 2355. We will stop taking new students at the end of March. Recruitment efforts are paying off. As Ms. Morgante noted, the High School open house was well attended. We continue to visit Day Care centers and our social media campaign is ongoing. CSAT's Lottery is scheduled for April 4.

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 Mrs. Pasieka, seconded by Mr. Stevens. Motion approved.

A motion to adjourn to Executive Session @5:30pm was made by Mr. Keller, seconded by Mr. Donnelly. Motion approved. No votes were taken in Executive Session. A motion to adjourn the regular meeting @ 6:15pm was made by Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mrs. Smith. Motion approved

Next Meeting: April 5, 2022 @ 4:30pm