

Charter School for Applied Technologies
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo, New York 14207
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 2/8/2022

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: In person, Joseph Berti, Michael Keller, John Cinquino, Danielle Salasavage, Steve Kottakis, Kevin Cornacchio, Michael Stevens

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Kenneth Robinson, Lisa Smith, Ian Donnelly, Andrea Pasioka

OTHERS PRESENT: In person: Andrew Lyle, Garrick Loveria, Tanya Moore, Ann Morgante, Susan Jurewicz, Meghan Mercurio, Thomas Sullivan, Anthony Favata, Dara Seeley, Nicole Killian, Christopher Burzynski, Tara Jefferson, Trevor McCabe

MINUTES

Motion to approve the January 11, 2022 Minutes, including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee, made by Mr. Cornacchio, seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PRESENTATION

None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Cabinet Report- Mr. Lyle discussed the mask mandate as it pertains to schools in New York State. There was a zoom call with Gov. Hochul today with school superintendents. The school leaders expressed their desire to see the mandate expire on Feb. 21 and leave the decision on further masking to schools rather than the state. It looks like the state is moving to end the mandate but on a later date to allow schools and parents to prepare for the end of masking. BOCES will be sending out an interim calendar for 2022-2023 school year sometime next week. We are also working on an incentive plan with our current staff to assist in the recruitment of new teachers and staff. As for enrollment, we are doing well. Garrick will discuss a plan to engage day care centers in the recruitment of kindergarteners. Mr. Lyle introduced the new athletic director, Chris Burzynski, to provide the Board with an overview on CSAT Athletics.

Mr. Burzynski provided a handout to those attending. Highlights of the handout included:

- Update on Fall, Winter and Spring sports, Modified, JV and Varsity
- Working with Victory Sports, an initiative with Buffalo Bills player Emmanuel Sanders, to provide monies to organizations for athletics upgrades
- Facility updates are on-going
- We are resuming athletic banquets and our modified athletes will now be invited to attend

Principals Report

9-12 Ms. Morgante reported that High School mid-terms went well and attendance was very good. The teachers did an outstanding job of preparing students for exams. We have a QA meeting scheduled for Friday and will present the data from mid-terms at that meeting. Those students who had good attendance did well on the regents and core course exams and likewise, those with poor attendance struggled. We continue to call parents in regard to attendance issues. We were very pleased with attendance last week with our two remote learning days that were necessitated by the snowstorm.

6-8 Mr. Favata mentioned that the Middle School focus is on diagnostic testing which is close to 100% complete. We have also been working on programming to help reduce the number of suspensions. We too had great attendance for our two remote learning days last week.

K-5 Mrs. Jurewicz noted that the Elementary School has three sets of testing taking place right now. Every student is taking the iReady diagnostic. We have observed that the students who are in the intervention groups that are 2 or more grade levels behind are very motivated and are working hard to return to their classroom groups. As Ms. Morgante said, we will be working through the testing data at the QA meeting this Friday.

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEE

Career Readiness- Mr. Loveria reported on the Jan. 20, 2022 CR meeting, the minutes of which are included in the Board packet. As you can see from the minutes, there was a presentation by Mrs. Errington on programming for K-12. We also discussed the ECCP Program, a new welding club being formed with help from the Northland Training Center, a course being offered by Buffalo State College for students interested in a teaching career and the annual mock interviews that were hosted this year at Niagara University. A follow-up to ECCP, there will be new health care course offerings at Buffalo State and ECC. We are also applying for additional grants with the Cullen Foundation. The committee will be dedicating its March meeting to prioritize Program Evaluation and how to best implement this at CSAT.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Appeals- None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Enrollment-Mr. Loveria reports that enrollment currently stands at 2361, four short of capacity. As for recruitment, our internal goal for kindergarten applications is 230, to account for dropouts and other reasons. We are currently 100 short of that number. Our plan is to actively recruit at 30 daycare centers to establish an on-going relationship with them and to strongly encourage attending the Open House in March. Mr. Lyle informed the Board about an enrollment app that the Cullen Foundation had recommended charter schools to use called School Mint. It was advertised as a way for Buffalo charter school parents to use to apply for enrollment. CSAT did not participate for several reasons, including we are not a charter located in Buffalo and the high cost for the app and other add-ons that School Mint recommends. It turns out that we did well if not better with our own enrollment plan.

Personnel-Mr. Lyle reviewed the personnel report. He noted that we have added several new teachers, support staff and new substitute teachers. We did lose a few others, notably one very good teacher who was recruited away from CSAT by eSchool. Other than that, the report is self-explanatory. Mr. Berti commented on the Jan. 14 reception at Aqua for the faculty and staff. He felt it was a success and expressed his thanks to all who attended.

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

A motion to adjourn to Executive Session @5:45pm was made by Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mr. Keller. Motion approved. The Board voted on a personnel matter in executive session. A motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made at 7:30pm by Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Keller. Motion approved

Next Meeting: March 8, 2022 @ 4:30pm