

Charter School for Applied Technologies
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo, New York 14207
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 12/14/2021

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: In person, Joseph Berti, Michael Keller, John Cinquino, Andrea Pasieka, Danielle Salasavage, Steve Kottakis

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Kenneth Robinson, Lisa Smith, Ian Donnelly, Michael Stevens, Kevin Cornacchio

OTHERS PRESENT: In person: Andrew Lyle, Garrick Loveria, Tanya Moore, Ann Morgante, Brett Lutterbein, Susan Jurewicz, Jared Lincourt, Meghan Mercurio, Thomas Sullivan, Anthony Favata, Dara Seeley, Keith Banas. Guests Donna Gonser & Robert Torella of Lumsden & McCormick.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the November 9, 2021 Minutes, including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee, made by Mr. Keller, seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Byrd, a Middle School parent, expressed concern about bullying involving his daughter. He read a letter he submitted to the Board regarding the alleged incidents with a timeline of the events. Mr. Berti told Mr. Byrd that the school will respond to his concerns.

PRESENTATION

None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Cabinet Report- Mr. Lyle discussed the COVID restrictions currently in place at the school and the daily reporting requirements that both Erie County and New York State requires of every school. The rise in COVID cases is a result of community/home spread and not school spread. The substitute shortage continues, which is putting a strain on our staff, but they are doing an outstanding job in trying circumstances. David Frank was unable to visit CSAT due to travel restrictions placed on state employees due to COVID. We are hoping to reschedule his visit in 2022. Michael Bloomberg wrote an opinion piece in New York Times in which he lauded the work of charter schools. Mr.

Lyle wrote a letter to Mr. Bloomberg about the great things happening at CSAT, notably the ECCP Program. He received a reply that Mr. Bloomberg is interested in visiting CSAT sometime next year. Mr. Bloomberg's generosity is mainly for NYC Charters, though he may be willing to look outside of NYC for charters that are making a difference in their community.

Principals Report-Mr. Favata reports that the December 8 PD Day was successful. The teachers and administration are proposing three additional PD days for the Board to consider: Jan. 28, Feb. 16, 18, or 28 and Mar. 25. The teachers felt it was great being together to plan which they have not been able to do. On December 8 and for the other proposed PD days, the students were in contact remotely with the teachers and student attendance that day was very good.

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEE

Quality Assurance- Mrs. Pasioka referenced the supplement to the Board packet for today's report.

Attendance: Pages 1-3 shows attendance for all three buildings by grade level for the months of Sept.-Nov. The average attendance is 91.5%, state goal is 90% and CSAT goal is 95%. On Page 4, the numbers shown are students who have been quarantined for the same time period.

Suspensions: Pages 5-7 shows information for student suspensions for Sept.-Nov. The suspensions are listed by building, ethnicity and reason for suspension. The reason most cited for suspensions is for altercations.

ELA & Math: Pages 8-10 shows the level of proficiency in ELA & Math from Spring, 2021. The numbers are somewhat skewed as they do not represent normalcy and the number of students who took the test during COVID.

iReady: Pages 11-14 shows iReady testing, with comparisons to national, state and local results and with emphasis on students who are 2 or more grade levels behind. The report shows large gaps in CSAT's numbers, which presents a challenge to us to remediate the student who are behind. The numbers are indicative of COVID related issues that are seen throughout the country.

Finance- Mr. Cinquino introduced Ms. Donna Gonser and Mr. Robert Torella of the accounting firm Lumsden & McCormick to report on the audit for fiscal year 2021. The following are brief highlights of the report:

- The audit found no significant audit adjustments and no material weakness.
- Fiscal Year 2021 saw an increase in Change in Net Assets, mainly due to strong market investment returns.
- The expense side was very consistent.
- The school has a strong balance sheet with cash on hand for 5 months.

Mr. Cinquino noted that Lumsden & McCormick has provided the school with suggested improvements which the school has already begun to implement.

Mr. Cinquino also lauded the work that Mrs. Moore and her staff have done this past year considering all the issues that have arisen due to COVID.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Appeals- Mr. Loveria reported on one appeal of a high school student permanently suspended for possession of illegal substance. The appeal is still pending.

Nominations- Mr. Berti presented Nadine Powell, Asst. VP & Senior Program Manager, M & T Tech Hub, as a new member of the Board of Trustees. A motion to accept the nomination of Ms. Powell was made by Mr. Berti, seconded by Mrs. Pasiaka. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Enrollment-Mr. Loveria reports that enrollment currently stands at 2359, six short of maximum enrollment. A bit of good news is that we have received 131 new applications in November.

Personnel-Mr. Lyle reviewed the personnel report. We have a number of new hires, including a new a lead COVID person, nurse Tara Jefferson. She has a critical role with COVID related issues. We also have several new cafeteria staff and substitutes along with the usual FMLA leaves of absence. Other than that, the report is self-explanatory.

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

A motion to adjourn to Executive Session @6:00pm 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 6:45pm by Mrs. Pasiaka, seconded by Mr. Keller. Motion approved

Next Meeting: January 11, 2022 @ 4:30pm