

Charter School for Applied Technologies
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo, New York 14207
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 10/12/2021

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: In person, Joseph Berti, Michael Keller, Ian Donnelly, Michael Stevens, Danielle Salasavage **Via Teleconference:** Lisa Smith, Andrea Pasioka, John Cinquino, Kevin Cornacchio

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Kenneth Robinson, Steven Kottakis

OTHERS PRESENT: In person: Andrew Lyle, Garrick Loveria, Tanya Moore, Robert Shannon, Ann Morgante, Brett Lutterbein, Anthony Favata, Jared Lincourt, Nadine Williamson, Meghan Mercurio, Dara Seeley, Keith Banas, Daniel Scholze **Via Teleconference:** Thomas Sullivan, Nicole Killion

MINUTES

Motion to approve the September 14, 2021 Minutes, including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee, made by Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PRESENTATION

None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Cabinet Report- Mr. Lyle will be posting more information on the Board Team site so that members can easily access such items as reports, bylaws and other pertinent information.

Mr. David Frank, Director of NYS Charter School Office, will be moving to the Office of Educational Policy as Chief of Staff. He will however continue to be of service to Charter Schools.

The school will be introducing a New Board Member Orientation to assist members to become more familiar with the school prior to the start of their term.

Thanks to the efforts of Board Member Michael Stevens, we have welcomed seven City Year interns to the High School. They will assist students and teachers, especially in the area of social/emotional well-being.

We are dealing with a number of COVID related issues, primarily staffing. We have students who are out due to quarantine, but also teachers and staff who are also under quarantine or their own children are out of school and need to be supervised at home. In the event we reach 20% of teachers out, we would likely have to close individual buildings. We have reached out to area colleges to see if they could assist with undergraduate seniors who could possibly sub. The Middle School will be down 9 staff tomorrow. The intervention teachers will sub that day. This adversely effects our intervention instruction. We can use all the help we can get. CSAT is not alone in addressing this problem. We will also begin surveillance testing.

Principals Report

Mr. Lyle stated that for all future Principal Reports, one Principal will be reporting on behalf of K-12. Ms. Morgante will report today.

Ms. Morgante indicated that the Principals are meeting regularly with the curriculum coordinators to share best practices to ensure a comprehensive K-12 system of delivering instruction at CSAT.

Following up on Mr. Lyle's report, we are not using the resources we have in place with the addition of intervention teachers due to COVID and the quarantine issues with staff. Those intervention teachers are now subbing, and students are missing out on valuable instruction time. In addition, we are dealing with a higher than usual absentee rate among students. When students have to quarantine for 10 days or stay home and watch younger family members, it poses a big problem. We are starting home visitations this Friday for those who have multiple absences. We need to address the staffing issue and we welcome all suggestions.

Mr. Berti asked how the Board can assist with this. Ms. Morgante said that the school has tried to recruit subs but there are not enough available right now. We have contacted colleges to help and have used our City Year interns. She suggested Board members put the word out about subbing opportunities.

A Board member inquired about teachers out on quarantine if they could teach remotely. Mr. Lyle said that is not likely since we need to follow HR rules on those out on sick time.

Mrs. Pasioka wondered if teachers could record lessons so students who are out could receive instruction while Mr. Cornacchio suggested we reach out to retired teachers.

Mr. Berti concluded that we must continue to brainstorm ideas to help the school and to do all that's possible to avoid closing any buildings

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEE

Career Readiness-Mr. Loveria reported on what was discussed at the Sept. 23 meeting:

Mrs. Errington highlighted the various activities that are taking place in each building We are working on placing students in internships, though vaccine requirements are hindering that.

We continue to see early success with ECCP. We plan to engage with M&T Bank regarding their Tech Hub and hope to create a separate pathway for that industry. The Industry Advisory Council met virtually on Oct. 6. The Job Board is very busy with dozens of postings each week.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Appeals- No report

OLD BUSINESS

Policy- Mr. Loveria referenced the Title IX and Sex Discrimination Policy that was distributed at the September meeting. He is requesting a vote to approve the policy. A motion to approve the Title IX and Sex Discrimination Policy was made by Mrs. Salasavage, seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Enrollment-Mr. Loveria reports that enrollment is currently at 2358. In terms of recruitment, a new commercial will begin shortly on Ch. 2 & 4, and will feature high school students Camden Church and Mirakle Rodgers.

Personnel-Mr. Lyle reviewed the personnel report. You will notice a number of cafeteria monitor positions have been filled, thanks to the ESSER funds. We were able to hire additional substitutes, though we could use many more. There are a few position changes, including athletic director, counselor and Kindergarten teacher, and several resignations. Other than that, the report is self-explanatory.

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

A motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 5:20pm was made by Mr. Donnelly, seconded by Mr. Keller. Motion approved.

Next Meeting: November 9, 2021 @ 4:30pm