

Charter School for Applied Technologies  
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo, New York 14207  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 9/14/2021**

**MINUTES**

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

**UNABLE TO ATTEND:** Kenneth Robinson

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

**MINUTES**

Motion to approve the August 10, 2021 Minutes, including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee, made by Mrs. Salasavage, seconded by Mr. Keller. Minutes approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**PRESENTATION**

None

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**Cabinet Report-** Mr. Lyle addressed the protocols currently in place regarding COVID 19 as required by both NYS and ECDOH. He is happy to report that CSAT announced its protocols in advance of those issued by Erie County and we were in full compliance. The state and county are putting an emphasis on tracking of student COVID cases which requires a daily report to both state and county. The Board retreat with Super Eval went well today. The busing issue continues to be a problem for K-8. First Student is dealing with a driver shortage, which is resulting in late arrival and departure times, drivers who return to terminal and leave students at schools, and irate parents. The district buses for the most part are good, especially Kenmore. The parents do have access to the First Student bus app, but that is not working very well. We will continue to monitor and

track our busing situation as per our contract with First Student and meet with Buffalo if needed as the year goes on if we see no improvement in service.

### **Principals Report**

K-5: No Report, Mrs. Jurewicz is dealing with a student issue

6-8: Mr. Favata reports that other than the busing situation, the start of the year has gone well. The teachers and staff have been terrific is helping our students re-acclimate themselves to school and the expectations that we hope to see. The summer program went well as has the early participation in iReady.

9-12: Ms. Morgante states that all is well at the High School and the students are happy to be back. We are having an issue with dismissal time and the traffic backup on Kenmore Avenue. Our students trying to cross over Kenmore and the lack of sidewalks is a safety concern that we are addressing. Mr. Lutterbein gave a brief update on ECCP program. There were 46 students who participated in Summer Bridge program on Buffalo State campus. They achieved a 95 % attendance rate with 25% perfect attendance. The grades were as follows: 16 received an A, 18 received a B and 12 a C or below. Those receiving a C or C- did receive course credit. The Buffalo students who were in Summer Bridge were also enrolled in the Mayor's Summer Youth Program, which paid them while they attended ECCP. CSAT is the only school that we know of that offers this type of comprehensive college and career program.

### **PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEE**

**Quality Assurance**-Mrs. Pasioka gave an overview of the recent QA meeting:

\*Proficiency levels dropped @25%, mainly due to COVID. We are addressing this with the help of additional staff in intervention to work on learning gaps. The use of ESSER funds will help to pay for the new staff positions.

\*The summer school partnership with UB was very promising. We have continued this partnership to train our staff in implementing the Differentiated Reading Instruction program for those 2 or more grades levels below proficiency. Summer attendance in K-5 was @75%.

\* The summer school program at our High School was successful. Of those that attended, 84% received course credit. Kudos to the High School on a great start with ECCP. In addition, the introduction of block scheduling allows them to focus on writing and critical thinking skills.

\* NYS has changed the protocols for attendance. All absences whether excused or unexcused will be considered absent. This effects students with medical/COVID related absences. The state has set minimum attendance at 90%; currently CSAT is at @89%.

\*Mr. Stevens asked about iReady sharing national norms during COVID. Mr. Favata answered they do show data but most of the data does reveal significant gaps nationally. Mrs. Williamson mentioned that NYS does show data for all districts, though they do not categorize them by urban, suburban, rural, etc...CSAT is down from other schools. It does show CSAT is lower in math than reading. Mrs. Williamson said that we are focusing on iReady stretch goal for students. iReady sets this for every student on math and reading placement with a stretch goal of 1 1/2 years.

\*Mr. Berti inquired as to whether CSAT holds students back a grade. Mr. Lyle said we do hold back students; in most cases it occurs in Kindergarten. In other grades, there are certain capstone years and holding back a student does have a detrimental effect on their self-esteem. We work diligently to avoid that after Kindergarten.

### **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

**Appeals-** No report

**Facilities-** More information regarding the High School crosswalk at the next Board meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Superintendent Evaluation-**Mr. Berti mentioned that all Board members attended today's retreat with Super Eval. The retreat went well and helped us a great deal. We will continue to partner with Super Eval to keep us on track, as well as assist us in mid-year evaluation of Superintendent and Board.

**Policy-** Mr. Loveria briefly reviewed the updated policies on **District Safety & Civil Rights** that were submitted to the Board for review at the August meeting. As there were no issues raised with either, separate votes on both policies were taken.

A motion to accept the updated **District Safety Plan** was made by Mr. Keller, seconded by Mr. Stevens. Motion approved.

A motion to accept the updated **Civil Rights** Policy was made by Mr. Donnelly, seconded by Mrs. Salasavage. Motion approved.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**PAC Reboot-** Mrs. Salasavage provided the Board with a brief overview on the work that the PTO had undertaken in the past. The organization has been inactive of late but unfortunately a separate group of individuals began a Parent Facebook page that has no official affiliation with CSAT. The site is filled with misinformation and leads to rumors and confusion. In order to rectify this, a new Parent Advisory Council is being formed which will have its own Facebook page that will accurately portray what is taking place at the school. Mrs. Salasavage will work with CSAT to make sure it is for CSAT parents only and not others who wish to post misinformation.

**Policy Receipt-**Mr. Loveria referenced pages 20-38 of the Board packet regarding **Title XI and Sex Discrimination** Policy. He asked that the members review the information and be prepared to vote at the October meeting.

**Policy-** Mr. Shannon referenced pages 39-44 regarding updates to the **Computer and Network Use Agreement**. The changes in red are to be deleted and new language is in blue. There are no significant changes from the current policy as the updates are primarily intended for new hires. All current employees have read and agreed to the policy.

A motion to approve the updated **Computer and Network Use Agreement** was made by Mr. Donnelly, seconded by Mr. Berti. Motion approved.

**Enrollment-**Mr. Loveria reports that enrollment is currently at 2326, which is under the budgeted number. We are scheduled to enroll another 39 students from the waiting list in the next few weeks. The numbers for first grade are low with no waiting list. Most schools are seeing similar numbers for first grade. The school will continue to advertise openings for that grade. Our efforts in the next few months will be on branding and after the first of the year we will concentrate on recruitment. We are making special efforts with day care centers on Kindergarten recruitment. Mr. Lyle mentioned that the busing issue has increased parent interest in charter schools that are closer to their homes. The concept of neighborhood schools is a positive thing for parents.

**Personnel-**Mr. Lyle reviewed the personnel report which contained several new hires in teaching staff, cafeteria and new substitutes. As for those listed as resignations, most of them decided to go to districts because of the shorter school year and day. Other than that, the rest of the report is self-explanatory.

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

tA motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 5:55pm was made by Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mr. Donnelly. Motion approved.

**Next Meeting: October 12, 2021 @ 4:30pm**