

Charter School for Applied Technologies
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo, New York 14207
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 4/13/2021

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: In person, David Quackenbush, John Cinquino, Joseph Berti, Karen Kelley, Steve Kottakis **Via Teleconference:** Lisa Smith, Ian Donnelly, Andrea Pasieka, Michael Stevens

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Michael Keller, Kenneth Robinson, Danielle Salasavage

OTHERS PRESENT: In person: Andrew Lyle, Garrick Loveria, Tanya Moore, Robert Shannon, Susan Jurewicz, Ann Morgante, Brett Lutterbein, Michele Fiorella, Daniel Scholze, Keith Banas. **Via Teleconference:** Thomas Sullivan, Nicole Killian, Brad Kroth, Kevin Cornacchio

MINUTES

Motion to approve the March 9, 2021 Minutes, including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee, made by Mr. Berti, seconded by Mrs. Pasieka. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PRESENTATION

None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Cabinet Report- Mr. Lyle reported on a new initiative from Charter School Office called a monitoring visit which happens at the end of the first year of renewal. Susan Gibbons will conduct a virtual visit on April 30. Ms. Gibbons will meet with the leadership team and has requested certain documentation. They will be interested to know how CSAT is dealing with equity and diversity issues. On that same topic, David Frank sent out an article from the Wall Street Journal on diversity. Here at CSAT, we have initiated a book club in each building for adults that delves into that issue. It is a new venture and although it's not perfect, it is a positive start. Mr. Lyle also reported that we have not had to deal with the negative effects of diversity that have plagued other schools. Our administrators and teachers hold our students to a high standard that makes this less of an issue here than elsewhere.

Mr. Stevens commended CSAT for having these discussions in a proactive manner and for setting the right tone.

Mr. Lyle requested that the Board review the 2021-2022 calendar and vote on it today. There are 187 student days, two more than this year and 198 teacher days. We are working on a theme for professional development days.

A motion to approve the 2021-2022 calendar was made by Mrs. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Motion approved.

Principals Report-

K-5: Mrs. Jurewicz reported that all grades are back in a hybrid model. We have approximately 50% Hybrid and 50% remote. We are now preparing for NYS testing and will bring back some students who are remote to take the tests. We met our fundraising goal and the Book Vending Machine is on its way. The Teachers Desk is supplying books for the vending machine for free. The lottery was held on Monday which means we will soon begin kindergarten screening. We plan on having a summer program that will focus on skills development. We are also planning a drive-thru celebration for Kindergarten as well as something for 5th graders.

6-8: Mrs. Fiorella informed the board that the Middle School has welcomed back grades 6-8 four days a week. The total number of students attending as of today is 279. We received wonderful feedback from our parent-teacher conferences. Our summer program will be primarily for students who are struggling.

9-12: Ms. Morgante said that graduation is set for June 9. It will resemble last year with a drive-thru but it will be one day only, from Noon-8 p.m. As for senior graduation eligibility, we are working with 20-30 seniors who are struggling. We will be bringing back students 4-days a week. Our summer program will be two-fold, one for incoming 9th graders and the other for credit recovery.

There was discussion on flexibility with NYS on standards and the pandemic, though it was made clear that while there are curriculum adjustments, we are not lowering our standards.

Mr. Lyle mentioned that we are still awaiting guidance from the state on whether schools must continue to provide remote learning next school year.

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEE

Quality Assurance-Mrs. Pasioka noted that the principals covered several things in the QA report. A few other items for discussion included the attendance report which while down a bit from February is still very good overall. The intent to return numbers were 2188. There were 9 students who are not returning, but most were a result of moving out of state. The parent survey results were included in your packet. Overall, the responses were positive. This year the survey was done exclusively online and will continue that way in the future.

Finance-Mr. Cinquino indicated that the Finance Committee is still exploring the sale/leaseback option for the Shoshone property (Middle School). The main issue is the tax, which is roughly \$70K per year. The tax is currently being paid by the McGuire Group. We will continue to keep the Board updated on those discussions.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Appeals- No report

CSAT Foundation, Inc.- Mr. Quackenbush mentioned that the Foundation has been in discussion with three local funders, Cullen, Oishei and M&T Bank. We did receive \$39,000 from Cullen to help with the Early College & Career Program. We have a Zoom meeting scheduled with M&T on Friday. We hosted West Herr in March to discuss a partnership with them as their Career Pathways Program aligns closely with ours. In addition, Andy, Garrick and Brett visited Hadley Exhibits on Elmwood Avenue. Hadley has been producing high quality exhibits for museums, trade shows, corporate facilities and visitor centers for over seventy years. They employ very skilled craftsmen and metal workers. They are interested in partnering with CSAT.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Enrollment- Mr. Loveria reports that we are two students short of capacity, 2363. The lottery was held yesterday and went well. We had approximately 570 applicants. This is the first year that we gave a weighted preference for ELL & SPED students. As a result, 76 of 187 Kindergartners qualified for admission based on the weighted preference. We are presently overenrolled, but those numbers will go down as we get closer to the start of the school year.

Policy-Mr. Loveria requests a board vote on an updated policy regarding the weighted lottery preference for ELL & SPED students in order that it be more reflective of the population of Buffalo Schools. This update was requested by the CSO Counsel's Office.

A motion to accept the updated policy was made by Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mrs. Kelley. Motion approved.

Personnel- Mr. Lyle reviewed the personnel report which lists several new hires, position changes and leave of absences. Other than that, no major changes.

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

ADJOURNMENT A motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:50pm was made by Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mrs. Kelley. Motion approved.

Next Meeting: May 11, 2021, 4:30pm