

Charter School for Applied Technologies
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo, New York 14207
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 2/9/2021

MINUTES

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

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Karen Kelley, Kenneth Robinson, Danielle Salasavage

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

MINUTES

A correction to the January 12, 2021 minutes under Career Readiness report, page 4, Mr. Quackenbush mentioned in his recent conversation with M & T Bank and their potential interest in partnering with local schools to encourage “careers in IT and Finance”. Motion to approve the January 12, 2021 Minutes, including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee, made by Mr. Berti, seconded by Mr. Keller. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Two seniors, Gabriel Greco and Peyton Brzezinski, addressed the Board requesting a relaxed dress code for the senior class. The Board thanked them and said they would take their request into consideration.

PRESENTATION

None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Cabinet Report- Mr. Lyle reported that New York State has requested a waiver from the Federal Government to remove requirements for ELA, Math, Science assessments and Regents exams. He expressed concern that should the waiver be denied, and assessment and Regents results were poor, it would be held against Charter Schools, especially since our mid-year review from New York State is upcoming. He commented that while the data on the QA report is positive, it is not as high as it should be.

There is concern about the validity of the data as the gaps are real in some grade levels. Hopefully with the students returning, we will see growth in the numbers. High risk sports have begun, except for wrestling. JV and Varsity basketball will be played without spectators, as per the Niagara Frontier League, of which we are a member. The faculty and staff continue their outstanding work. The success of some of our students learning online has raised the possibility of exploring a grade 9-12 online high school. Mr. Lyle recently visited a school in Pennsylvania that is currently doing this.

Principals Report-

K-5: Mrs. Jurewicz reported that grades K-3 are back in hybrid with grades 4 & 5 scheduled to return hybrid on February 22. All safety protocols are being followed. The iReady mid- year assessments are now underway. There is a new fundraiser for a book vending machine. If interested in contributing, please reach out to Mrs. Jurewicz. A question was asked how lunches were going. Mrs. Jurewicz reported that students receive a box lunch and it is working out well.

6-8: Mr. Favata said that 85 students in grade 6 have returned in hybrid. The Middle School continues to research the logistics of returning grades 7 & 8 in hybrid, though space considerations are a concern. We have brought in some 7 & 8 graders who are in need of intervention. A question was raised about any issues with busing. Mr. Favata indicated that other than a late bus issue at the start, busing is on time.

9-12: Ms. Morgante reported that students were in school for intervention for two weeks and one week saw students who were not doing well remotely present for their mid-terms. The High School had approximately 80% of students who completed mid-terms on time and others were required to come to school to complete them. At present, roughly 92% have completed mid-terms. High School students will begin hybrid on February 22. The students will be present 4 days a month, which averages out to approximately 110 students per day. The teachers will be teaching simultaneously, in person and online.

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEE

Quality Assurance-Mrs. Pasioka referenced pages 6-17 of the Board packet and highlighted the following items:

*Attendance: CSAT currently averages 95%, NYS goal is 90%

*Testing Waivers: Mr. Lyle addressed that in his report

*Performance reviews: Math is down while reading is satisfactory, however, students are not reading at grade level

*Diagnostic testing helps identify where students struggle and succeed

There were several questions on how attendance is taken and how participation is measured. A comment was made on the need to assist families in providing the proper environment at home for their children for them to succeed in this new way of educating. CSAT's technical support is abundant in assisting teachers in remote learning platforms.

Career Readiness-Mr. Berti reported on the recent Career Readiness committee meeting and highlighted the following:

*The committee feels strongly that preparing students for careers is a top priority

*Discussed the Industry Advisory Council and its role in career development

*A goal is to have 100% of our students in career touches

*The CSAT Foundation will be key in helping with career development

*CSAT will create a Job Board for students and families.

*Mr. Berti shared a story about meeting a new hire at Speed who is a 2011 graduate of CSAT

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Appeals- No report

CSAT Foundation, Inc.- Mr. Quackenbush indicated that the Foundation has made good progress this month. Letters and subsequent conversations were held with Cullen, Oishei and M & T Foundations. The Oishei Foundation is helping to connect us with a national group that could possibly assist our efforts with the Early College Program. We have a Zoom meeting upcoming with West Herr Ford who would be an excellent partner with our Career Development efforts as they are a major employer in WNY.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Enrollment- Mr. Loveria referenced Page 23 of the Board packet. Our current enrollment is at 2360. Please note two new columns which show students who will begin classes on Feb. 22 and another which shows number of SWD & ENL students who are hybrid learners. The marketing efforts are working well; applications for Kindergarten are @120. We have commercials on Ch. 2 and radio stations, both of which are giving us additional airtime.

Personnel- Mr. Lyle reviewed the personnel report which lists new hires and re-hires (cafeteria staff) as well as new substitutes. Other than that, no major changes.

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

Mr. Quackenbush encouraged current members to provide names of persons who may be a good match for membership on the Board.

Discussion ensued on the senior's request for relaxation of the dress code. After several minutes of discussion, Mr. Quackenbush directed Mr. Lyle to work with the High School to develop a sensible plan regarding the senior's request.

A motion to direct Mr. Lyle to convene a working group on the senior dress code request was made by Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mr. Keller. Motion approved.

ADJOURNMENT A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:10pm was made by Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mr. Kottakis. Motion approved.

Next Meeting: March 9, 2021, 4:30pm