

Charter School for Applied Technologies
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo, New York 14207
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 11/10/2020

MINUTES

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

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Danielle Salasavage

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

MINUTES

Motion to approve the October 13, 2020 Minutes, including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee, made by Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mr. Keller. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PRESENTATION

None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Cabinet Report- Mr. Lyle noted that based on COVID-19 testing rates, most of Erie County has been designated as a Yellow Zone by Governor Cuomo. One of the requirements of schools located in a Yellow Zone is mandatory testing of 20% of faculty/staff and students on-site. The state indicated that this was to be in place by November 16. Mr. Lyle expressed his frustration that little guidance is being offered by Erie County so far, including what constitutes 20 percent (students, faculty/staff, or a mix of both) and who pays for test kits and processing. New York City was given a choice of testing options – Erie County has not announced what types of test they are offering. The protocols that CSAT has in place when a confirmed COVID case among students and/or staff has been faithfully followed. We have not had to shut down as a result. If the positive cases continue to rise in the community, it is likely we will move to a fully remote instructional model.

Mrs. Smith told Mr. Lyle that she has been in contact with Dr. Gale Burstein, Erie County Health Commissioner recently and would be glad to make contact on behalf of CSAT. Mr. Lyle will send Mrs. Smith an email after the meeting with his questions for Dr. Burstein.

Principals Report-

K-5: Mrs. Jurewicz indicated that the first week back with students has gone well. The staff, parents and especially the students have followed all the protocols. Mask wearing and social distancing is not an issue at all. At lunch time, the students are seated one at a table, 45 students in total. The teachers are excited that the students are back and the students seem just as happy. The students are divided into two cohorts. Cohort A is in Monday & Tuesday, with the other three days as remote. Cohort B is in Thursday & Friday, and they attend remotely the other three days. We do have a waiting list of those parents who have changed their minds and want their child back in school.

6-8: Mr. Favata reports that a small group of students has been attending three days a week, from 9-11 a.m. It is designed for those who are struggling and/or disengaged. We continue to work remotely with those who are engaged in their learning. The staff has been terrific in reaching out to parents. So far, things are going well.

9-12: Ms. Morgante discussed the first round of intervention that the High School provided to students. Those students came to school two days for assistance and @300 attended. The caliber of work that the students submitted is very encouraging. We will try to do another intervention soon. We are bringing in seniors who we know need intervention. We have space each morning and afternoon for up to 45 students for 2.5 hours. The safety protocols have been faithfully followed by everyone in the building.

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEE

Career Readiness- Mr. Berti discussed the importance of providing an internship experience, especially for High School seniors. The school has an established network of industries that have placed our student in the past and hopefully we can engage with them soon to place our students. Mrs. Kelley agrees that it is important to do our best to revive the internship program but feels that there will be resistance with employers due to the increase in COVID cases. Mr. Quackenbush expressed similar concerns that we may have to temper our expectations.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Appeals- No report

CSAT Foundation, Inc.- Mr. Quackenbush indicated that the Foundation Committee will meet this Thursday to discuss the Pillars to Pathways Program in order to prepare proper wording about the program for potential donors.

OLD BUSINESS

Transportation- Mr. Loveria mentioned that there have been few issues with transportation since we began bringing students back last week, with the exception of one Buffalo bus that was one hour late. As we are not competing with Buffalo, the drop off and pick up times have run smoothly.

NEW BUSINESS

Enrollment- Mr. Loveria referenced the enrollment number which currently stands at 2364, one short of capacity. Mr. Loveria spoke about the new marketing and branding campaign. We are entertaining proposals from Ch. 2 & Ch.4. Mrs. Kelley asked about what impact there will be with students who did not attend Kindergarten this year. Mr. Lyle did say this would certainly impact first grade enrollment. Mr. Berti asked if we are still pushing Kindergarten enrollment. Mr. Loveria said that if we accepted more Kindergartners, we would be over our maximum enrollment. We will continue to accept applications.

Personnel- Mr. Lyle reviewed the personnel report, noting new hires, several resignations and a few employees who are on leave as per COVID. We have brought the food service workers back in the elementary school.

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to move to Executive Session at 5:40pm was made by Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mr. Donnelly. Motion approved. No action requiring Board vote arose. A motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:00pm was made by Mr. Berti, seconded by Mr. Keller. Motion approved.

Next Meeting: December 8, 2020, 4:30pm