

Charter School for Applied Technologies
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo, New York 14207
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 8/11/2020

MINUTES

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

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Kenneth Robinson

OTHERS PRESENT: In person: Andrew Lyle, Tanya Moore, Robert Shannon, Garrick Loveria, Ann Morgante, Thomas Sullivan, Melissa Perez (Parent) **Via Teleconference:** Sue Jurewicz, Gregory Mott, Brett Lutterbein, Anthony Favata, Daniel Scholze, Nicole Killion

MINUTES

Motion to approve the June 23, 2020 Minutes, including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee, made by Mr. Keller, seconded by Mr. Quackenbush. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Parent Melissa Perez thanked the Mr. Lyle and Board for deciding on a remote learning model to begin the school year.

PRESENTATION

None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Cabinet Report- Mr. Lyle said that a great deal of work has been accomplished since the last Board meeting on plans for the 2020-2021 school year. New York State asked that we submit 3 re-opening plans, in-person instruction, a hybrid model and a fully remote model. In order for CSAT to fully implement one of those plans, we asked permission to move back the opening day of school from August 24, 2020 to August 31, 2020. The Board of Trustees unanimously approved and the Charter School Office agreed to the new start date. The new start date does not affect our 180-day requirement. After Gov. Cuomo allowed schools to re-open, CSAT implemented mask requirement, 6ft. distance and cleaning/sanitizing protocols. After a review of classroom distance requirements, it was determined that we could not fit enough students in the K-

5 and 6-8 buildings unless we spent an enormous amount of money on polycarbonate barriers. It was therefore decided that CSAT would go fully remote for the first 10 weeks of school, until Oct. 30, 2020. Teachers will be in their respective rooms to teach. The response to our decision has been favorable. We will continue to promote high rigor and accountability. Instruction will be Mon-Tues, Thur-Fri with Wednesday as student check-in days. While not perfect, it is the right decision at this moment. All Board members have been sent the updated document on re-opening. The document is flexible as transportation will need to be adjusted if we decide eventually to go hybrid. Parent meetings have been scheduled for August 17 & 20 and Faculty/Staff August 21. The Board was provided on screen examples of protocols to be used in the buildings.

Mrs. Smith asked if students will be required to wear face masks when they return. Mr. Lyle indicated yes, though there will be mask breaks. If a student forgets his/her mask or soils it during the day, the school will provide one for them.

Mrs. Kelley inquired if our families have internet access. Mr. Lyle said that most do have internet, but that the school will have hot spots available in case they are needed. The Boys & Girls Club on Riverdale Avenue, just down the street from the school will prioritize CSAT families for use of their internet.

Mrs. Smith asked if we expect attrition if we don't have in-person learning. Mr. Lyle indicated that since we are overenrolled, that would help us.

Principals Report- Mr. Lyle introduced the new Middle School Assistant Principal, Anthony Favata. Mr. Favata reported on behalf of the Middle School

6-8: Mr. Favata indicated that the Middle School has been very busy with preparation for the new school year and the needs of the teachers, students and families. Our focus is on professional development for remote learning.

K-5: Mrs. Jurewicz said that it has been a very busy time at the elementary building as the staff has been focusing on curriculum, social/emotional needs and the new platforms for remote learning. We want to do our best to support our teachers, students and parents. We must keep our students engaged. We are exploring ways to connect live with our students. The safety and cleaning protocols are in place. The Kindergarten screening is taking place this week, on Thursday & Friday with the Kindergarten teachers screening their students.

9-12: Ms. Morgante announced that the High School is going to a block schedule. The students will take four 90-minute classes, which results in more class time. We have also divided the building into 4 areas for each grade level when we eventually go with the hybrid model. Our teachers will be engaged in professional development for the new block schedule, curriculum and the social/emotional needs of the students. Our priorities are curriculum, high rigor and social/emotional needs.

Mrs. Kelley asked how we know if a student has checked-in each day. Mr. Lyle said that the state requires daily attendance. A student needs to check in each day and has until

the evening to do so. The counselors will make phone calls and home visits if necessary if a child does not check in.

There were questions on Athletics and Fine Arts.

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEES

Finance- Mrs. Moore said that the Annual Report has been submitted. She also reminded the Board members to send in the required financial forms.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Appeals- No report

Facilities- Mr. Keller indicated that the new surface parking lot is nearly complete. The landscaping and lighting will be finished shortly. There were additional costs with soil issues (\$81K) and landscaping (\$33K). The crosswalk at the High School is on hold for now, though we did receive the building permit for the crosswalk.

OLD BUSINESS- Pillars-to-Pathways

Mr. Lyle announced that due to COVID-19 and the financial impact that it will have on CSAT, he would like to revisit the issue in January. This will allow for better budget forecasting and to allow time for the Foundation to work on additional funding opportunities. Mr. Lutterbein mentioned that the High School will continue to work with Buffalo State & ECC to explore funding possibilities to assist in program development.

There were several comments and questions raised by Board members about the program. A revised motion was proposed, which reads as follows:

The Board of Trustees approves the Pillars to Pathways program. The High School will continue to work with the CSAT Foundation, Buffalo State College and Erie Community College to pursue foundation grant support. A new budget, which will include staff input, will be presented at the January 2021 Board meeting. A formal written proposal will be provided to all Board Members.

A motion to approve the Revised Motion was made by Mr. Berti, seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Enrollment- Mr. Loveria referenced the enrollment number which currently stands at 2445, or 80 over the targeted number. He indicated that we usually see a decrease in numbers the first week of school, but with COVID-19 we do not know that for sure. We will need to contact David Frank at Charter School Office to be sure our charter is not affected if we are over the target number. However, if we have more ELL, ENL and students of poverty, we may be fine.

Personnel- Mr. Lyle reviewed the personnel report. There are new teacher and substitute teacher hires and position changes, along with several resignations. Mr. Lyle indicated that the number of changes were less than previous years. A motion to accept the Enrollment and Personnel report was made by Mr. Berti, seconded by Mr. Keller. Motion approved.

Policy- K-3 Discipline: Mr. Loveria mentioned that the information was provided to members at the last Board Meeting. The purpose of the policy update is to eliminate suspensions for students in K-3 for non-violent offenses. This does not take away any of our other options. A motion to approve the updated Discipline Policy was made by Mrs. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Motion approved.

Data Policy- Mr. Shannon introduced the school's Data Privacy Policy (see handout). This is for consideration only, vote to approve will be at the September meeting. The new policy reflects student, teacher and principal privacy protections. Mr. Lyle indicated that CSAT is far ahead of many districts in this regard, thanks to Mr. Shannon and the technology staff. There is a significant cost impact, in the \$500K range. Mr. Shannon mentioned that CSAT is fully compliant with Education Law 2-d, regarding data breaches for student and school data. We are fully covered in the event of a data breach. Further information and discussion will occur at the September Board meeting.

Mr. Quackenbush referred to the glass enclosed framed blueprints of the former Curtiss-Wright building, which is now our elementary school building. This is in commemoration of CSAT's 20th anniversary this school year.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15pm was made by Mr. Keller, seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Motion approved.

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