

Charter School for Applied Technologies
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo, New York 14207
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 4/7/2020

MINUTES

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

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Kenneth Robinson

OTHERS PRESENT: In person: Andrew Lyle, Robert Shannon, Thomas Sullivan, **Via Teleconference:** Tanya Moore, Garrick Loveria, Ann Morgante, Gregory Mott, Brett Lutterbein, Daniel Scholze, Nicole Killion

MINUTES

Motion to approve the March 10, 2020 Minutes, including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee, made by Mr. Mikulec, seconded by Mr. Keller. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PRESENTATION

None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Cabinet Report & Principals Report- Mr. Lyle is combining these reports for today's meeting. As we know, all schools in Erie County are closed. As Gov. Cuomo made clear in his order, schools are not being held to their required 180 days of attendance, as this applies only to districts. As we are over 190 days, CSAT is fine. The Charter School Office did require all charters to file a Continuing Education Plan to provide instruction during the closing. We had our materials ready for distribution to families within two days. We are also providing meals Monday, Wednesday & Fridays. We are averaging 600 meals each of those days. We are asking parents to complete an online survey for a computer loan program and plan to distribute those as needed. Spectrum Cable is providing internet connection. Once the survey is complete, we will start distribution with high school juniors. State Ed has cancelled grade 3-8 assessments and Regents exams. We are waiting for information on how to grant Regents credit. We did hear some great news from both BOCES and State Ed. We have been recognized for our exemplary response to the Covid-19 outbreak as other districts are using us as an

example on how to respond. The teachers and staff have been terrific, and it shows in the positive response from parents. Special thanks to our food service and maintenance staff for their great work. The Principals and Cabinet members are staffing the school on a rotating basis. Mr. Donnelly inquired about High School graduation. Mr. Lyle said gowns have been ordered but no decision has been made as to the actual ceremony itself. Mrs. Pasioka asked about seniors who are borderline with grades. Mr. Lyle responded by saying that the school is awaiting guidance from State Ed on how to handle those situations. Mr. Quackenbush said that there are multiple updates from State Ed and no one knows if or when the schools will re-open. At present, Gov. Cuomo is closing schools on a two-week basis, so the final decision will be up to him.

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEES

Quality Assurance-No report

Finance- Mrs. Moore reported that there is no interruption from State Ed for per-pupil aid. As a result, all part-time and full-time staff are being paid. As mentioned, meals are provided 3 days a week. So far, we have distributed 10,610 meals to our families. Work is on-going for the 2020-2021 budget. We will present the budget for Board consideration at the May and/or June meeting. Mr. Cinquino mentioned that CSAT does hold reserves which is a plus for the school. Mr. Keller inquired about CSAT receiving any funds from the federal government. Mrs. Moore commented that the CARES Act could result in an additional aid of \$150K. There is also Supplemental tuition for Charters that is a possibility. Mr. Donnelly asked about the recent article on Buffalo Schools overpaying the Charters. Mr. Quackenbush responded that this issue should be addressed as a group of Charters, however, Tapestry filed an Intercept with State Ed. We have had discussion with Buffalo and discovered non-payment of a consultant teacher that occurred for several years. We assume Buffalo will take some or all of the money and we may have to file an Intercept with State Ed. We will share more info as it becomes available. Mr. Keller noted that the stock market is down @20%. We will stay the course with our holdings as the market will likely rebound in the coming months.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Appeals- None

Facilities- All construction is on hold as the school is not in session. We cannot begin until the ban is lifted.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Enrollment- Mr. Loveria reviewed the current enrollment which stands at 2344. The Lottery was held on April 3, 2020. No public was allowed on-site though it was broadcast on YouTube. The staff that day did an incredible job. The acceptance and wait list letters were mail the same day, over 1,000 total. Parents are being asked to fill out their acceptance materials online. We had just under 800 applications and considering new charters opening, we were happy with that number. We have wait lists for all grades

except Kindergarten, all other grades are full. Many thanks especially to Lori Allan and Emily Lyons in Communications Office for their work promoting the Lottery. Mr. Mikulec asked about the current number of 9th graders, 194. How are we accommodating the overload there? Ms. Morgante responded by saying that we are under enrolled in other grades so we have enough seats. Mr. Quackenbush asked that if we had 780 applicants will they actually all enroll? Mr. Lyle said that enrollment is an on-going process. We won't have a realistic number until after the first 2-3 weeks of school. Mr. Donnelly inquired about no wait list for Kindergarten. Mr. Lyle said that is correct. We will likely have up to 20 repeat students so we should be in good shape.

Personnel- Mr. Lyle reviewed the personnel report. The report is self-explanatory, with new hires, substitutes, position changes, resignations and Family Leave requests. A motion to accept the Enrollment & Personnel report was made by Mrs. Pasieka, seconded by Mr. Donnelly. Motion approved.

Proposed 2020-2021 Calendar- Mr. Lyle reminded the Board that the calendar was distributed at the March meeting for review and vote today. The only possible change that could occur is scoring days. If the dates are different from Buffalo Public Schools, we will change ours. A motion to accept the 2020-2021 Calendar was made by Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mr. Keller. Motion approved.

Other- Mr. Cinquino asked about the Charter Renewal. Mr. Lyle said that he heard today from Susan Gibbons that we need a corrective action plan to meet our goals for our Special Ed and ESL students. This section is already completed and will go out to Ms. Gibbons today. The vote on our renewal will take place at the Board of Regents meeting in May. Mr. Lyle said he would know the week of April 27 what the recommendation would be for our renewal. Mr. Quackenbush noted that Mr. Lyle responded very quickly to Ms. Gibbons request, so we are on top of the situation.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:22pm was made by Mr. Mikulec, seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Motion approved.

Next Meeting: May 12, 2020, 4:30 pm.