

Charter School for Applied Technologies
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo NY 14207
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 2/11/2020

MINUTES

Board Members Present: David Quackenbush, Michael Keller, Joseph Berti, Robert Mikulec, Ian Donnelly, Kenneth Robinson, Andrea Pasioka, Lisa Smith, Michael Stevens, Karen Kelley (via phone)

Unable to Attend: John Cinquino, Danielle Salasavage

Others Present: Andrew Lyle, Tanya Moore, Garrick Loveria, Ann Morgante, Gregory Mott, Sue Jurewicz, Nadine Williamson, Thomas Sullivan, Keith Banas, Daniel Scholze, Nicole Killion

MINUTES

Motion to approve the January 14, 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

Mr. Quackenbush referenced the Fact Sheet enclosed in the Board Packet in response to the recent Buffalo News editorial written by Mr. Larry Scott, a member of the Buffalo Board of Education, on Charter Schools. As there are a number of inaccuracies in the editorial, this Fact Sheet is being circulated to Board members as our response to possible questions about the editorial.

Mr. Stevens pointed out a recent study by CREDO at Stanford University on the gains that Charter Schools are making in comparison to Public Schools. It will be helpful to use the information in that study (in addition to our Fact Sheet) to boost CSAT's effectiveness.

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEES

Quality Assurance- Mrs. Smith referenced pages 7 & 8 of the Board Packet. The recent QA meeting was dedicated to reviewing the iReady data for grades 1-8 in reading & math. Mrs.

Williamson reported that growth has been seen in reading, from 19% to 32%, and in math from 11% to 27%. Mrs. Smith said it is sobering to see how many students are 2 or more levels below in reading. There are new measures going forward that are categorized as Typical Growth Goals and Stretch Growth Goals. Those are explained in the board packet. There was discussion on ideas to consider outside of the school day to achieve these goals. Ideas included a Kindergarten Boot Camp and an after-school program at the Middle School. There were also questions on what other schools who use iReady have seen in growth areas. Mr. Lyle pointed out that this program is just being rolled out by iReady, so CSAT will need to continue to analyze the data in order to set realistic goals. In March, CSAT is meeting with Curriculum Associates to assist us with strategies to achieve accurate data for specific grade level achievement.

Finance- No Report

Career Readiness-Mr. Berti referenced the committee's report found on page 9 of the Board packet. The committee discussed the D'Youville Bridge Program. There are cost issues that need to be resolved before we can move forward. Mr. Loveria pointed out that both D'Youville and CSAT are working to reduce those costs. There are 55 high school students that have expressed interest in the program. The Career Convention is set for March 26, 2020 at the high school. Board members are encouraged to attend. An invite will be sent to members. The Program Evaluation piece is moving along. There was a meeting on January 30 to come up with a solution on how we can properly evaluate our school program. The group decided to identify factors and to monitor our students to see if they have achieved those indicators. If they have, we can say that we have done our part in assisting them. The leading indicators are not all academically oriented. We discussed engaging with the Development Committee to seek funding for Program Evaluation.

AD HOC BOARD COMMITTEES

Appeals – Mr. Donnelly noted there were 2 appeals in January, both were denied. They both involved physical altercations. One of the parents wanted CSAT to remove the incident from their record, that request was denied.

Development- Mr. Robinson noted the good discussion and sharing that occurred in our meeting on February 6 (see pgs. 11 & 12 of the Board packet). We met with Bob Bennett to get his views on how to start a Foundation Board. Mr. Bennett recommended we visit Success Academy in NYC as they have had great success in raising funds. We did receive Barclay and Damon's opinion on current CSAT employees serving on Board. We also worked on a Job Description for prospective Foundation Board Members and the structure of the Board. We

discussed hiring an Executive Director, though we are hoping we can start with a volunteer as we do not anticipate having funding for that position.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Quackenbush inquired if the surface lot construction is still on. Mr. Keller responded it was, depending on the weather. Mr. Quackenbush asked that the price originally quoted be confirmed. There are old drawings of the former Curtis Wright airplane factory where our elementary building now stands. Please feel free to view them at your convenience.

NEW BUSINESS

Enrollment – Mr. Loveria reviewed the enrollment report (pg. 13); the current enrollment is up slightly from January to 2,348. There were four juniors promoted to seniors as a result of passing their January regents exams. No further high school students will be accepted this school year. You will also see on pages 14 & 15 of the marketing efforts that have been ongoing this year, thanks to the efforts of Lori Allan and Emily Lyons in the Communications Office. We are now focusing on Open House and enrollment efforts. We are up 100 applications so far this year as compared to last year. There was discussion on the use of social media. If data proves that this is the way forward, we should consider investing more in that area.

Mr. Loveria mentioned a recent meeting with Mr. Al D’Amico, Buffalo Schools Transportation Office. The purpose was to clarify what our data is compared to Buffalo’s and how we can work together to resolve any issues. It was agreed that starting Feb. 14, bus #'s 640, 641 and 685 should arrive at our school on time. These routes are consistently late. In addition, we will begin efforts to emphasize use of seat belts on the bus.

Personnel Report – Mr. Lyle reviewed the personnel report (pgs. 16 & 17). The report is self-explanatory with new hires, new substitutes, position changes, resignations and Family Leave requests. The school has hired CSAT alum Joey Cicatello as Coordinator of Family Support. Joey will work on parent engagement. Mr. Lyle did make reference to the issue of Family Leave. It is difficult to find replacements and costly. We are working with Canisius College on a mentorship/internship program with prospective teachers to help with Family Leave situations. A motion to accept the Enrollment and Personnel reports was made by Mrs. Pasieka, seconded by Mr. Robinson. Motion approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Cabinet Report- Mr. Lyle spoke with Susan Gibbons at State Ed regarding CSAT’s Complaint Policy. Ms. Gibbons asked CSAT to update the policy points that were recommended. There are no significant changes except to reflect more simplistic and legalese language. A motion to approve the changes was made by Mr. Mikulec, seconded by Mr. Berti. Motion approved. Mr.

Quackenbush noted for the record that in twenty years, one complaint has been filed. This shows a new level of cooperation that we have with State Ed.

Principals Report- Ms. Morgante commented on the Senior Experience. The students and teachers involved said it went very well. The event was changed from late August to January, during Regents week. As for the January Regents, our focus on student engagement has paid off. Of the 173 seniors, 163 have all of their graduation requirements met. We have never had such a low number at this point in the year. We do have several seniors that are in trouble. We will be meeting with each student shortly to discuss options for them. Mr. Berti inquired about discipline issues. Mr. Lyle said the suspension rate numbers are up, but in most cases, it is with students that are new to CSAT. We need to do a better job educating our younger students about CSAT's expectations. Most of the physical altercations are happening out of school, such as at the Metro Rail station. However, those students are still our responsibility, so we will hold them accountable even off school grounds. Mr. Lyle also indicated that we need to revisit the Code of Conduct. We are interested in speaking with Eva Moskowitz at Success Academy on how they handle those issues.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to move to Executive Session at 6:15pm was made by Mr. Keller, seconded by Mr. Donnelly. Motion approved. No action requiring Board vote arose. Motion to leave Executive Session and adjourn the regular meeting at 6:55pm was made by Mr. Stevens seconded by Mrs. Pasioka. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: March 10, 2020, 4:30 pm.