

Charter School for Applied Technologies
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo NY 14207
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 06/11/2019

MINUTES

Board Members Present: John Cinquino, Michael Keller, David Quackenbush, Karen Kelley, Kenneth Robinson, Ian Donnelly, Andrea Pasieka, Joseph Berti, Daniel Salasavage **Unable to Attend:** Lisa Smith, Robert Mikulec

Others Present: Andrew Lyle, Tanya Moore, Garrick Loveria, Susan Jurewicz, Ann Morgante, Gregory Mott, Brett Lutterbein, Thomas Sullivan, Jessica Johnson, Sara Martinez, Neil Shanahan, Jacqueline Bontzolakes

MINUTES

Motion to approve the May 14, 2019 Minutes including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee made by Mr. Berti, seconded by Mr. Keller. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Parent Jacqueline Bontzolakes spoke about her son's experience this year at elementary school, specifically lack of teacher sensitivity with diversity and inclusion. She is appreciative of the support she has received from administration, but her son's teacher and other teachers need to understand that cultural sensitivity needs to be a priority for them and to help children with these issues.

Music teachers Sara Martinez and Jessica Johnson gave the Board an overview of recent competitions that CSAT has participated in, including Darien Lake & New York City. The school brought back a number of awards in chorus, mixed choir and band. The music department is looking to move up in the category they normally participate in, in order to raise their level of competitiveness.

Neil Shanahan, 5th grade teacher & union representative for past 12 years, read the following statement: "During this election week for CSATTA union officers in which I am not seeking reelection, I would like to extend my gratitude for the opportunity you gave me to serve you, both CSATTA members and CSAT staff. We have been together for the last 12 years and now I must face the universal truth, that eventually all things come to an end.

Over the past 12 years we have faced many great challenges, but adversely, have escalated to face them and altered them into great accomplishments. I am proud of the work we have done together. I was fortunate to have worked with several great leaders, confidants, collaborators and friends on the union board and I would like to thank them for withstanding the crazy ramblings, ideas, and conversations we have had over the years. I would also like to thank them for their insightfulness and support. I also extend my thanks to you, the CSAT school board, who I always felt listened with the intention of solving problems, seeking understanding and reach favorable compromises. I especially thank David Quackenbush, Lisa Smith, Tanya Moore, Ann Morgante and Karen Kelley, whose leadership on the negotiating team over all of my contract negotiations was with the pure intention of making CSAT better and more understanding.

I offer one piece of wisdom to whomever takes the next seats on the union board. As you move into our school's future we (you, I, the Board, Administration and Staff) must avoid the impulse to live only for today, plundering for our own ease the goals and relationships of tomorrow. Strength and power live in togetherness and collaboration. I look forward to working with you in our future. Thank You.”

PRESENTATION

None

FOLLOW UP FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

- None

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEES

Career Readiness- Mr. Berti referred to the minutes in the board packet, pgs. 6 & 7.

He mentioned Senior Signing Day, the first of its kind, was highly successful. Mr. Berti asked Board members to check out the updates on the web site regarding career readiness. There were several other topics discussed at the May meeting, including Career Convention, student portfolio's and how the Career Readiness and Development committee's should work more closely in the future. We are still working on Program Evaluation (alumni tracking). Mr. Quackenbush inquired about the Career Convention, specifically about student involvement and dress code. Mr. Berti saw a marked improvement from last year and complimented the high school administration and faculty.

AD HOC BOARD COMMITTEES

- **Appeals** – Mrs. Kelley mentioned there was one appeal still pending (attendance)
- **Development**-Mr. Robinson said the committee is working diligently. He mentioned the research that the members did on other school foundations, both public and private schools. The research

shows that school foundations are separate entities from the school with their own directors/members. The idea for a CSAT Foundation will likely mimic that. The CSAT Foundation will encompass the needs of the entire district, rather than for one specific purpose as seen in other school foundations. Mr. Loveria mentioned that we are still in the process of contacting Barclay Damon attorneys for their assistance. Please see pg. 11 of the Board packet for Lisa Coppola's comments on starting an educational foundation.

- **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Policy Vote-** Mr. Loveria reminded the members that the information on the therapy dog policy proposal was listed on pages 12 & 13 of the May board packet. It was decided that the vote would take place at June meeting. Hopefully the members have read the policy. There was discussion on the merits of having a therapy dog in each building. In the future, the building principal needs to sign off to have a therapy dog in their building. A motion to accept the new policy on therapy dogs was made by Mr. Donnelly, seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Enrollment – Mr. Loveria reviewed the enrollment report (pg. 12) and noted a decrease in the overall enrollment to 2232, down 7 students from April report. Mr. Loveria reports that things are looking good for next year's enrollment. Mr. Lyle noted that there is no longer a wait list for Kindergarten. We are now actively recruiting for additional Kindergarten students. We will not have a solid number of overall attendance until second week of September when all schools we be back in session.

Personnel Report – Mr. Lyle reviewed the personnel report (pgs. 13 & 14). As noted, there are a few new hires as well as position changes, non-renewals, separations, resignations and leaves of absence. A motion to accept the Enrollment and Personnel reports was made by Mrs. Pasieka, seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Motion approved

Policy Submission- Mrs. Moore asked the members to review pages 15-19 in their packets on updates to the Title 1 Parent and Family Engagement Policy. We would like to have the members vote on this at the June 25 meeting. A few things were discussed; the amount of monies we receive from Title 1 (@\$1 million dollars) and whether this should be a policy that families sign off on every year or include it in the handbook. Mrs. Moore indicated that a decision on that will be made by administration along with a few additional changes that are needed. Those changes will be sent to members electronically for their review. The policy vote will then take place at June 25 board meeting.

Principals Report

K-5: Mrs. Jurewicz noted that all NYS testing is complete, and science assessments are being scored today. The iReady data is showing good news on the areas of ELA (phonics, vocabulary) and Math, with

increases in proficiency. Also, a decrease in the number of students needing additional resource help is positive.

6-8: Mr. Mott thanked the Board & Cabinet for their support this year, it was a challenging year. The middle school theme for 2019-2020 will be “Building on our Success”. All NYS assessments are complete and iReady is now being reviewed, with marked improvement noted in some areas. Mrs. Kelley complimented Mr. Mott on his work in middle school this year.

9-12: Ms. Morgante mentioned that Global II testing just finished up; CSAT was selected as one of the schools for cut testing. This year, research papers were required of each student. We are still working with @15-20 seniors to help ensure they graduate. We are currently hiring new teachers. Mr. Mott agreed with Ms. Morgante on the number of highly qualified applicants, a number of whom are from out-of- state.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Cabinet Report-Mr. Lyle gave an update on Charter Renewal. As noted on pages 20 & 21 of your packet, there are two documents that need to be signed. The first is a resolution, to be signed by Mrs. Kelley, states that the Board approves any materials changes. However, there are no changes needed. The other document, to be signed by Mr. Quackenbush, is CSAT’s application for Charter Renewal Certification. The entire document is nearly complete. There are only a few things still needed, mainly NYS testing data. A motion to accept the Resolution and Application for Charter Renewal was made by Mr. Keller, seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Motion approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to move to Executive Session at 6:00pm to discuss certain matters 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 6:45pm was made by Mrs. Kelley, seconded by Mrs. Pasiaka. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: June 25, 2019, 4:30PM