

Charter School for Applied Technologies
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo NY 14207

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 11/13/18

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Michael Alexander, John Cinquino, Michael Keller, Karen Kelley, Joseph Berti, Lisa Smith, Ian Donnelly, David Quackenbush, Andrea Pasioka, Danielle Salasavage, Robert Mikulec **Absent:** Kenneth Robinson

Others Present: Tanya Moore, Garrick Loveria, Andrew Lyle, Bob Shannon, Ann Morgante, Gregory Mott, Brett Lutterbein, Thomas Sullivan, Nicole Killian, Jessica Johnson, Laurie Ferraro

MINUTES

Motion to approve the October 9, 2018 Minutes including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee made by Mr. Alexander, seconded by Mrs. Kelley. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Music Teacher Jessica Johnson announced that the middle school musical, "Fame Jr." was a success, with three sold out performances. The high school musical "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" will be held in March, tryouts will be held shortly. The Winter Concert dates are as follows, Middle School, Dec. 6, Elementary School, Dec. 10 and High School, Dec. 13. All performances will take place at the Middle School gym.

FOLLOW UP FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

- None

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEES

- **Quality Assurance**-Mrs. Smith discussed the results of the QA meeting held on November 5, 2018, which focused on the results of the state tests in ELA and Math. The data on page 8 lists the proficiency that our students attained in grades K-5 and 6-8 in 2017-2018. The areas shaded in green are improvements. The next column over is the data from I Ready predications, which does show an marked improvement. Overall, the result show some improvement, but also areas where we are still behind. The school's goal of 8% improvement was achieved in only 4 assessments. In addition, CSAT tracks the cohort groups, something that the state does not track. You can see the biggest decline was in Gr. 6 Math, though there were a number of contributing factors that year, most especially the turnover in math teachers in a single school year. The hope is that with the curricular changes which were implemented this year, improvements will start to be seen. Mrs. Smith referenced page 10, which shows a comparison of CSAT with Buffalo Public Schools and Ken-Ton Schools. CSAT did generally better than Buffalo Schools in ELA. Mrs. Kelley asked about the students lack of vocabulary skills. Mr. Lyle said that is a concern and that this year a more concerted effort is taking place with phonics. The Math results on page 11 were discussed. The data shows we did not do as well in Math 6 & 7. It should be noted that the percentage of correct answers to achieve proficiency (Level 3) is high, for ELA it's 92-93%, for Math it's 92-94%. Mr. Mott stated that the middle school priority this year is on improvements in both ELA & Math, with intervention services and I Ready work a major focus. Mrs. Pasioka asked if the students have access at home to I Ready. Mr. Lyle said they do, but that is being monitored carefully as the concern is that the student completes the work and not the parent. Mr. Lyle also made a point to inform the members of the Mid-Year review team of our state test results. He felt it's important to be transparent with them and that it is being addressed, which was received favorably by Mr. David Frank. There are two other charts not included in the packet, one which showed CSAT not doing as well compared to other charter schools in WNY, and the other which shows that students who are economically disadvantaged do not perform well on state testing. Mrs. Smith asked that the principals come to the next QA meeting in December to discuss ways in which we can address the data concerns. Mrs. Moore asked that the QA committee to keep her informed in the event any new initiatives will impact the budget.

- **Finance-** Mrs. Moore said that the mid-year financials and a presentation on the results of the audit will take place at the December Board meeting. The last fiscal year showed a surplus of \$900,000. Mrs. Moore noted that this will likely be the last year that the school will finish with such a high surplus.

AD HOC BOARD COMMITTEES

- **Appeals** – None, one appeal is in process
- **Transportation-**Mr. Loveria informed the Board that there have been a series of meetings recently on the bussing issue, with Mr. Quackenbush, Mrs. Moore and Mr. Loveria representing CSAT. The meeting with Buffalo Public Schools (BPS) went well and they are open to assisting CSAT. The school proposed that Student Transportation of America (STA) be contracted to run a number of our routes along with the primary provider, First Student. You can see from page 12 of the packet that BPS and STA have begun negotiations. There has been a noticeable improvement lately with First Student. The goal is that we will get relief with the addition of STA by January 1, 2019. Mr. Loveria believes that BPS understands the need to make changes with First Student.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Superintendent Search-** Mr. Quackenbush mentioned that Mr. Barry Rowland is in Buffalo today to conduct sessions with the faculty and staff at 4pm and with parents at 6pm to discuss what they would like to see in a new CEO. There will be further discussion in Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS

Enrollment – Mr. Loveria reviewed the enrollment report which indicated a rise in student enrollment in K-8, with total enrollment now at 2282.

Personnel Report – Mr. Lyle reviewed the personnel report; he noted the resignations of teachers in Project Lead the Way.

A motion to accept the Enrollment and Personnel reports was made by Mr. Keller, seconded by Mr. Donnelly. Motion approved

Transgender Policy- Mr. Loveria reminded the Board that the Transgender Policy was received at the October meeting and hopefully the members have had a chance to review it more in depth. He feels the policy is in line with what other districts have in place and will ensure that our transgender students are

safe and welcome at CSAT. A motion to accept the policy was made by Mrs. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Donnelly. Motion approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Charter School Office Visit- Mr. Loveria said that the visit on October 17, 2018 went very well. Mr. David Frank brought visitors from Neighborhood Charter School of Harlem with him to see CSAT. There was a meeting and tour of the school. The next day, October 18, 2018, a meeting took place in Batavia, NY on the topic of Charter Renewal. Mr. Frank gave a presentation on how the process will look and that it will be a fair assessment of the schools, especially with services the schools provide for at risk students. Celebration of Reading-Mrs. Juriewicz commented on another successful Celebration of Reading. On the last page of the board packet you will find a list of persons and organizations that took part this year. If you have not participated in the past, please consider doing so. It is a fun experience and the students in K-5 are so excited to hear from all the visitors on the importance of reading and the careers that the visitors are involved in.

STEM Hub Award-Mr. Sullivan announced that D'Youville College and CSAT are involved in an exciting venture which will allow our students to take college level courses and participate in health care career exploration with D'Youville. The Hub Award was given to all the new partners in this venture at a kick-off of D'Youville's new Hub center, a \$20 million dollar facility on the college campus. The first floor will be occupied by Catholic Health, which will deliver health services and the second floor will be the educational wing with classrooms and lab rooms. CAST and D'Youville are still working on particulars of the program and should have more information to Board after the new year.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to move to executive session at 5:45 p.m. to discuss issues relating to personnel made by Mr. Mikulec, seconded by Mr. Keller. Motion approved. No action requiring Board vote arose. Motion to leave executive session and adjourn the regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. made by Mrs. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Berti. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: December 11, 2018, 4:30PM

