

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 09/11/18

MINUTES

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

Others Present: Tanya Moore, Garrick Loveria, Andrew Lyle, Ann Morgante, Sue Jurewicz, Gregory Mott, Tralina Middlebrooks, Thomas Sullivan, Brett Lutterbein, Madelein Feirstein, Derek Mears, Nicole Killian, Sara Martinez, Jessica Johnson, Sandra Schilling, Sydney Harvey, Jacqueline Bontzolakes

MINUTES

Motion to approve the August 14, 2018 Minutes including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee; made by Mr. Mikulec, seconded by Mr. Keller. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Music Teachers Jessica Johnson and Sara Martinez discussed their duties as part of the Fine Arts team. They informed the Board about upcoming events, including the musical Fame, Jr. which will be presented Nov. 1-3 at the middle school. Parent Sandra Schilling spoke in support of the band/chorus program at the middle school and expressed her concern about the reduction of time allotted to classroom instruction for chorus. Sydney Harvey, an 8th grader, spoke in support of the middle school music program. Parent Jacqueline Bontzolakes is concerned that Spanish is no longer taught in the elementary school. She would like to see a Spanish Club started at the elementary school and is willing to assist in making it a reality.

FOLLOW UP FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

- None

PRESENTATION

- None

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEES

- **Career Readiness-** Mr. Berti discussed the issue of career tracking and a recent meeting that was held that included, by phone, SED officials David Frank and Susan Gibbons. They (Frank & Gibbons) did not know of any current school doing career tracking, they are familiar with schools that do college tracking. There have also been discussions with Mr. John Slanker of the Dept. of Labor, who has been acting in a consulting capacity with the committee. The committee's focus going forward is to evaluate our programming to determine if CSAT is reaching its goal of preparing graduates for family sustaining careers.

AD HOC BOARD COMMITTEES

- **Negotiations-** Mrs. Kelley noted that negotiations are complete and contract extension has been signed. The contract is in effect until June 30, 2021. Motion to formally accept the contract made by Mr. Keller, seconded by Mrs. Smith. Motion approved
- **Appeals** – None
- **Nomination-**Mr. Quackenbush announced the nomination of a new Board Member, Mr. Michael Alexander. The Nominating Committee feels that Mr. Alexander's expertise in financial and government work will be an asset to the Board. There were a number of positive comments from other Board members who have met or are familiar with Mr. Alexander. A motion to accept the nomination of Michael Alexander as a new member of the Board of Trustees was made by Mr. Mikulec, seconded by Mr. Keller. Motion approved

OLD BUSINESS

- **Superintendent Search-** Mr. Quackenbush mentioned that the Board has retained the services of a search firm, Carney Sandoe & Associates. The representative the Board will work with is Mr. Barry Rowland. There is a binder for each Board member that will be distributed in Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS

Enrollment – Mr. Loveria reviewed the enrollment report (page 9) which illustrates that the current enrollment of the school stands at 2,248 students, which is 60 short of capacity. The wait list has decreased considerably, especially in Kindergarten. Some of the decrease can be traced to more charter schools opening, parents deciding to return to district public schools and the issue of transportation. Mr. Lyle noted that the Enrollment Office is contacting families on the wait list and will continue to accept applications for those grades that have openings. A lengthy discussion followed on the transportation

problems that CSAT is experiencing with First Student. A comment was made that CSAT is not the only charter school experiencing problems with First Student. It was suggested by Mr. Robinson that we explore the “school within a school” concept, where entire families can send their children to one site. Mr. Lyle noted that this is taking place in Rochester, NY. There is a meeting scheduled next week with Buffalo School officials on the busing problem. A report on that meeting will be given at the October Board meeting.

Personnel Report – Mr. Lyle reviewed the personnel report (pages 10-12). He noted that the positions listed on Pg. 10 were all budgeted. On pgs. 11-12 there were a number of position changes, with employees moving to other positions within the district. He said there were a few resignations, with openings still needed in PE at the middle school. The last page listed the employees who mainly are on Family leaves.

A motion to accept the Enrollment and Personnel reports was made by Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mrs. Kelley. Motion approved

Transportation Policy-The purpose of the changes, notes in blue, is to reflect that students follow the code of conduct of the district that provides the transportation. There is little difference in the district’s code and CSAT’s. Mrs. Smith commented that the changes are intended to protect CSAT. The other noted change is on Pg. 14, as it pertains to number of days a student is suspended from transportation is not to exceed 10 days. There was additional discussion on liability and district responsibility. Mrs. Kelley asked that we try to obtain the First Student contract with BPS. Mrs. Moore reminded the Board that a meeting will be taking place next week between BPS & CSAT regarding our problems with First Student. A Motion to accept the Transportation Policy changes made by Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mrs. Kelley. Motion approved.

eDoctrina Update- Mr. Cinquino will update the Board at the October meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Elementary School- Mrs. Jurewicz noted that opening week went very well. The students and parents seemed happy and eager to start the new school year. The dress code change, especially with students being allowed to wear black sneakers is great. The staff has been very good and patient, most especially with the busing issue. The staff is implementing positive reinforcement with the students and will be starting curriculum shortly. Mrs. Fierstein commented that repeat offenders from last year are being matched up with teachers who have the skill set to work with those students, and the bulk of the work so far has been in kindergarten. Mr. Quackenbush asked Mrs. Jurewicz if she would join a committee to help

with the busing problem. Mrs. Jurewicz agreed and told the Board of a few ideas she has to improve relationship with bus drivers. The school will offer bus drivers who arrive between 3:00-3:30 pm to come in the building for coffee and snacks. There are also plans to provide drivers with behavioral training in October.

Middle School- Mr. Mott reported a very smooth opening at the middle school. He noted that he was at the school opening day @4am as Ch. 4 was doing a live segment that morning. The primary focus is on instruction, especially ELA, as well as behavior. After 12 days, the students have responded well to the new structure and order at middle school. Mr. Lyle noted a positive message that is found on pg. 19 of the Board packet from a parent commenting on changes at middle school. Mrs. Kelley commented that the CSAT Parent Facebook page is usually filled with many negative comments, but she found very few parents commenting on middle school changes. Mr. Mott wanted to address the parent concern on music program. He believes that there is ample time for instruction in music, band and chorus, and noted that 6th grade does have more time than 7th in music. Mr. Lyle said that while the schedule is not perfect, the academic and behavioral issues are taking precedent. In the future, once those have been improved, then the school can look at increasing time for band and chorus.

High School-Ms. Morgante spoke about the senior experience, where the seniors choose from several different experiences for college and career exploration. This year the seniors were able to choose from college classes at ECC, SAT Prep, Medical at D'Youville College, Military and Manufacturing. The seniors will return to regular classes on Monday, Sept. 17. The other students in Gr 9-11 have had a good start as well. The attendance, behaviors and dress code issues are good so far, hopefully when the seniors return they too will follow the same pattern. Ms. Morgante introduced the new Assistant Principal, Mr. Brett Lutterbein. The students who transferred in from Oracle Charter have assimilated well, they find that the structure at CSAT is better and they are also happy that a few former Oracle staff members are now at CSAT. This summer, 4 students did complete their required coursework and graduated, which brings the high school graduation rate to 95%.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to move to executive session at 5:55 p.m. made by Mrs. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Keller. Motion approved. No action requiring Board vote arose. Motion to leave executive session and adjourn the regular meeting at 6:20 p.m. by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: October 9, 2018, 4:30PM

