

**Charter School for Applied Technologies
2303 Kenmore Avenue, Buffalo NY 14207**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 11/14/17

MINUTES

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

Others Present: Efrain Martinez, Bob Shannon, Nadine Williamson, Sue Jurewicz, Tralina Middlebrooks, Tanya Moore, Tracey Simchick, Adam Brignone (Fine Arts Director), Nicole Killion, Laurie Ferraro, Neil Shanahan, Derek Mears

MINUTES

Motion to approve the October 10, 2017 Minutes including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee by Mrs. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Keller. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Fine Arts Director, Adam Brignone, discussed the student art project hanging on the walls inside the Board meeting room and developed by grade 4 students and a local artist in residence/muralist. Additionally, Brignone mentioned the upcoming Winter Concerts: Elementary on December 4, Middle on December 6 and High on December 7. CSAT now holds all performances the middle school gym.

FOLLOW UP FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

- None

PRESENTATION

- None

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEES

- **Quality Assurance** – Ms. Smith reported that the QA Committee met on October. 30, 2017. The Committee received a detailed explanation of, and was able to pose questions about, Adequate

Yearly progress (AYP) which a very important metric the State uses in determining the efficacy of a school. Its importance notwithstanding, AYP is not a metric that lends itself to goal setting other than aiming at meeting AYP. The adequacy of the progress resides on several achievement measures but always in comparison to the progress that other schools make in the State. Therefore, AYP is mostly an after-the-fact measure that is not useful for planning, but that validates progress on those metrics that do lend themselves to improvement planning. The Committee reviewed three reports used by administration in grades K-8 in order to effect improvement. QA also heard from principals on how they are using this data to pursue improvement. Based on the answers to the questions posed by trustees, the plan being implemented seems promising and it is the Committee's task to monitor these at various points. The Committee would like to review Regents data next. However, since Regents data is not yet available next meeting will be devoted to a review of parent surveys as a measurement of progress. The next QA meeting is scheduled for November 28.

- **Career Readiness** – Mr. Berti reported that the CR Committee met on October 19. The Committee reviewed the progress in the implementation of career pathways at the high school in the areas of STEM/Manufacturing, Business, Arts and Communications, Health and Human Services, and Liberal Arts. The Committee was updated on the number of for-credit internships (50), eight grade experience program, career touches reorganization, and plans for the Career Convention to be held on April 11, 2018. Mr. Berti reminded all trustees of the intention to propose a change in the wording of the School's mission. The current mission statement is accurate for the most part, but not user friendly. Although there is a good sense among staff of what the school-to-career theme is about, the mission statement should be clearer and helpful in communicating the goals. Three possible statements were distributed and the trustees are encouraged to review and get ready to come to a recommendation.

AD HOC BOARD COMMITTEES

- **PAC** – None
- **Appeals** – Mrs. Kelley reported on an appeal of a high school students who was involved in a fight at the school. This student was already in a probation plan (abeyance) for the same issue. The School's decision was upheld.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Policy Approval** - Mr. Martinez presented the Board with a memo detailing the advantages and disadvantages of approving the only item excluded from approval in the revised Dress Code. That would allow the use of all-black sneakers in the middle and high schools. Mr. Berti expressed his believe that this might not be a good move as he feels that hard sole shoes are a better match to our school-to-career goals. He also re-stated his concern with this change being in place absent Board approval. Mr. Martínez reiterated that this lapse in following policy change process is not a trend but an exception that confirms the rule. It was an isolated mistake, he declared. Mrs. Kelly expressed being in favor of the change. Furthermore, she stated that the change should also include K-5. After a brief discussion, Mr. Berti moved to approve the changes. He stated that it would be unfair to families to change in the middle of the school year and that this issue can be revisited in time to implement any ultimate decision and communicate to parents in advance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Keller. The motion was approved by majority with Mrs. Kelly voting no as it did not include the elementary students. The Board also approved a proposed change in the Student Spectator Policy tying the exclusion to only issues of attendance.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Enrollment** – Mr. Martinez reviewed the enrollment report which illustrates that the current enrollment of school stands at 2,177 students.
- **Personnel Report** – Mr. Martinez reviewed the personnel report which includes the hiring of a middle school music teacher and two part time cleaners, the rehiring of one part time cleaner, engagement of four new substitute teachers, the hiring of a temporary employee at the copy center, four position changes, one salary review, one separation, one retirement, two resignations, and the list of current and anticipated leaves of absences under the FMLA. . Motion to approve the personnel report by Mrs. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Keller. Report approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- none

AGENDA SETTING

- **Next meeting December 12 at 4:30 p.m., High School**

ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn the regular Board meeting at 6:58 p.m. by Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mr. Keller. Meeting adjourned.