

Charter School for Applied Technologies

Board Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2025



Public Comments (5 minutes)

Minutes (5 minutes)

- Minutes from 06.10.2025
 - Motion to Approve – Mrs. Pasieka
 - Second – Mr. Carlo
 - Motion approved.

Presentation:

- **Class of '25 Career Plans** – Mr. Bigouette and Ms. Gress
 - Lindsay Gress discussed the K-8 overview of career awareness and exploration - highlights including:
 - Xello
 - Intentional field trips and guest speakers – “signature experiences” at each grade level
 - HS Heroes – potentially growing our own teachers
 - MS Expo
 - Chris Bigouette discussed internship – 62 students in the program, with approximately 95 next year
 - Internship celebration to showcase all they learned in their career readiness program all the way through their experience at CSAT
 - Finding new business partners
 - Career Readiness Experiences – HS
 - Career Fair
 - Trades Expo
 - Mock interview event
 - Marketing Me – Etiquette Lunch
 - Field trips – to continue career exploration
 - Senior Signing Day – doubled our participation this year!
 - Class of 2025: Data – Sarah Monaco discussed class data:
 - Graduates – 147
 - Completion of post-graduate plan survey: 123/147
 - 43 students have been at CSAT since kindergarten
 - Credits earned: 1757
 - Average credits per senior: 11.79 (almost a semester of college!)
 - 8 students have 30+ credits!
 - Percentage of students in internship: 43% of seniors
 - Chris Bigouette and Sarah Monaco discussed a few specific student highlights and the strength of the partnership between CSAT and SUNY Erie

Administrative Reports (10 minutes)

- **Administrative Report** – None

Permanent Board Committees

- **QA** – None
- **Finance** – *2025-2026 Budget* – Mr. Cinquino
 - Mr. Cinquino noted that the administration has done a great job of making changes to their budgets without sacrificing student support.
 - Ms. Moore discussed the budget newsletter and the budget – a slight increase excluding depreciation
 - Risks and uncertainties:
 - Per pupil expenditures and district revenue can shift
 - Charter renewal

- Transportation agreement – current agreement expires 2030
 - Contract negotiations with Union – expires 2027
 - Highlights:
 - District revenue increased – Buffalo 10%, ex.
 - Decreases due to ESSR funding
 - Key drivers:
 - Enrollment – budgeting at 99%
 - Per Pupil Revenue
 - Salary Increases (~3.2% on average – union, 3% non-union)
 - Employee Benefits – discussion of move from Independent Health to Highmark for insurance
 - Finance committee will review this budget quarterly – differently than in the past to make sure that things are working as planned.
 - Mr. Berti mentioned that the foundation has approved \$25,000 for another shuttle to help with the HS internships.
 - Motion to Approve – Mr. Carlo
 - Second – Mrs. Smith
 - Motion approved.
- **Career Readiness** – *Presentation* – Mr. Bigouette (see above)
 - **PTO Report** – Jason Campbell
 - Mr. Campbell discussed the challenges and successes of the PTO in its first year back in business. Participation from teachers was a challenge, so there are opportunities to work with principals and union to learn about what the PTO is and does. Can provide volunteers and other resources for events and advocate for students. Looking for participation from the board as well with projects and at events. Suggestion to get HS involved by having students decide to auction off their artwork to donate that to the PTO.
 - **Signature events** for 2025-2026:
 - Fall Fest – October 15, 2025.
 - Meat Raffle – Spring 2026.
 - Monthly Newsletter

Ad Hoc Board Committees

- **Appeals** – Mr. Loveria noted that one that is currently pending.

Old Business

- **None**

New Business

- **Policy: *Internet-Enabled Devices*** – Mr. Loveria p. 5-7
 - Mr. Loveria discussed the need for a “distraction-free” environment – this has been left up to districts and schools. The policy mirrors what the governor has put out for her law. Prohibition is bell-to-bell, so there will be no use of internet-enabled devices at all during the school day.
 - Students, PTO, and staff all represented at the committee
 - On-site storage: K-8: off and away, at the high school students will put their devices in electronic-disabling pouches. Storage will be developed per school, and will be added to codes of conduct at each school and advertised prior to the fall. Purchase of one OpenGate system (metal detector) and wand to support the high school’s implementation.
 - Discussion about “disciplinary action” as a result of violating the policy = out of school suspension, per NY. CSAT has determined that it is “insubordination” if a student does not comply with the policy, and students will be subject to a progression if continual offenses occur.
 - Some discussion of parent reactions to the new policy.
 - There is an expense related to this – we do not yet know what reimbursement the state will provide, but we have budgeted for this.
 - Motion to Approve – Mr. Cinquino
 - Second – Mrs. Smith

- Motion approved.
 - Revised 2025-2026 District Wide Safety Plan is now up on the website
 - Lockout will now be called “secure lockout” so that there is no confusion
- **2025-2026 Projected Enrollment** – Mr. Loveria pg 8
 - Snapshot in time – June 18 – enrollment at 2321
 - Kara Oliver-Perez is focusing her efforts on K-3 for recruitment to help support budget
- **Personnel Report** – Mr. Lyle p. 9-10
 - Mr. Lyle discussed changes in hiring and leaves of absences.
 - Motion to Approve – Mr. Cinquino
 - Second – Mr. Chambers
 - Motion approved.

Agenda Setting

Next meeting is **August 12, 2025**

- - Motion to end the meeting: Mr. Carlo
- - Second: Mr. Cinquino

Attendance in person: Joseph Berti, Bryan Carlo, John Cinquino, Terrell Chambers, Lisa Smith, Andrea Pasiaka, Jason Campbell, Lisa Smith

Others: Andy Lyle, Bob Shannon, Ann Morgante, Garrick Loveria, Patrick Heyden, Sue Jurewicz, Brett Lutterbein, Dara Seeley, Lindsay Gress, Tara Jefferson, Shane Lynch, Nicole Killion, Sarah Monaco, Chris Bigouette