

Charter School for Applied Technologies

Board Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2026

Location: CSAT Middle School, 24 Shoshone Street, Buffalo, New York



Public Comments: None

Minutes

- Minutes from 06.23.2026
 - Motion to Approve – Andrea Pasioka
 - Second – John Cinquino
 - Motion approved.

Presentation:

- Spanish Club Trip to Puerto Rico – Ms. Jameson-Blowers
 - Ms. Jameson-Blowers presented a proposal for a five-day Spanish Club trip to San Juan, Puerto Rico during spring break 2027 (March 29–April 2, 2027). The trip would be self-funded and supported through student fundraising and possible scholarships; no school funds were requested.
 - The proposed trip would be limited to 25 students, with a minimum of 10 students preferred. Two Spanish instructors would accompany the students, and the trip would be coordinated through EF, including transportation, lodging, meals, activities, a tour director, instructor training/support, and overnight hotel security.
 - Eligibility expectations discussed included students being in grade 10 or higher, meeting academic/behavioral expectations, having completed or be enrolled through Spanish III, maintaining at least 90% attendance, and potentially completing an application process if interest exceeds available spaces.
 - The Board discussed the cost, estimated at \$3,349 per student and \$4,859 per adult, fundraising opportunities, EF scholarships, and the treatment of savings associated with complimentary adult chaperone travel. The Board expressed support for the educational opportunity and requested a follow-up update before the trip (March 2027), including the status of student participation and fundraising. Students would also be expected to provide a presentation following the trip.
 - Motion to Approve – Bryan Carlo
 - Second – John Cinquino
 - Motion approved.

Annual Meeting Business

- Mr. Berti addressed the importance of consistent Board attendance and participation. He noted that Board attendance is monitored and emphasized the importance of members attending regularly scheduled meetings. He acknowledged that Board members serve as volunteers and expressed appreciation to those who maintained strong attendance, while encouraging continued participation and improved attendance during the 2026–2027 school year. Three trustees whose terms are set to expire but were not present for ratification will be voted on at the September board meeting.
- **Ratification and confirmation of Trustee Terms (vote)** – Mr. Loveria presented the names of trustees for ratification and confirmation as per the Annual Meeting Business for the 2026-2027 school year.
 - Andrea Pasioka's adjusted three-year term will now expire on Sept. 1, 2029.
 - Motion to accept the new term for Andrea Pasioka – Bryan Carlo
 - Second – Jason Campbell
 - Motion approved.
 - Lisa Smith's adjusted three-year term will now expire on Sept. 1, 2029.
 - Motion to accept the new term for Lisa Smith – John Cinquino
 - Second – Jason Campbell
 - Motion approved.
- **Reelections of Officers (vote)** – Mr. Loveria presented the following individuals for election as CSAT Board officers:

- President: Joseph Berti.
 - Motion to accept the nomination of Joseph Berti as president – John Cinquino
 - Second – Andrea Pasioka
 - Motion approved
- Vice-President: Lisa Smith
 - Motion to accept the nomination of Lisa Smith as vice-president – Kevin Cornacchio
 - Second – Joe Berti
 - Motion approved
- Treasurer: John Cinquino.
 - Motion to accept the nomination of John Cinquino as Treasurer – Joe Berti
 - Seconded – Lisa Smith
 - Motion approved.
- Secretary: Andrea Pasioka.
 - Motion to accept the nomination of Andrea Pasioka as Secretary – Lisa Smith
 - Seconded – Jason Campbell
 - Motion approved.
- **Committee Assignments** – Mr. Loveria
 - Remove Ian Donnelly from QA committee and Jason Campbell to continue on the Finance Committee
- **Bylaws/Code of Ethics** – Mr. Loveria (supplement)
 - No material changes

Administrative Reports – Mr. Verrall

- Strategic planning: Cabinet and school leadership have developed goals aligned with CSAT's mission and vision. Goals will be communicated to the next level of leadership and tracked through a new goal-tracking system, with regular progress checks.
- Staffing and recruitment: Mr. Verrall discussed ongoing efforts to recruit and retain qualified instructional staff and noted the continued work to fill open teaching positions.
- Adjustments to class sizes and scheduling in response to enrollment demand. Elementary class sizes will gradually increase in selected grades while maintaining smaller groupings where appropriate.
- Reading instruction: CSAT is partnering with a reading program provider to strengthen foundational reading instruction. Professional development and coaching will be provided to teachers, including special education and ENL staff.
- Ms. Morgante reported that 156 of 162 students graduated, a 96% graduation rate, with approximately 60% of the graduating class participating in internships. Additional students were expected to complete requirements, potentially increasing the graduation rate. Regents results: Improvements were reported in Biology, Chemistry, U.S. History, Algebra I, and Geometry. Leadership noted continued progress in mathematics and science and will provide additional testing updates as results are released.
- Mr. Burzynski provided an update on the developing football program and the participation of students. Interest in open workouts and high school participation was described as encouraging.

Permanent Board Committees

- **QA-None**
- **Finance – Mr. Cinquino**
 - The Finance Committee plans to meet briefly following the regular Board meeting and will provide a fuller update at a future meeting.
- **Career Readiness-None**
- **PTO Report – None**

Ad Hoc Board Committees – None

Old Business:

District wide Safety Plan (vote) – Mr. Loveria

- The Board reviewed the 2026–2027 District-wide Safety Plan, which had been posted for public review for the required period. No major changes were made; updates included minimal wording changes and additions related to current requirements, including sudden cardiac arrest training.
 - Motion to Approve – Lisa Smith
 - Second – John Cinquino
 - Motion approved

New Business

- **2026-2027 Code of Conduct (vote)** – Mr. Loveria
 - The Board reviewed the annual Code of Conduct. A minor change was proposed to remove piercing retainers from the dress-code provision because the school no longer provides them. The Board also discussed the Internet-Enabled Device Policy and the implementation/enforcement of the policy.
 - Motion to Approve 2026-2027 CSAT Student Code of Conduct – Lisa Smith
 - Second – John Cinquino
 - Motion approved
- **Policy – Athletics** – Mr. Loveria
- Mr. Loveria presented a substantially updated athletics policy designed to strengthen academic and attendance expectations while providing students with opportunities to regain eligibility.
- The policy requires student athletes to maintain a minimum passing average of 65% in at least four credit-bearing classes and pass Physical Education, with eligibility reviews occurring at established marking-period intervals.
- Students who become academically ineligible may continue practicing and may seek reinstatement after a two-week remedial period if they meet the required academic standards. Students reinstated during the quarter remain on academic probation and must continue to demonstrate passing status.
- Attendance provisions provide for probation when attendance falls between 85.1% and 90%, and ineligibility at 85% or below after the required enrollment period, with an appeal process available.
- The Board discussed academic intervention, attendance, communication with families, equity and special circumstances, and the importance of supporting students while maintaining clear expectations.
 - Motion to Approve – John Cinquino
 - Second – Kevin Cornacchio
 - Motion approved

Enrollment – Mr. Loveria

- Current enrollment was reported at 2,298, with a target of 2,356. Continued recruitment and significant waitlists in several middle school grades.
- Twenty-two Niagara Falls students were identified as intending to attend CSAT, including 12 students in grades K–5. The Board discussed transportation options for families with students in multiple grade levels, including the possible use of a shuttle, but no final transportation change was made.
- Recruitment and enrollment numbers will continue to be monitored as the school year begins.

Personnel Report – Mr. Verrall

- New hires discussed: Marissa Rivera, Financial Controller; and Roger Broeker, Assistant Principal at CSAT Middle School. The Board also reviewed personnel separations, leaves/returns, resignations, retirement, and other staffing changes reflected in the July 2026 personnel report.
 - Motion to Approve – Andrea Pasioka
 - Second: Jason Campbell
 - Motion approved

Agenda Setting:

Next meeting is **September 8, 2026, K–5 Library (Annex), 2303 Kenmore Avenue, Buffalo, NY**

- Motion to end the meeting at 6:00pm: John Cinquino
- Second: Lisa Smith
- Meeting Adjourned

Attendance in person: Joseph Berti, Bryan Carlo, John Cinquino, Jason Campbell, Lisa Smith, Kevin Cornacchio, Andrea Pasieka

Others: Eon Verrall, Bob Shannon, Tanya Moore, Ann Morgante, Garrick Loveria, Patrick Heyden, Yaritza Soto Rosario, Christopher Burzyski, Shane Lynch, Nicole Killion, Tara Jefferson, Sydney Jameson-Blowers