

Charter School for Applied Technologies
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo, New York 14207
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 06/06/2023

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Berti, Michael Keller, John Cinquino, Lisa Smith, Kevin Cornacchio, Jina Gentry, Terrell Chambers

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Andrea Pasioka, Ian Donnelly, Danielle Salasavage, Steve Kottakis, Kristin Elmore-Garcia

OTHERS PRESENT: In person: Andrew Lyle, Garrick Loveria, Tanya Moore, Bob Shannon, Sue Jurewicz, Ann Morgante, Brett Lutterbein, Patrick Heyden, Dara Seeley, Tara Jefferson, Keith Banas, Daniel Scholze, Nicole Killian, Trevor McCabe, Shane Lynch, Thomas Sullivan

MINUTES

Mr. Berti requested a correction to the April 11, 2023, Minutes under Lottery Process/Results to reflect that the total number of applications received prior to the annual lottery was **1,021**. Additionally, the April minutes should also include under Administrative Reports that, *“Jay O’Connor, who is contracted through NYSED’s Office of ESSA-Funded Programs met with the Cabinet and Curriculum Team to respond to questions regarding CSAT’s submitted ESSER expenses. CSAT was provided five days to respond to O’Connor’s questions about what was submitted. O’Connor then intends to provide his final recommendation on approved expenses in another 60 days time. CSAT will be posting the reopening plan on our website so that families are aware that no changes were made to the plan.”*

Motion to approve the May 9, 2023 Minutes including revisions to the April 11, 2023 Minutes including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee, made by Mr. Keller, seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PRESENTATION

None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Cabinet Report- Mr. Lyle and Mr. Berti welcomed new Board Member, Mr. Terrell Chambers.

Mr. Lyle called the Board's attention to the Open Meeting Laws which require CSAT to open Board meetings via tele-conferencing to the public and not just Board or staff members that cannot attend. As a result, we will not be able to provide that service to the Board going forward.

Mr. Lyle said the recent visit by Susan Gibbons of the NYS Charter School Office went well. It was a rather informal visit. Ms. Gibbons did remind us that we need to continue to increase our ELL and SPED numbers which Mr. Lyle said the school continues to address.

We met recently with Joseph Ghosen, BPS Transportation Director, regarding the new bell system to take effect next school year. CSAT will be on the first bell, meaning that buses will arrive @7:25 am with dismissal @ 2:25pm. If all goes as planned, most students should be picked up by 2:45pm at the latest. We have also contacted the suburban districts and there has been no issue with new times. This new start and dismissal time will have no effect on our charter. Parents and staff will be notified this week. The bell schedule will be in effect for one year with a review taking place at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

K-5: Mr. Berti asked if the school could provide a report on testing to see if the reduced class size in Grade 2 was effective. Mrs. Jurewicz said that testing and scoring will take place this week. We will try and have that ready for June 20 meeting.

6-8: Mr. Heyden reported that a new Assistant Principal has been hired. We will be having a new skills initiative program for summer school. We also will be refining our discipline goals for the new school year.

9-12: Mr. Lutterbein said the recent Senior Breakfast and Prom went well. The seniors participated in a parade at the Elementary School in their cap and gown to show the younger students what it will be like when they reach that point in their lives. We continue to work with select seniors in danger of not graduating. Those numbers have come down in recent days.

Mr. Lyle and Mr. Loveria did mention that teacher recruitment is on-going. We will have three prospective teachers working in the Middle School next year through the new Buffalo Urban League Fellows Program, supported by the Cullen Foundation.

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEE

Finance- Mr. Cinquino and Mrs. Moore presented the 2023-2024 Budget. The Budget Summary and Highlights include:

- Enrollment: No change in the total number of student seats (2365) with budget estimate at 99% (2341)
- Revenue: \$41.30 million
Per Pupil Revenue-overall increase of 3.94% over the prior year
Stimulus Funding-\$4.1 million
- Expenses: \$40.79 million (excluding Depreciation)
Salaries-increased by an average of 2% or CBA's BTM
Benefits-Health Care increased by an average of 7.02%, no changes to employer contribution percentages for healthcare, slight decrease in NYSTRS mandated employer contribution.
Other Expenses-increase of 12% over the prior year to directly address student loss of learning and to provide social/emotional support for students and staff.

Other Key Items included discussions related to the current union contract, which expires June 30, 2024, and the potential effects of the loss of stimulus funding, which expires September 30, 2024. Mr. Lyle said that the Cabinet and Finance Committee will be meeting regularly to discuss this and how to move forward. There is no information at this time on continued assistance at the federal or state level.

A motion to accept the 2023-2024 School Budget was made by Mr. Cornacchio, seconded by Mrs. Smith. Motion approved.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Appeals-Mr. Cornacchio reported on an appeal of an Elementary student who had been permanently suspended for a safety issue. The appeal was denied. Mr. Loveria said that Mr. Donnelly also considered an appeal of a 9th grader permanent suspension for safety. That appeal was also denied.

Facilities- Mr. Shannon reported on the HS crosswalk. There is good news to report; construction is set to begin the week of June 26.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Enrollment-Mr. Loveria referred to the enrollment report which shows our current enrollment at 2315. We did have over 1,000 applicants this year with a big increase in High school applicants. We are starting our visits to day cares and head starts to promote Kindergarten enrollment. We are holding off on commercials to see how our recruitment efforts go.

Personnel-Mr. Lyle reviewed the personnel report. He highlighted the number of new hires, specifically the new Middle School Asst. Principal along with a few position changes, resignations, and non-renewals. Other than that, the report is self-explanatory.

A motion to accept the Personnel report made by Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mrs. Gentry. Motion approved.

A motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 5:55pm was made by Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mr. Chambers. Motion approved.

Next Meeting: June 20, 2023, @4:30pm