

Charter School for Applied Technologies

Board Meeting Minutes

June 25, 2024



Public Comments (5 minutes)

- None

Minutes (5 minutes)

- Minutes from May 14, 2024
 - Motion to approve – Danielle Salasavage
 - Second – John Cinquino
 - Minutes approved.
- Mr. Berti announced that this year's graduation ceremony will be taking place on June 28, 2024, at Kleinhanns with several trustees including Pasioka, Salasavage, Cornacchio, Chambers, and Berti committing to attend in order to partake in the ceremonies and distribute diplomas.

Presentation

- 2024 Regents Results – High school principal, Brett Lutterbein, provided the Board an updated aggregate report on the results from the Regents examinations that had recently been administered. ELA results were strong with an 84% pass rate, including a 23% mastery rate which is on par with the KenTon school district where CSAT resides. Significant gains were also realized in both Algebra II and History increasing performance levels back to pre-COVID rates. Lutterbein mentioned that increased academic focus needs to now be placed on the Science content areas which will begin with the recruitment of a couple of new teachers for next school year.
- Lutterbein announced that of 144 seniors in this year's school class, 142 will be receiving their Regents diploma at the graduation ceremony. The remaining two seniors will work to complete their graduation requirements during the summer.

Administrative Report

- Mr. Lyle called the Board's attention to page 5 of the packet which illustrated a recent Buffalo News article indicating that several area charters were in the process of requesting a formal charter revision from their authorizer to decrease their enrollment size. This was indicative of the recent decreasing population and student enrollment trend being seen across the area and in the city of Buffalo. The trending also validates the increase competition for student enrollment need to promote the unique educational programming that CSAT offers. Lyle also announced that the Business First newspaper recently published its WNY Schools Rankings which had the CSAT K-5 school ranked 2nd amongst charter school elementary schools. Lastly, the annual Districtwide Safety Plan will be posted to the school's website for public comment on August 1st with a vote for its affirmative to be requested at the September Board meeting.

Permanent Board Committees

- **Quality Assurance** – None
- **Finance** – None
- **Career Readiness** – Mr. Cornacchio provided an account of the committee's last meeting in the absence of Mr. Kottakis indicating that the number of internships for the next year is expected to increase. This total internship number will exceed that of our pre-COVID level which is a testament to the progress that both Chris Bigouette and Lindsay Gress continue to make in the career readiness space. As the internship and ECCP program continue to grow the need for transport of the students to and from their respective venues will increase, therefore the purchase of school shuttles might be necessary if the school hopes to achieve its program goals. Loveria mentioned that this need will be conveyed to the CSAT Foundation as well to see if there are any potential donors that might want to supply vans for conversion into school shuttles.

Ad Hoc Board Committees

- Appeals – None

Old Business

- Transportation – Mr. Lyle reported that he recently spoke with Board President Emeritus, David Quackenbush, who had a discussion with BPS' past general counsel to determine the best path forward to secure an extension of the current Transportation agreement. Taking this advice, Lyle has requested that our legal counsel update the current contract and then reach to BPS' counsel directly to see if an extension under the current terms might be agreeable to them.

New Business

- **Dress Code revision** – Mr. Loveria requested that the Board consider several revisions to the existing dress code for the 2024-2025 school year. These changes though minor in scope will help the middle school and high school maintain better culture and remain consistent in application of the dress moving forward. The request is that shorts are no longer a dress code option at the two buildings as they have become visibly inappropriate and both buildings are air conditioned, and students have the ability to change into shorts during physical education classes. Additionally, while all three schools will continue to allow headbands, student scarves and bonnets have become a distraction to learning and the proposal seeks to prohibit their wearing. Lastly, Loveria indicated that the, no wearing of headphones was redundant given the school's existing Electronics policy and therefore could be omitted. Mr. Cinquino mentioned that while this was true, the schools could benefit from this message being repeated in several areas to which all principals agreed. Motion to approve the dress code revisions by Mr. Cornacchio, seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Opposed by Ms. Smith. Revisions approved.
- **2024-2025 Enrollment Status** – Mr. Loveria provided an update to the current enrollment status for next year which illustrates that more students are still needed for kindergarten, first and second grades. The communication/marketing department has several strategic initiatives ready to deploy over the summer in order to bolster those grade levels.
- **Personnel Report** – None

Executive Session – Ms. Smith made a motion that the Board move into executive session at 5:20pm in order to discuss a personnel issue, Mr. Cinquino seconded the motion. All approved.

- The Board exited executive session at 5:40pm. No motions requiring Board approval or expenditure of public funds were made in executive session.

Agenda Setting

Next meeting is August 13, 2024

- Mr. Cornacchio motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Salasavage.
- Meeting adjourned at 5:40pm.

Next Meeting – August 13, 2024

Attendance in person: Joseph Berti, Lisa Smith, John Cinquino, Andrea Pasioka, Kevin Cornacchio, Danielle Salasavage, Terrell Chambers (via phone)

Others: Andy Lyle, Tanya Moore, Garrick Loveria, Bob Shannon, Brett Lutterbein, Nicole Killion, Derek Nevins, Patrick Heyden, Ann Morgante, Sarah Monaco, Lindsay Gress, Jason Campbell (PTO President), Tara Jefferson