

Charter School for Applied Technologies
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo, New York 14207
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 02/14/2023

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: In person, Joseph Berti, John Cinquino, Andrea Pasioka, Lisa Smith, Ian Donnelly, Kevin Cornacchio, Jina Gentry, Kristin Elmore-Garcia

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Michael Keller, Danielle Salasavage, Steve Kottakis, Michael Stevens

OTHERS PRESENT: In person: Andrew Lyle, Garrick Loveria, Tanya Moore, Sue Jurewicz, Ann Morgante, Brett Lutterbein, Patrick Heyden, Nadine Williamson, Dara Seeley, Tara Jefferson, Keith Banas, Nicole Killian, Trevor McCabe, Thomas Sullivan (via audio tele-conference).

MINUTES

Motion to approve the January 10, 2023 Minutes, including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee, made by Mr. Donnelly, seconded by Mr. Cornacchio. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PRESENTATION

None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Cabinet Report- Mr. Lyle mentioned an issue the school is having with the Niagara Frontier League regarding several of our teams. The League first raised safety concerns about the Girls Varsity Soccer team and informed us that it was their decision to move them to a JV schedule, which we accepted. However, the League raised additional concerns with Girls Varsity Softball and Boys Varsity Baseball teams. The Athletic Directors voted to move those teams to a JV schedule as well. This is upsetting as we are 6 weeks away from the start of the season. We decided to appeal this decision. Mr. Lyle attended an appeal hearing to state our case, which was unanimously denied. We will now appeal directly to Section VI as we are not comfortable with our teams playing a JV schedule. The League said our Girls Varsity Softball could play non-league games; our Boys Varsity Baseball is still awaiting a decision. We have spoken to our attorney Lisa Coppola and will continue to pursue this matter.

The NYS Charter School Office (CSO) will soon be conducting their mid-term site visit at CSAT, though a definitive date is yet to be decided. Ms. Susan Gibbons and Dr. Lisa Long, Executive Director of CSO, will visit CSAT. A handout of the 10 benchmarks, prepared by Nadine Williamson, was distributed to the Board. Mr. Lyle briefly highlighted the handout as the Board must be properly prepared to answer any questions regarding the educational, financial and organizational aspects of the school. Ms. Gibbons will attend a Board meeting during her visit but only as an observer. More information will follow when it becomes available.

The Board retreat will take place on March 14, 2023 at the Saturn Club on Delaware Avenue. It will run from Noon to 5 p.m., with dinner to follow. Mr. Efrain Martinez, retired CSAT Superintendent, will be the facilitator.

Quality Assurance/Administrative Team-Ms. Morgante provided the Board with a handout of data that will be referenced at today's meeting. Each of the building principals will report:

K-5: Mrs. Jurewicz began with the ELA vision and expectations. She mentioned that reading is a moving target in K-5 with students at various levels of achievement as seen in the data provided. The Board did provide for a reduction in class size which you can see from the teacher comments has been a great help. While there is a great deal of data to read, it does provide a snapshot on progression of learning to read and contains individual student needs assessment.

6-8: Mr. Heyden began his comments by stating that the major goals for the Middle School this year were consistency in discipline and building a positive school culture. He said that the 7th graders were the most challenging group in regard to discipline referrals though the numbers recently are trending downward. In ELA, the iReady diagnostic results are only modest gains, though they are trending in the right direction.

9-12: Mr. Lutterbein stated that the High School's academic goals were to improve classroom rigor (within the new block schedule of 90-minute periods) and building a positive school culture. The High School is reviewing individual state Regents exam results with a goal of increasing student mastery level. We have also implemented a number of PD days to help our teachers to achieve the goals we've set.

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEE

Career Readiness- Mr. Loveria reported on the recent Career Readiness Meeting and highlighted the following:

- *Mid-Year CR Update of the activities that Mrs. Errington is conducting in each of the buildings.

- *Tech Pathway-Mr. Shannon is assisting with a program to provide industry exposure to underserved communities of which CSAT qualifies.

- *Career Readiness Mission review

- *2023 CR Goals regarding Professional Persistence Scale to pilot this year with 12th graders and begin discussion of 2024 goal of explicit teaching of Foundation Skills to students beginning in 9th grade.

- *Discuss strategy for internships with smaller private industry partners

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Appeals-None

OLD BUSINESS

Transportation-No report

NEW BUSINESS

Foundation- Mr. Loveria referenced pages 7 & 8 of the Board packet. He highlighted current status and initiatives, applications to Foundations as well as funding priorities. The report also mentioned the current transportation concerns with busing and discussions with BPS on securing an extension of CSAT's 5-year agreement as well as the financial status of ECC and its possible impact on the ECCP program.

Enrollment-Mr. Loveria announced that current enrollment stands at 2356 with 8 students set to enter on Feb. 27, 2023. The school will not accept any new students after April 1, 2023.

Personnel-Mr. Lyle reviewed the personnel report. He highlighted the number of new hires, along with a few position changes and resignations. We continue to actively recruit substitute teachers. Other than that, the report is self-explanatory.

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

A motion to adjourn the regular meeting@ 6:25pm was made by Mrs. Pasieka, seconded by Mrs. Smith. Motion approved

**Next Meeting: March 14, 2023 @ Saturn Club. Board Meeting & Retreat,
Noon-5:00pm, Dinner to follow @5pm**