

Charter School for Applied Technologies
317 Vulcan Street, Buffalo, New York 14207
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 11/14/2023

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: In person, Joseph Berti, Terrell Chambers, John Cinquino, Lisa Smith, Jina Jentry, Andrea Pasioka, Bryan Carlo

Via Teleconference: none

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Danielle Salasavage, Ian Donnelly, Kevin Cornacchio, Steve Kottakis

OTHERS PRESENT: In person: Garrick Loveria, Bob Shannon, Tanya Moore, Sue Jurewicz, Patrick Heyden, Dara Seeley, Ann Morgante, Brett Lutterbein, Nicole Killion, Dan Scholze, Shane Lynch, Tara Jefferson, Nadine Williamson, Keith Banas, Chris Bigouette, Lindsay Gress, Tara Puff, Sarah Monaco

MINUTES

Motion to approve the October 10, 2023, Minutes, including permanent committee reports and those submitted under ad hoc committee, made by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Pasioka. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board President, Joe Berti, recognized newly hired K-8 Career Coordinator, Lindsay Gress, who joins the CSAT family from North Carolina and brings a wealth of experience and career exploration expertise to the position.

PRESENTATION

ECCP Summer Bridge Recap: High school principal Brett Lutterbein and Assistant Principal, Sarah Monaco, provide a summary of this past summer's Bridge program that took place on SUNY Buffalo State's campus for six weeks from July 10th through August 17th. This year's Bridge represented the complete build-out of the program as it featured three grade levels of participants for the first time including rising Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors with 116 total students. All enrollees participated in 1 or 4 on-campus courses along with addition workshops while also earning a bi-weekly paycheck through Buffalo Mayor Summer Youth, Erie County Summer Youth or Niagara County Summer Youth. Overall performance for the program was very strong with a 97% cumulative attendance rate and only six students earning below a C grade for their respective course.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Cabinet Report- In Superintendent Lyle's absence, Deputy Superintendent, Garrick Loveria made a few remarks about an upcoming grant opportunity with the Cullen Foundation that has the potential to offer increased fund the Early College and Career Pathways program. Evaluators and facilitators employed by the Cullen Foundation will be visiting the high school on November 17th, 2023, in order to set a program baseline for future measurement and also to discuss areas of possible program growth moving forward. Loveria intimated that one area of grant program exploration might be the expansion of the Summer Bridge program on to SUNY Erie's campus for specific pathways focused coursework.

PERMANENT BOARD COMMITTEE

Quality Assurance- Mrs. Pasieka gave the QA report beginning with a summarization of currently 3-8 NYS assessment data that illustrates growth in ELA and Math, and a decrease in Science which may be in part attributable to shifts in the administration of the Science assessment. Overall, student attendance continues to improve at slow but steady rate. Disciplinary suspensions also appear to be trending in a positive direction in comparison to the previous year. Berti inquired as to if there might be an academic dashboard that QA could develop around key performance indicators so this might be used at a quick glance in conjunction with more detailed reports. Pasieka agreed that this might be useful and that the committee would look to investigate this possibility at a future meeting.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Appeals- Mr. Loveria reported on two appeals: one for a middle school student and one for a high school student. A review was completed and permanent suspension upheld for the middle school student. The high school appeal is still pending with Mr. Cornacchio.

OLD BUSINESS

Transportation: None

NEW BUSINESS

Policy- Mr. Loveria requested that the Board receive a revision to its alternate site instruction policy to align with the new state mandate that increases the number of hours of instruction for both K-6 and 7-12 students. K-6 students will now receive two hours of instruction while 7-12 students will receive three hours of instruction. Loveria also requested that the duration of alteration site instruction for permanent suspensions be reduced from ten days to five days given the staffing difficulties currently facing CSAT and that charters are not required to provide any alternate site instruction following permanent suspension. CSAT provides alternate site instruction in these rare situations as an educational bridge so that students do not experience academic regression while they await enrollment elsewhere. Motion to approve the revision of alternate site instruction policy included in the Student Code of Conduct by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Revisions approved.

Enrollment – The presented enrollment report of 2352 appears to be inaccurate. Loveria to confirm with Chief Information Officer, Melinda Cebulski, and report back

via email to the Board with a confirmed number.

On November 16, 2023, Loveria confirmed via email that enrollment stood at 2322.

Personnel – Mr. Loveria reviewed the personnel report. He highlighted the number of new hires, along with a few position changes and resignations. In the middle school there was one addition to the budget with the hiring of Damien Goodman to the position of Behavior Intervention Specialist. He will be filling in for Kris Giammarise who is on disability however when Giammarise returns the middle plans to retain Goodman in that position. While reviewing the list of substitutes for approval K5 Principal, Susan Jurewicz, stated that maintaining a viable list of substitutes at the K5 is a struggle. Loveria stated that in response to continued storages the Cabinet has moved to increase substitute pay rates effective December 1st. Recruitment of teachers in general remains difficult throughout the entire WNY area and will be discussed further at the next BOT's meeting. Mr. Berti did acknowledge Trustee, Jina Gentry's recent career move to a teaching position at Buffalo Public Schools (BPS) and inquired what were some of her reasons for moving schools in hopes of gaining some insight into solving some of CSAT's recruitment challenges. Gentry elaborated on some of the inherent challenges faced by all teachers in the current climate however the financial compensation package offered by BPS was ultimately the deciding factor in her career change. Motion to approved the Personnel Report as presented by Mrs. Pasieka, seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Personnel Report approved.

A motion to move into Executive Session at 6:00 pm in order to discuss issues related to negotiations was made by Mr. Berti, seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Motion approved.

The Board left Executive Session at 6:45pm with no actions requiring public vote necessary. A motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:45 pm was made by Mr. Carlo, seconded by Mr. Cinquino. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: December 12, 2023 @ 4:30 pm