

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
CULTURAL ARTS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL**

A virtual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Cultural Arts Academy Charter School was held on May 20, 2020 using freeconferencecall.com.


**IN ATTENDANCE:** Henry Clouden III, Treasurer  
Shirley A Glasgow, Secretary  
Cheryl Pemberton-Graves, Vice-President  
Chrysetta Patterson, Member  
Dr. Laurie B. Midgette, Principal

The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm with a quorum present.

The financial statements of Cultural Arts Academy Charter School were prepared by Stuart Sabal and presented by Henry Clouden, Treasurer. The related statements of activities and cash flows for one month were presented with the accompanying supplemental information. These statements were discussed in detail. CAACS has sufficient cash to fund monthly operations.

**Data Snapshot May 2020**

- Year to Date Attendance Rate - **92.7% (last reported)**
- **Distance Learning Attendance Rates:**
  - a) Week Ending 4/17 - 89%
  - b) Week Ending 4/24 - 92%
  - c) Week Ending 5/1 - 89%
  - d) Week Ending 5/8 - 86%
  - e) Week Ending 5/15 - 85%
- Current Immunization Status - **98.8%**
- Current Student Count - **265**
- **Total Number of Families in Temporary Housing -**
  - a) 3 Families in Housing + 3 Families (*Doubled Up -Sharing Households*) = **6 Families**
- **Free & Reduced numbers as of 4/15/2020**

a) Students with meal code A (HRA)	<b>141</b>
b) Students with meal code 1 (FREE MEAL)	<b>31</b>
c) Students With meal code 2 (REDUCED MEAL)	<b>21</b>
d) Total number of Free & Reduced =	<b>193 (193 is 72.83% of 265)</b>
- **Free and Reduced Percentage on 5/20/2020 - 72.83%**
- **Coronavirus Impact Data**
  - a) 

b) [Redacted text block]

- **The New York Charter Schools Association** will be hosting standing weekly webinars regarding COVID-19 response in partnership with the SUNY Charter Schools Institute, New York State Education Department and the NYC Department of Education and the NYC Charter Center. Recently, Governor Cuomo identified the need for \$60 billion in federal aid to mitigate the financial impact of the current crisis. We support Governor Cuomo’s call for federal aid. In partnership with the New York City Charter School Center, we are launching this new initiative - Fund NY Schools - to urge New York’s Congressional representatives to support a package that provides the necessary funds to stabilize state budgets.
- **Governor Cuomo** issued an Executive Order extending mandatory closure for all New York state schools through the remainder of the academic school year. In keeping with Executive Order No. 202.4, these additional days are not subject to the 180-day seat time requirement. A decision on allowing in-school instruction for summer school as well as summer camp operation will be made by the end of May. Additionally, Governor Cuomo listed a number of factors to be considered before re-opening schools:
  - How our school will monitor the spread of COVID-19
  - How our school can instill parent confidence and reinforce student safety
  - The re-opening of extra-curricular activities
  - Do protocols for special student population change?

- Any alternative academic calendars
- On Monday, May 4th, the **NYSED Board of Regents** denied the renewal of a high performing Buffalo school that was recommended for a 5-year renewal. There is a meeting tomorrow, May 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss what happened and if there are implications for your schools.
- On Thursday, May 21, 2020, at 4 pm we will be hosting a discussion to share an overview of the Board of Regents - including the geographical regions of the Regents, how to identify the Regent whose region includes your school, and the process by which Regents are appointed. In addition, we will hear directly from the leader of Buff-Sci, the Buffalo school denied renewal at the most recent Board of Regents meeting, as well as from the leaders of MESA Charter High School, a New York City charter school that can also share reflections from a recent effort to expand its grades served.
- **School Funding**--Schools throughout New York State are slated to lose an estimated 20% or more of education funding due to budget cuts resulting from the COVID-19 crisis. This drastic cut would devastate school budgets and severely impact student learning.
- **SUMMER SCHOOL** - More than one in six New York City students are expected to attend remote summer school this year, an indication of the scale of learning loss officials are bracing for as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. City estimates released Tuesday show that almost 178,000 students – or nearly 18% of the district’s enrollment – are projected to be in summer classes that will be offered remotely starting in July. Roughly 102,000 students at risk of being held back or who fell significantly behind will be required to attend summer school in grades 3-12 – more than double last year’s number. Another 48,000 struggling students will be recommended to attend summer school, and roughly 28,000 district school students with disabilities across all grade levels are already entitled to year-round schooling. Summer school will run for six weeks in July and August, with students in grades 3-8 receiving instruction for four days each week and high school students and those with disabilities in school five days a week. The effort is expected to cost \$83 million and require 6,000 educators to sign up to teach for extra pay over the summer, officials said, with applications opening this week.
- **Meeting notes from Charter Center Meeting on Finances**
  - a) Offer letters-deferred or lowered
  - b) Reducing staffing by one person per area of responsibility
  - c) Give a bonus so it is a one time cost.
  - d) Reducing outside partnerships (BAM, Lincoln Center, etc.)
  - e) Reduction in the arts (use of staff)
  - f) Physical education (how do we move forward-staffing reduction based on online need)
  - g) Enrollment impact of per pupil funding (families who are not responsive to offer letters; families moving out of the state)

- h) Audits-will there be an extension based on building access and limitations
- i) Free and reduced lunch applications (access to forms-parents are not filling them out)

- **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

- a) Live Family Gathering began on Monday, May 11th from 8AM - 8:40AM. Received emails from the parents praising this much awaited connection. The scholars are happy to be able to connect with their professors and peers.
- b) Virtual Leadership Day took place on Wednesday, May 13th and was an absolute success. The format allowed for us to obtain immediate authentic responses to each portion of the presentation.
- c) Live demo Math lessons were presented today, May 14th from 9AM - 10AM. Most Professors were able to present content. Scholars displayed high levels of participation, enthusiasm & adherence to the class. Knowing that some scholars would not be able to view the live session, the same lesson was posted on the Classroom stream as usual.

**Issues/Challenges**

- a) Approximately 11% of our scholars are still not connected to their Google Classroom with CAA email accounts.
- b) Parents experiencing challenges with opening their scholars' CAA email accounts.
- c) Scholars misinterpreted how to view Leadership Day presentation; therefore, some missed the initial start of the presentation.
- d) During live Math lessons, some professors experienced technical difficulties.

**Corrective Actions**

- a) Regarding scholars who have not joined their Google Classroom with CAA email accounts, professors are reaching out to the parents to identify what is causing the delay along with Student Support. An updated report dated May 8th, which lists the names of the scholars has been forward to Student Support.
- b) Regarding challenges parents are experiencing with opening CAA email accounts, professors continue to send reminder emails and Student support are reaching out to the parents.
- c) Regarding misinterpretation of connecting to Leadership Day, the professors were directed to monitor the Classroom streams and the presentation simultaneously in order to redirect the scholars. Due to the format, the scholars were able to view any portion missed. It also allowed for the

participants to view the presentation frequently throughout the day.

- d) Regarding technical issues experienced by professors during live Math lessons, scholars were redirected to operate as usual and complete the lesson as posted on the Classroom stream. Other professors had another professor in the session that took lead until reconnection was made.

#### **Next Steps**

- a) Live Family Gathering will continue to the end of the school year.
- b) Live Math lessons will continue for at least two days within the week.
- c) Live Reading and Inquiry lessons will be added within the next two weeks on alternating 2-day schedules.
- d) Recorded live sessions are being prepped (removing scholars from the video) to be posted on the Classroom stream to be utilized as review for those who were able to attend the live session and/or viewed initially by those scholars unable to attend the live session.
- e) Virtual STEM Fair requirements were distributed to the parents and scholars ON May 15th.