

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

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Cultural Arts Academy Charter School was held at via Zoom on June 2, 2021.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Henry Clouden III, Treasurer
Cheryl Pemberton-Graves, Vice-President
Chrysetta Patterson, Member
Dean Sadek, Member
Dr. Laurie B. Midgette, Principal

VOTE

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

DATA DASHBOARD

Year to Date Attendance Rate – 93.17%

School Wide Attendance Rates:

- Week Ending 5/21 – 94.46%
- Week Ending 5/28– 95.60 %

Current Student Count – 244

SPED Student Count – 34

In Person Attendance Data as of 6/2/2021

Grade 3 – 5 Cohort – 91.10%

Grade K -2 Cohort – 91.54%

EOY OVERVIEW

The impact of COVID-19 on enrollment in New York has been widely reported. Schools across the country are facing unprecedented challenges and opportunities as we prepare for the upcoming school year. CAACS will launch a lean, equity-centered strategic plan to meet the moment, developing concrete ideas for maximizing federal funding, accelerating learning, and addressing our challenges. The theme of “EQUITY” seems to be the current focus. The Board of Regents recently shared its policy statement on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion In New York State Schools. Additionally, we received recently updated “Interim Guidance for In-Person Instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools”. The guidance includes important updates on ventilation, air filtration, physical barriers, and more.

COVID-19 DOHMH Update

The updated guidance reflects recommendations from the CDC regarding physical distancing and face covering requirements in schools. All charter schools are required to follow the NYS

guidance. NYS guidance allows schools to reduce physical distancing requirements to a minimum of 3 feet between students during academic instruction, if certain criteria are made. If our school plans to do so, the following requirements must be met before any change to physical distancing can be made:

- Engage our school community to get feedback from parents, community members, teachers, and staff about the proposed changes
- Develop a modified reopening plan using the feedback received
- Post the new plan online on our website; and
- Submit our modified reopening plan to the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene at this site and to the State Education Department.

THE USE OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) FUNDING STREAMS

Federal COVID-19 relief dollars and state aid increases have made record-level funding available for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. On top of the 2020-2021 federal COVID-19 funds already received, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and CRRSA allocations have been released. These funds will be used to further help offset learning loss due to COVID-19. NYSED has received our school's ARP-ESSER Application: Part 1 assurances for our school's 90% base ARP-ESSER allocation and has determined that the **application materials submitted are substantially approvable**. With the assistance of the Pasek Firm, we hope to receive our funding sooner due to closing our other COVID-19 grants that are now fully expended. In order to stay compliant, we will seek to keep accurate grant records, accounting for federal funds separately from general operating funds. We are planning to use COVID funding to make a multi-year positive impact. Project initiatives will include grant-eligible facility projects, learning loss FTEs, and after school programming, and testing and assessment tools, to name a few. Grant schedules will contain important submission due dates, periodic compliance reminders, collection dates, and school leadership meetings to monitor grant progress.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

- Q3 Student-Led Conferences were completed without any major challenges. There were a few connectivity issues.
- 5th Grade IB Exhibition was presented on Friday, May 28th in a Google Classroom with Grades 3 & 4 in attendance.
- OSU MLI 2nd grade observations were completed. Grade level professional learning is scheduled for June 3rd.
- i-Ready End of Year Diagnostics are scheduled as follows:
 - 4th Grade Math: 6/1-2
 - K-3 & 5 Grade Math: 6/7-8
 - K-5 Grade ELA: 6/15
- K-4 SSTEAM Fair is scheduled for Friday, June 4, 2021, in the Virtual STEAM Maker Fair Google Classroom.

ALUMNI VIDEO – CAACS CLASS OF 2015 – LEADERSHIP DAY GUEST SPEAKER

- Currently a student at Bard High School in Queens

- Completed 12 college credits

“I am juggling life, looking and applying for internships, and searching for colleges to apply for in the fall. I am involved in:

- Task Force on the Equity Code of Conduct Committee. We work to create a safe, equitable space for everyone at school.
- On the Advisory Board & a Social Media Coordinator. We work to create a safe space for girls at school.
- On two science-based clubs that help the career search in medicine.
- “I have a strong interest in medicine!”