

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 virtually on Zoom on April 21, 2021.

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Henry Clouden III, Treasurer
- Shirley A Glasgow, Secretary
- Cheryl Pemberton-Graves, Vice-President
- Chrysetta Patterson, Member
- Dean Sadek, Member
- Dr. AR Bernard, President (via phone)
- Dr. Laurie B. Midgette, Principal

VOTE

The financial statements of Cultural Arts Academy Charter School were prepared by Stuart Sabal 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.

BRAEKING NEWS! – Our **Grade 5 CAACS Scholars placed 1st and 2nd in the Elementary Division of the Morgan Stanley STOCK MARKET GAME!** They are eligible for prizes that will be mailed directly to you as their teacher along with recognition via our virtual awards ceremony later this Spring.

FINANCIAL REPORT – FAIR FUNDING

For the first time, all schools will receive the entire allotment of money owed under the city's own funding formula. The city adopted the fair student funding formula in 2007 to send more money to high-needs schools. The new formula determined that schools should get extra money based on their students' needs: **students who are poor, struggling academically, have a disability, or learning English as a new language bring their schools additional dollars.** The formula also provides extra money to some selective schools in the city on the grounds that their students might require additional resources as well.

DATA DASHBOARD

Year to Date Attendance Rate – 92.75%

Distance Learning Attendance Rates:

Week Ending 3/19 – 95.73%

Week Ending 3/26 – 95.00%

Week Ending 4/9 – 93.73%

Week Ending 4/16 – 94.73%

Current Student Count – 244

SPED Student Count – 26

Lottery Application Data

127 Applications submitted

99 – Grade K (6 siblings)

8 – Grade 1 (Alumni referral)

8 – Grade 2

3 – Grade 3

4 – Grade 4

11 – Grade 5

Spring / Summer Enrollment Marketing Updates – Online Common Application open until 8/31/2021

Updated Reopening Data as of 3/17/2021

Families that have opted remain virtual – 144

Families that have opted for Blended in Person Instruction – 101

In Person Attendance Data as of 4/21/2021

Grade 3 – 5 Cohort – 92.84%

Grade K -2 Cohort – 92.65%

Housing Status Updates:

Total Number of Families doubled up – 8

Total Number of Families in Temporary Living Quarters – 2

Total Number of Families in Shelters - 2

Free & Reduced numbers as of 4/21/2021

179 is 73.06% of 245

Technology Updates (as of 3/16/2020)

MiFi Devices Issued: 3

iPads Distributed: 23

Devices Issued to Staff: 22

Chromebooks Issued to Scholars: 171

UPDATED NYSDOH GUIDANCE

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) issued an update to the Interim Guidance for In-person Instruction. The updated guidance was released this weekend and outlines parameters for allowing 3 feet social distancing in schools. In addition, today NYS DOH issued updated guidance on graduations and other end of year celebrations. The guidance covers various options for celebrations and limits on gatherings.

CANNABIS

The state legalized recreational adult-use cannabis and how this piece of legislation impacts our schools:

- 40% of cannabis tax revenue will be distributed to education. This is intended to increase the total amount of funding available for general support for public schools.
- No cannabis retail licensee shall locate a storefront within five hundred feet of a school ground.

- No applicant shall be granted an adult-use on-site consumption license for any premises within five hundred feet of school grounds.
- Advertising and marketing that is designed in any way to appeal to children or other minors; or is within or is readily observed within five hundred feet of the perimeter of a school grounds or a playground is prohibited.
- Smoking, vaping, or ingesting cannabis or concentrated cannabis in or on school grounds is prohibited.
- Employees who use medical cannabis shall be afforded the same rights, procedures, and protections that are available and applicable to injured workers under the workers' compensation law, or any rules or regulations promulgated thereunder, when such injured workers are prescribed medications that may prohibit, restrict, or require the modification of the performance of their duties.
- Employers shall not impose disciplinary action solely for conduct permitted by the legislation i.e. adult-use.
- No school, college, or university may refuse to enroll and may not otherwise penalize a person solely for conduct allowed by the legislation.
- An employer shall adhere to policies regarding cannabis use in accordance with section two hundred one-d of the labor law.
- Finally, the new law states: "Nothing in this act is intended to limit the authority of any district, government agency or office or employers to enact and enforce policies pertaining to cannabis in the workplace."

STATE TESTING – Begins April 26, 2021

We are currently preparing our scholars for the ELA and Math state assessments beginning next week. What is different this year compared to last year, is that we are still experiencing a pandemic. We recognize that our scholars and families are facing many different circumstances due to the pandemic. Because of this fact, I felt it necessary to provide an open letter to our families that was intended to provide a deeper understanding and information to support each parent and guardian in making an informed decision during this stressful time. There are no consequences for students that do not take the 3-8 state tests. While it is our belief at Cultural Arts Academy Charter School that our scholars can meet, and exceed state mandated standards, no scholar will be forced to come to school in person just to take the state tests.

When reporting individual scholars that opt-out, we will use a code that indicates refusal, and no score is reported for the scholar. These scholars will be considered to have no valid test score. For those scholars who choose to take the exam, we will only use the raw data and information to help our scholars grow and develop in their learning. Cultural Arts Academy Charter School fully supports parents' right to choose what is best for their children.

For 2020-2021, NYSED will not withhold aid from schools or school improvement funds because of our school's participation rates on the state tests; the state's accountability system is placed on hold. This policy is only for this school year, in recognition of the COVID-19 pandemic's disruption of education. The federal government said they are using the tests to

determine the potential learning loss that has taken place during the pandemic. Our scholars who come for testing will follow our normal safety protocols such as social distancing and masks and must complete a health screening survey to enter the school building.

- **10** out of 54 in-person students **opted out** of the exam/**44 IN-PERSON WILL TAKE**
- **15** out of 88 virtual students **opted to take** the exam/**73 VIRTUAL OPTED OUT**
- **TOTAL: 59 out of 142 students opted to take the ELA exam**