

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 August 18, 2021.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Henry Clouden III, Treasurer
Cheryl Pemberton-Graves, Vice-President
Chrysetta Patterson, Member
Dean Sadek, Member
Dr. A.R. Bernard, President
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.

Enrollment

We lost 6% of our enrollment from March 2020-March 2021 during the pandemic, and about 27-30% of our scholars have demonstrated learning loss.

School Calendar

- **DATES AND INFORMATION ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**
- **EVERY FRIDAY IS A FULL DAY OF CAACS ONLINE INSTRUCTION (EXCEPT FOR SCHOOL CLOSURE)** because every Friday is a **mandatory Professional Learning Day for all CAACS Staff.**
- **NOVEMBER 2, 2021 - Election Day, will be a full day of online learning** for all scholars.
- **On "Snow days"** or days when school is closed due to an emergency, all CAACS scholars will participate in CAACS-Online.
- Student-led Parent Conferences will be virtual. Your scholar's teacher will work with you to schedule your conference.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SURVEY – Closes on Friday, August 20, 2021.

Principal's Emergency Readiness Training

Completed the Office of Safety and Youth Development training session: Emergency Readiness Training for Principals. This training is valid for two years. Her training certificate will be sent in a separate email.

Take Action to Amend the Public Officers Law

The NYCSA asked for our support to encourage our elected officials to make permanent the authorization to conduct public meetings via videoconference. In response to the COVID-19 State of Emergency declaration, Governor Cuomo released Executive Order 202.1, which allowed public bodies - such as charter school boards of trustees and others - to meet regularly in a safe, virtual setting. The CAACS Board fully supports the option for board members to participate in meetings virtually as part of this “new normal”.

NYSDOH Statement Regarding Back-to-School

August 5th, NYSDOH Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker released a statement indicating that as a result of the lapsing of the state of disaster emergency in June, school districts (and therefore charter schools) are reestablished as the controlling entities for planning for and considering health-related and other considerations of school operations. He further encouraged schools to reopen fully in-person in the fall, while adopting safety plans based on CDC and local health department guidance. The CDC guidance and any current or future guidelines or requirements from local Departments of Health are therefore the controlling guidance for school re-opening.

NYSED released its Health and Safety Guide for the 2021-2022 School Year. This guide describes a range of strategies that schools, and districts should consider to be best situated to manage the risks for students and staff from COVID-19 while supporting robust and engaging learning experiences for students. It provides recommendations based on the best health and safety information currently available and is a living document that will be updated as public health conditions change.

On Friday, August 5th, we received a letter from **Dave A. Chokshi, Commissioner of Health at the NYC DOH**, in which he urges parents to get their children ages 12+ vaccinated in time for the beginning of school. In this letter, the Commissioner also noted that, "the City is now offering \$100 for anyone (including children) who gets their first dose at a City-run vaccination site or at home as part of the in-home vaccination program".

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm.