

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL 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 February 24, 2021.

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Henry Clouden III, Treasurer
- Shirley A Glasgow, Secretary
- Cheryl Pemberton-Graves, Vice-President
- Dean Sadek, Member
- Chrysetta Patterson, 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.

- **DATA DASHBOARD**
- **STUDENT-LED PARENT CONFERENCES**
- **COVID 19 CSP GRANT** - Over the past 10 plus months, schools across New York State have had to face unprecedented challenges as they support students through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to this incredible need, the resulting transition to remote learning environments and the tremendous amount of work involved in shifting to new modes of instruction, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) submitted a request to the United States Department of Education (USDOE), and USDOE approved, a request for a waiver of requirements applicable to NYSED's 2018 \$95.5 million CSP Grant that would allow NYSED to set aside a portion of its CSP Grant funds to award Response to COVID-19 Subgrants to eligible charter school education corporations. These subgrants would enable eligible charter school education corporations to be reimbursed for expenses during the subgrant period required to meet the immediate educational needs of students impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. **Allocations for eligible education corporations under this subgrant are based on final 2019-20 BEDS total enrollment multiplied by \$150 per student, with a maximum allocation of \$49,950 per education corporation.**
- **STAFF CONSENT FOR MONTHLY COVID TESTING** - To ensure the health and safety of our school community during **in-person instruction, which begins Monday, March 1, 2021, regular COVID-19 testing will be conducted of a random sample of 20% of a school's in-person students and staff.** The New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE), working with NYC Health + Hospitals and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, has partnered with laboratories and other providers to test NYC students, teachers, and other staff members for COVID-19 infection. **All CAACS Staff will**

be required to participate in the random monthly COVID-19 testing; and are also required to sign the testing consent form. If a CAACS employee is selected for random testing and refuses, that employee will go on unpaid leave until the person takes the test.

- **STAFF VACCINATIONS – An Important Update from NYS DOH regarding Executive Order 202.95** - Yesterday, the NYS Department of Health released an email advisory announcing that **schools and school districts are not required to collect vaccination data or report vaccination of teachers at this time.** Specifically, NYS DOH stated in an email: *“Executive Order 202.95 requires reporting of vaccinated teachers beginning on Wednesday, February 23 and weekly thereafter. Please be advised that schools and school districts are NOT required to report this information at this time, and additional information will be forthcoming. As such, schools and school districts are not required to request reporting of vaccination status or information by employed teachers or other staff at this time. Additional information regarding this Executive Order will be forthcoming.”* This announcement delays the reporting requirement stated in Executive Order 202.95, which requires reporting of vaccinated teachers beginning on Wednesday, February 23rd, and weekly thereafter. NYS DOH advised that additional information regarding the implementation of the Executive Order will be forthcoming.
- **NURSING SERVICES –**
There seems to be a bit of confusion with the Office of School Health nursing services at our site. We had a site visit yesterday by Ms. Etienne and Ms. Ogujiuba. Issues have been resolved.

STATE EXAMS - The U.S. Department of Education announced that students must still take standardized tests this school year in order to gauge the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on student learning. However, schools won't be held accountable for test score results, and states will have broad flexibility in how to administer them. Earlier this month, New York state officials had joined several other states in asking the U.S. Department of Education to waive standardized tests and school accountability requirements for a second year in a row. With many students still learning from home full-time and struggling to navigate remote school or access reliable internet, several states hoped to shelve the required exams. The federal government's recent decision to mandate the tests, even if schools won't be held responsible for the student's scores, could spark another wave of families opting out of the exam.

- **VIRTUAL SCHOOL TOUR Video Presentation**