

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 March 17, 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

Year to Date Attendance Rate – 92.47%

Distance Learning Attendance Rates:

Week Ending 2/19 – Mid Winter Recess

Week Ending 2/26 – 94.20%

Week Ending 3/5 – 95.60%

Week Ending 3/12 – 95.20%

Current Immunization Status – 99.1%

Current Student Count – 242

SPED Student Count – 26

Lottery Application Data

102 Applications submitted

100 – Grade K (4 siblings)

1 – Grade 1 (Alumni referral)

1 – Grade 5

Enrollment Marketing Updates –

- Updated commercial - (waiting for dates to be finalized)
- Instagram / Facebook Ads – targeting Districts 18 / 19 / 23 and Bushwick area (awaiting updated proofs from Digital Reach)
- Family Network / Parent Association Presence – weekly emails are sent out to current and alumni families advising of open enrollment
- Open Enrollment marketing will stay in place over the summer as the reopening guidelines for schools are updated

Updated Reopening Data as of 3/17/2021

- Families that have opted remain virtual – 146
- Families that have opted for Blended in Person Instruction – 96

In Person Attendance Data as of 3/17/2021

Grade 3 – 5 Cohort – 93.52%

Grade K -2 Cohort – 96.44%

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 - 177 is 73.14% of 242

Technology Updates (as of 3/16/2020)

- MiFi Devices Issued: 3
- iPads Distributed: 23
- Devices Issued to Staff: 23
- Chromebooks Issued to Scholars: 168

**Increase of 3 devices since in person learning resumed*

Food Pantry Distribution Data

- March 16 & 17 - 39 boxes
- March 4 & 5 – 34 boxes
- February 6 – 30 boxes

Transportation Data Dashboard

- Total number of Riders - 15
- Total Number of Routes - 4
- AM Service – 5 families opted out of AM bus service
- PM Service – 1 family opted out of PM service

NYS BUDGET UPDATE

Under the Assembly and Senate budget proposals (and the governor's as well), **charter schools would receive the full charter school tuition formula amount of \$16,845 per pupil in 2021-22**, an almost 4.5% increase from this year's per pupil of \$16,123. *It is critical to note:* these amounts do not account for the federal funding charters have received and will receive from **the CARES Act (passed March 2020), the Second Stimulus Package (passed December 2020), and the American Rescue Plan (passed March 2021)**. We expect these amounts to be substantial and we will receive more information shortly about how they will flow through to charter schools.

IMMUNIZATION

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is suspending enforcement of school immunization requirements for an additional period of 30 days through **April 10** (from March 11) for students attending school exclusively remote.

VACCINATIONS

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. Schools are not required to request reporting of vaccination status or information by employed teachers or other staff at this time.

UPDATES ON GRADUATION AND OTHER END-OF-YEAR ACTIVITIES

In-Person Prom (COBO) Guidance: Proms typically involve eating and drinking, which require removal of face coverings, and dancing, which can potentially promote COVID-19 transmission. As a result, **in-person proms, both indoor and outdoor, are not permitted at this time.**

OUTDOOR GRADUATION AND MOVING-UP CEREMONIES GUIDANCE

In addition to virtual graduations and moving-up ceremonies, outdoor graduations and moving-up **ceremonies are permissible only if they adhere, at a minimum, to the New York City low-risk outdoor arts and entertainment guidelines** as well as the DOE COVID-19 School Health Policy. In addition to outdoor in-person graduations, **it is recommended that schools hold virtual graduations**, moving-up ceremonies (including livestreams), and **virtual proms** to celebrate their students.

STATE EXAMS

NYSED and the Board of Regents have been closely monitoring the feasibility and fairness of administering the Grades 3–8 ELA and Mathematics Tests this spring. On February 12, 2021, NYSED submitted a formal request to the United States Department of Education (USDE) to waive state testing requirements at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Pending a decision from the USDE regarding NYSED’s waiver request, they have shared the following information as a means to prepare to proceed with the Spring 2021 test administrations.

- The Department has determined that it will not be possible to administer any of this year’s State assessments remotely and, if they occur, assessments will be “school-based” and “in-person.”
- If the assessment waiver request is not granted by USDE, for the Spring 2021, administration schools will be required to administer only Session 1 of the ELA and Mathematics Tests to students. Only student scores on the Session 1 test questions will contribute to students’ total scores for the tests.
- In addition, the Spring 2021 Session 1 tests have been reduced in length by the removal of the embedded multiple-choice field test questions.
- Schools will be allowed to administer the tests to students who are receiving hybrid instruction on the days that they are ordinarily attending school in person. Schools will not be required to test the entire grade on the same school day.