

AQS Board Meeting
1:00pm March 2, 2023
Via Zoom Meeting
1323 Butterfield Road, Suite 114, Downers Grove, IL 60515

President Bakalis called the regular Board of Directors meeting to order at 1:06pm.

Those in virtual attendance and constituting a quorum were:

Present: Michael Bakalis, Marlene Golembo, Laura Davidson, Terri Vanderjack, Tom Pekras, Pam Paul, George Nassos and Patricia Yadgir.

Others Present: Wendy Stella – HR and Payroll Manager and Executive Assistant to Dr. Bakalis and Patricia Yadgir

Meeting Minutes October 6, 2022

Motion: by Laura Davidson

Seconded by Marlene Golembo and carried without dissent.

School Report – Plato Learning Academy

Facilities – Jeremy Garcia

Jeremy discussed the architect report and suggested updates and projects from the 2017 plan. Jeremy has nibbled away at the items based on the budget. A new plan will be in place from 2021 report, this new plan does show updated listing and potential completion dates.

Facilities projects were mentioned during the renewal process, with CPS requesting a few small items to be done, most of the other projects are large in scale, i.e., elevator 700K, doors 85K.

CPS commented that we need to be more aware of the hazardous materials within the school setting. This is in relation to the abundance of hand sanitizer left from a donation. It has since been disposed of or given away.

Mike commented that he does want the building safe for students and staff but some of the repairs need to be handled by the church with their finances.

Tom asked if there was a deadline to which Jeremy commented that CPS is asking that we create our own timeline and plan for completion. The plan will have a 5 year timeline which will include an elevator installation.

Mike commented that we will do our best but will also be meeting with the church to discuss the finances of the projects needing to be done in their building.

Motion: by Laura Davidson

Move to accept Plato School Facilities Report.

Seconded by Pam Paul and carried without dissent.

Principal Report – Patty Yadgir (Principal Carole Davis was out sick and unable to attend via zoom)

Enrollment increased from 162 to 176, we would prefer to have around 200 students and are working to reach that for the next academic year.

Discipline – Specials classes seem to be the area of most concern when it comes to student behavior and discipline. Gym and art do not have TAs for help, and currently 4th and 5th are short TAs too. The high numbers of discipline are attributed to being short staffed and still getting back into the swing of things post COVID remote learning.

Homeless numbers increased by 6. Homelessness is considered to be when families are staying with others and not in a home of their own. Not necessarily on the street.

Mike did ask Carole to create a marketing plan and also spoke with the staff to help via social media marketing. There was one staff member who said they would be interested in helping with the social media campaign.

Tom revisited the excess hand sanitizer spoken of in the facilities report. It was explained that it was a donation, not an expenditure.

Motion: by Marlene Golembo

Move to accept Plato School Report.

Seconded by Pam Paul and carried without dissent.

Board approval required for storing of student cell phones – Mike Bakalis

Mike notified the board that student use of cell phones while at school has led to major disruption during the school day. Students are posting fights and other videos while on campus.

A decision has been made to purchase cell phone lockers and that ALL students must turn in their phones each morning, with retrieval after school is dismissed.

George asked about the liability possibly incurred, Mike said that the phones would be locked up without any access until the end of the day and then it would be handled by a Plato staff member.

Motion: by Mike Bakalis

Move to accept student cell phone policy of turning in personal cell phone to be locked up during the school day.

Seconded by Laura Davidson and carried without dissent.

Renewal Report – Patty Yadgir

Patty announced that Plato was renewed for 2 more years, through June 30, 2025. It's not a lot but it's standard for this renewal round. CPS did not have much to base renewals on because of COVID virtual learning and testing and surveys not being done during that time.

Our financials and discipline did not meet the standards, but compared to others CPS is no better than Plato. We met or exceeded 4 out of 5 metrics, which is not a concern. Our net assets did not meet, we have to make a profit to meet or exceed.

Pam asked about who did the paperwork for the renewal, which Patty and Charles had worked on before he resigned. Patty finished up the required documents and felt very proud of Plato and the resulting renewal.

Motion: by Tom Pekras

Move to approve renewal report.

Seconded by Terri Vanderjack and carried without dissent.

Financial Report – Plato and AQS Financials- provided via email and discussed with Brandon Harper – staff accountant for AQS and Plato Learning Academy

Plato Financials - The budget runs July – June and grants run till September so there is always a lag behind, which is a good thing. State funding is based on enrollment numbers, and we are on a good track for that to increase.

We are currently paying out an OST grant for after school tutoring. Currently we are 200k under budget on expenses, so in very good shape there after exceeding this last year.

Mike asked about speaking with Carole about grant funding. Brandon will be setting up a meeting with Carole.

As of January 31st, 7 months in, the balance sheet reflects quarterly payments including one January 1st. The account is high now but will drop down till our next payment in March. We are waiting for reimbursements and grants to come through, currently 73K is owed from CPS.

535K in other liabilities is the accrued payroll, 227K in notes payable is to IFF for facilities improvement loan.

P & L – Budget to Actual negative numbers mean under budget, positive numbers mean over budget. Federal Title and ESSER funds are reimbursables and currently 73K, he is happy with that number.

AQS Financials – AQS looks good with in kind donations offsetting expense. Income is management fee and donations.

Motion: by Tom Pekras

Move to accept Plato and AQS Financials

Seconded by George Nassos and carried without dissent.

Motion: by Marlene Golembo

Move to accept AQS Financials

Seconded by Terri Vanderjack and carried without dissent

Public Comment – No one was present for any public comment.

New Business – No New business

Old Business – No Old Business

Motion: by Laura Davidson

Move to adjourn the meeting

Seconded by Tom Pekras and carried without dissent.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:15pm

Next Meeting – June 1, 2023 – 10:30am – Downers Grove Library, to be followed by Lunch.