

AQS Board Meeting

April 12, 2019

910 W. Van Buren, Suite 500, Chicago, IL 60607

President Bakalis called the regular Board of Directors' meeting to order at 1:09 p.m. at AQS Central office. Those in attendance were:

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

Others Present: Charles Williams, Principal, Plato Learning Academy, Harold Stevens (Skype), Principal, Thurgood Marshall Leadership Academy, Patricia Yadgir, CAO of AQS

Meeting Minutes for October 5, 2018

Motion to accept with one typo (Terri Vanderjacks's name was misspelled as Terry): Marlene Golembo

Seconded: Tom Pekras and carried without dissent

School Reports:

Plato Learning Academy – Charles Williams

- Total enrollment is 358. Lost 4 students with three of those leaving the district to relocate
- Discipline Issues are up in the Middle School. Using incentives and Classroom Dojo to get students to attend and behave
- The seventh-grade math teacher, Ms. Davina Drummond resigned
- Mr. Williams and Mr. Wester (3rd grade) attended an INCS job fair on Saturday, April 7th. They received quite a few resumes and candidates of interest. Mr. Williams is following up with interviews this week.
- The first Title I Parent Workshop took place on March 14th. Five parents showed up
- Third quarter parent/teacher conferences took place on March 28th. Almost all Plato parents/guardians attended
- Teacher Professional Development day was held on March 29th. Students did not attend school this day.
- Plato had impressive NWEA score growth from winter to winter, with 53% growth in math and 58% growth in reading
- The Plato Learning Academy 2018-19 school calendar was presented and voted on. Motion: Laura Davidson. Seconded: Pam Paul. Motion carried without dissent
- **Move to accept Plato School reports: Motion: George Nassos, Second: Laura Davidson and carried without dissent**

Thurgood Marshall Leadership Academy – Hal Stevens

- Current enrollment is at 150. They have lost 5 students since August and gained 11.
- An application for an amendment has been made to ICSB for TMLA to eliminate 7th and 8th grades next year and become a K-8 school with a third added kindergarten class. The school is still awaiting approval of this amendment from ICSB

- Discipline referrals are up this month. Mr. Stevens attributes this to the expectation of students being higher now that the trivial things have gotten under control. Students are expected to behave in an acceptable manner at all times and failure to do so results in a referral.
- TMLA now has in "In School Suspension Room" (ISS). In February there were 7 students in ISS and in March there were 9. None are repeat offenders.
- TMLA held a "Walking Museum" for the parents and community for Black History Month. Over 200 participants walked through the school viewing classrooms that were decorated based on a topic related to Black History.
- There is a possibility of a building relocation for TMLA from the current location at 2319 Weisser Park Ave. The topic is still under discussion. The move will be for the 2019-20 school year with the idea being promoted starting this fall.
- **Move to accept Thurgood Marshall Leadership Academy report: Motion: Tom Pekras, Second, Marlene Golembo and carried without dissent**

Plato Learning Academy Consolidation:

- Plato filled out an application for amendment to the Chicago Public School Board asking to consolidate Plato Primary and Plato Middle School into the 5545 W. Harrison location beginning the 2018-19 school year. Patty Yadgir will attend a hearing this evening, April 12, at CPS to defend this amendment and it will be presented to the CPS school board for a vote the end of April.
- This consolidation was approved by both locations and information has been sent out to parents and other stakeholders.
- **Motion to consolidate Plato Primary and Plato Middle School : Motion, George Nassos, Second, Terri Vanderjack and carried without dissent.**

International Education Initiative Report:

- The possibility for Chinese students coming from Vancouver is not going to work out, as the lead person in Vancouver is undergoing other things at this time
- AQS is working with a Chinese liaison, a travel agent in Chinatown, to recruit students for an AQS-run United States site for a school for Chinese students as well as a 2-week business education camp for Chinese high school students at Elmhurst College
- Dr. Bakalis has been working with a new realtor to look at possible school locations in the Chicago and surrounding areas.
- AQS is working with some people interested in starting a K-8 Assyrian/American school in the Northern Suburbs

Sublease of 910 W. Van Buren:

- The Chicago central office for AQS has been subleased and AQS will be moving out on April 30th.
- On May 1st, AQS will be moving its corporate offices to 1315 Butterfield Rd, Suite 206, Downers Grove, IL 60515
- Telephone and Fax numbers will remain the same.
- **Motion for the AQS Central Office move: Motion, Laura Davidson, Second, Tom Pekras. Motion carried with Marlene Golembo abstaining.**

Adjournment of Meeting at 2:30 pm. Motion, Tom Pekras, Second, Laura Davidson and carried without dissent