

AQS Board Meeting
1:00pm February 25, 2021
Via Zoom Meeting
1311 Butterfield Road, Suite 302, Downers Grove, IL 60515

President Bakalis called the regular Board of Directors meeting to order at 1:12pm.

Those in virtual attendance and constituting a quorum were:

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

Others Present: Charles Williams – Principal Plato Learning Academy, Wendy Stella – HR and Payroll Manager and Executive Assistant to Dr. Bakalis and Patricia Yadgir

Meeting Minutes October 22, 2020

Motion: by Tom Pekras

Seconded by Marlene Golembo and carried without dissent.

Financial Report – Plato and AQS Financials- provided via email.

Mike reported that Tiffani had resigned her position with AQS effective February 28, 2021 and that we had hired another accountant, Eileen Spulak, who will be temporary until April. If she stays on will be determined at a later date.

Plato Financials - Any deficit now is due to cash flow not yet received. \$40K for Plato came in at the end of the last academic year, leaving \$10K in the black after expenditures.

AQS Financials – no questions or comments

Motion: by George Nassos

Move to accept Plato and AQS Financials

Seconded by Pam Paul and carried without dissent.

School Reports

- **Plato Learning Academy** - Charles Williams

Hybrid learning began February 8th, the schedule is the same whether families chose **Hybrid**, M, T, and school W-F e-learning, or remained with 5 days of e-learning from home. This covers teaching times required by CPS and allows for intensive support at the end of the day.

Google meet is being used not Zoom. IXL is being used to assess student performance.

8th graders have created and are leading several classes to their peers beginning in the 2nd grade. Class examples are Art, games, tutoring, chess, and debate. There is a staff member for support.

Attendance was 98 and has drastically dropped to 40. Vacations and no parental support or guidance has created the attendance problem.

Mike noted that CPS has same number as we do, so we are holding our own. He also asked if the assessments would count toward our score, that is still uncertain, but it is a marker that CPS uses for funding, so it likely will count.

Marlene asked if the students could take practice exams. Charles said that they are all virtual.

Marlene then questioned the need to take Spring Break, Charles replied that it has been a tough year and that students and staff need a break.

In reference to promotion, it is still not firm but 8th graders who may have dropped off will still be promoted yet 25% of 3 & 6 may be retained.

George asked for a definition of ELA – Charles explained it is English Language Arts.

On attendance tracking a 90% is amazing for CPS

Motion: by Marlene Golembo

Move to accept Plato School Report.

Seconded by Terri Vanderjack and carried without dissent.

Update on future of Plato – Mike Bakalis and Patricia Yadgir

It was discussed and presented to the Plato School Board that a proposal is being submitted to CPS for the possible move of management of Plato Learning Academy to Distinctive Schools. Distinctive currently has 3 former AQS schools and several former AQS employees. The talks have gone well and Distinctive is very interested in the move. Documents will be submitted by March 9th and a decision will be made by April 28th from CPS.

The board wanted to have some information on Distinctive – advised of the 3 former AQS schools as well as 2 other schools in Chicago and 4 in Detroit. Their schools have ratings of 1+ and 2+ and the organization has the same work ethics of AQS. The move would be seamless, and no presence of a move would be recognized by most of the faculty and staff. Both Patty and Wendy would stay on with Distinctive schools in whatever capacity they saw was needed.

George asked what would happen if CPS said no, would Patty take over. Mike said that he was remain semi-retired and stay in some capacity, but that Patty would remain as the CAO. He also asked about the renewal after current contract ends June 30, 2023. Mike advised that a proposal could be submitted to continue the Plato Learning Academy contract with CPS.

The board has been asked to remain as the school board for Plato if and when the change happens.

Motion: by George Nassos

Move to accept possible change of management organization for Plato Learning Academy

All board members are in favor, voted yes.

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

New Business – No New business

Old Business – No Old Business

Meeting Adjourned at 2:13pm

Next Meeting – TBD