

AQS Board Meeting
1:00pm March 5, 2020
1315 Butterfield Road, Suite 224, Downers Grove, IL 60515

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

Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

Present: Michael Bakalis, Marlene Golembo, Terri Vanderjack, Laura Davidson, Tom Pekras, Pam Paul (Via phone) and Patricia Yadgir

Others Present: Charles Williams – Principal Plato Learning Academy, Tiffani Cooper (Via Skype) – Director of Accounting, Wendy Stella – HR and Payroll Manager and Executive Assistant to Dr. Bakalis and Patricia Yadgir

Meeting Minutes for October 3, 2019

Motion: by Marlene Golembo

Move to accept meeting minutes of October 3, 2019 with one correction as requested by Pam. Change last sentence under financials to read “Mike asked how CPS WOULD (not was) view the Plato Budget”
Seconded by Laura Davidson and carried without dissent.

Financial Report – Plato Financials– Tiffani Cooper via Skype

Tiffani asked the board if they would like the campus financials to reflect one column of Plato deleting the total column. Mike and the board agreed that as the financials were presented are fine. They will stay as was presented in the past.

Expenses are lower because of the CPS hold harmless @283 which increased funding. Currently enrollment is 227. Per Patty, the current enrollment will dictate hold harmless funding for the 2020/2021 academic year. Potentially a reduction of \$400K+. Expenses being lower also resulted from use of grant funds for more items. Result is a positive bottom line which should be the case at the end of the school year.

Mike commented that Chicago does continue to lose residents which in turn results in lower student enrollment in all of CPS.

Charles reported that he and Patty attended an INCS student fair along with several other charter schools and there were no families or individuals that came. INCS did refund the enrollment fee.

Motion: by Tom Pekras

Move to accept Plato Financials January 30, 2020.

Seconded by Laura Davidson and carried without dissent

AQS Financials – nothing new to report. AQS has a positive bottom line and no other items to report. No questions were asked in reference to the AQS Financials

Motion: by Terri Vanderjack

Move to accept AQS Financials January 31, 2020.

Seconded by Marlene Golembo and carried without dissent

School Reports

- **Plato Learning Academy** - Charles Williams

Charles reporting that things are going extremely well and that he has received compliments recently from two individuals on the atmosphere of the school. Current enrollment is 222, having lost 6 students, 2 families, to a move.

Discipline for February is extremely low compared to this time last year. Charles and the staff are seeing what a difference the restorative practice they have implemented this year is making. Mr. Quinn is handling the discipline room and Jerria Jackson is handling communication with staff for best practices of the new discipline model.

The Curiosity Dome came to Plato Monday, each class was able to view a movie that relates to their current curriculum.

Grades 3-5 were able to audition for the Chicago Children's Choir at the Choirs request. The student will find out this week if they have been selected. They will practice once weekly at the school, have a few performances as well as a performing at J Pritzker Pavilion in June.

April 1st will be report card hand out as well as a community Open House from 2:30-6P

Charles reviewed and explained the changes in the student scores on NWEA. 4th grade dropped significantly. Marlene questioned why this was since they were so strong as 3rd graders. Charles and Patty commented that they have been working closely with the teacher in the class as well as assigning additional assistance in the classroom. They will continue monitor this class closely.

Marlene also asked if the specific skill has been noted and plans to work on. Charles said that multiplication facts are the main math problem in 4th grade. They are using centers and stations for learning and have seen that this is helping.

Charles presented the 2020/2021 Calendar for Board approval. No big changes 2019/2020 school year. Still following the CPS calendar.

A motion was made by Tom Pekras and seconded by Terri Vanderjack to accept the calendar as presented. Carried without dissent.

Charles notified the board that CPS does not have a coronavirus plan in place but that the cleaning company that we employ for Plato has presented their plan and will be completely sanitizing the entire school this Saturday, March 7th, as well as continue with the daily sanitizing they have been doing the last several weeks.

In the event the school needs to be closed, Charles is hopeful that E-learning will be utilized and accepted by CPS.

Motion: by Laura Davidson

Move to accept Plato School Report.

Seconded by Marlene Golembo and carried without dissent

Legal Issues & Additional Plato News – Patricia Yadgir

Patty wanted to comment on the ongoing effort to increase Plato's enrollment. A new sign will be installed at the school with a reader board, looking in to placing ads on busses, Open House April 1 with the Jesse White Tumblers performing, also looking at a community fair in June.

There is a dispute with the Language learning network – they were contracted to teach Spanish to the Plato students. The teacher they sent was not certified and had problems in the classroom. Charles and Patty worked with the contracted teacher, but the network pulled her from the school and cancelled our contract. Plato did not pay the balance since no services were rendered as contracted. Currently this situation is being handled by the attorney from the business insurance held by AQS for Plato Learning Academy.

Patty noted that there are hopes of getting one more Kindergarten classroom to boost the enrollment. K-4 is funded at a higher rate.

Patty is currently working on a grant from the Caulder Foundation. This could be up to \$100K. She is awaiting approval from the foundation to move forward.

Coronavirus and the China Project – Mike reports that this project is on hold for the time being.

NESN – This project is moving forward but at a slow pace. The Archdiocese looks to be very interested in joining. Investors are still be sought out. The staff of NESN will be housed at AQS until they are able to find a permanent location.

Old Business – No old Business

New Business – Mike presented a packet “Engaging Families to Boost Student Learning” and would like to explore bringing a program to the Plato parents. Will require a few volunteers to conduct classes for parents as well as materials to present to the parents. This will continue to be discussed.

Motion by: Laura Davidson

Seconded by Marlene Golembo without dissent

Adjournment – 2:15pm

Next Meeting – June 4,2020 at 10:30am with lunch to follow