

AQS Board Meeting
1:00pm October 3, 2019
1315 Butterfield Road, Suite 224, Downers Grove, IL 60515

President Bakalis called the regular Board of Directors meeting to order at 1:04pm at AQS Central Office.

Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

Present: Michael Bakalis, Marlene Golembo, George Nassos, Terri Vanderjack, Laura Davidson 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 June 13, 2019

Motion: by Laura Davidson

Move to accept meeting minutes of June 13,2019.

Seconded by Marlene Golembo and carried without dissent.

Financial Report – Plato Budget– Tiffani Cooper via Skype

Date for budget is July 2019 not as printed of April 2019

CPS paid in July the hold harmless count they stated they would pay with a student count of 283 but only paid based on 260+ students. The monies will be coming in October but as of this meeting were still not received. This will come with the regular October payment. This payment will remove the budget from the red. Waiting on a Title 1 Empower grant of \$100K, this is a reimbursement based grant.

Mike asked to how to curtail expenditures and both Patty and Tiffany said that spending needs to end at the school level and possible personnel reduction. Mike asked for Charles to stop spending monies. Mike has placed a freeze on spending

Textbooks can be purchased through grant funding.

Mike commented that student counts are still dropping as more and more families leave Chicago.

AQS Budget – Tiffani Cooper via Skype

There are still outstanding management fees and the EEOC charge was not reflected by this budget. ERATE rebate and the payment of the EEOC Insurance deductible by TMLA board will move AQS to the black.

Mike asked how CPS was view the Plato budget, Tiffani assured the board that Plato would be in the black especially with the spending freeze.

Motion: by Terri Vanderjack

Move to accept Plato Budget Report and AQS Budget Report July 2019.

Seconded by Laura Davidson and carried without dissent

School Reports

- **Plato Learning Academy and Middle School** - Charles Williams

Charles wanted to keep the classroom sizes at 30 max, only the 6th grade currently is over by 1 student. One class per grade is the current set up.

There were 12 withdrawals in Sept, some where just no shows, but 13 then enrolled.

Referrals were down by over 50 from this time last year. Work with SEL is helping to make a difference. Students are more engaged this year.

Current staffing leaves on position to fill, ELA, and one TA to fill as well. An candidate for ELA has been offered the job but they are weighing it with another job offer. But things feel much better than this time last year with a full staff. Social Studies teacher is working with a new curriculum which can create some discord with the students. But it's a work in progress.

Restorative Justice is alive and well at Plato - All staff are doing check ins with students, "How are you?" "What are you feeling today?" When a student acts out or misbehaves they are sent to in school suspension and then have to make amends by fixing or repairing the appropriate action they may have caused, i.e. called someone a name, the student must create a PSA stating and explaining the reasons why such behavior is detrimental to the students and surrounding community.

Bldg Facilities – There are several items on the report but most have been done and are complete as of this meeting. Charles is currently fundraising for AC/Heat units for the classrooms – the need is approximately 14 units total at a cost of \$10,000.00. These are stand alone units, not window units.

The Title 1 parent meeting is now also available on google hangouts, this was successful for the first meeting with 3 online and 5 in person. Most ever to attend.

Mike has suggested a field trip to the Austin Library.

MAP testing had a mix up – CPS advised that there were no 2nd grade test scores, Charles advised they had taken the test but CPS want them to take the 2-5 test not the K-2 test. CPS has said they will throw out the scores this time around.

KIPP has had no real impact on our enrollment, some left but some also returned to Plato.

Chinese Robotics program is happening 1x a week and students are enjoying it. Mandarin Chinese is not being taught since a teacher for this language was not available. So Spanish is being taught in place. The teacher is having some bumps in the road and some students are reluctant to go to class. Patty has spoken with the company and the company has thrown it back as fault of the work environment and classes being taught. Charles and Patty will work to resolve the issue. Mike has asked for Leo to look at the contract and see if we can get out of it.

Motion: by Marlene Golembo

Move to accept Plato School Report.

Seconded by Laura Davidson and carried without dissent

Report on China Projects – Mike Bakalis

- a) Short Term visits by Chinese students has not received the interest from local schools as we had hoped it would
- b) Teacher Recruitment - this may be a joint venture between Max Wang, Ning Li and ESN Project
- c) Tutoring Center in Chinatown – Max is looking at a building to house a tutoring center for reading, math, English language as well as SAT and TOFAL test prep
- d) Chicago Arts Academy – Possible duplication of this school in China but the current principal is not sure he is able to handle the extra duties. There would be a fee to AQS if this goes through. George mentioned he'd like to introduce Mike to an associate he knows.
- e) U.S. High School – Ning Li is looking to fund a high school in the US with the purchase of a High School in Elgin.

Hal Stevens EEOC settlement – Hal the former principal of TMLA filed an EEOC complaint against the TMLA board for wrongful termination. The case was settled with the AQS insurance coverage and the \$25,000.00 deductible was paid for by the TMLA board.

AQS and the Creation of a New Company – Paul Vallas, Rick Mills and American Quality Schools are working on an educational support company. AQS will take the lead on the Accreditation portion but also assist with the other areas. ESN is hoping to be up and running by January 1, 2020.

Old Business – No old Business

New Business – No new business

Motion by: George Nassos
Seconded by Marlene Golembo without dissent

Adjournment – 2:45pm

Next Meeting – March 5,2020 at 1:00pm