

**AQS Board Meeting**  
**1:00pm October 5th, 2017 – Previously scheduled for 9/7/17 (no quorum)**  
**910 W Van Buren Street, Suite 500, Chicago, IL 60607**

President Bakalis called the regular Board of Directors meeting to order at 1:00pm at AQS Central Office. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

**Present:** Michael Bakalis, George Nassos, Marlene Golembo, Pam Paul, Tom Pekras, & Terry VanderJack.

**Others Present:** Charles Williams – Principal Plato Learning Academy, Harold Stevens (Via Skype) – Principal Thurgood Marshall Leadership Academy, Tiffani Cooper (Via Skype) – Director of Accounting, Wendy Stella – HR and Payroll Manager and Executive Assistant to Dr. Bakalis and Patricia Yadgir, and Laura Davidson – potential board member.

**Meeting Minutes June 8, 2017**

**Motion:** by George Nassos

Move to accept meeting minutes of June 8, 2017, with a few typos pointed out.

Seconded by Tom Pekras and carried without dissent.

**Potential New Board Member –**

Laura Davidson was introduced to the board. She is currently Director of recruiting and staffing for Chicago Methodist Senior Services, a non-profit Senior care and skilled nursing facility.

**Motion:** by Tom Pekras

Move to elect Laura to fill the vacancy on the board

Seconded by Marlene Golembo and carried without dissent.

**School Reports**

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

Plato enrollment shifted – started the year at 391, enrollment is now at 387. There have been withdraws due to location of the school and the safety. Most withdrawals are occurring at the middle school level. CPS has sent out safety and security committee to assess the issues and has posted “white jackets” at the school. Charles has spoken with Alderman Ferrell about the safety issue and Alderman Ferrell is working on the Austin issue.

White Jackets in the building is a new CPS safety security team to help in the building. Blue team will help in the event a Plato security guard is out and the Red team assists before and after school.

Counseling has begun at the Middle school with 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and is going well. Patty Yadgir is presenting info on what HS is, to make sure they register for high school and be prepared. October 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be introduced and exposed to other high schools outside of Austin.

Plato is still accepting enrollment however most enrolling at this time of year have behavioral issues and have been expelled from other schools.

Immunization exclusion is October 13<sup>th</sup> so the office staff is working hard to get those students records updated by the parents. Laura offered to call parents.

Building operations and facilities are fine. The Art teacher Mr. Bates has formed a partnership with the ESO theatre for theatre work for the Plato students

Mike asked about teaching reading at a PD. Charles mentioned that Mr. Wester is teaching an individualized Math PD at primary and middle school. Charles is hoping to find someone to do the same with reading.

**Motion:** by Tom Pekras

Move to accept Plato School Report.

Seconded by Pam Paul and carried without dissent

- **Thurgood Marshall Leadership Academy** - Hal via Skype

TMLA has an enrollment of 165 students currently. School started at 157 and they are still enrolling. Most students from last year did return.

Staffing is full and have a long term sub on staff. 4 staff returned, 5 new – 2 certified 3 non certified.

Have had one serious discipline, 7<sup>th</sup> grader came to school with a knife in the backpack. Student given 5 day suspension and will be returning under strict watch.

The Urban League is still looking for a new Director and Jonathan Ray resigned due to relocation.

TMLA will be starting a PTA, and did hold a town hall at the end of Sept for parents. The attendance was very good, almost 100 parents.

\$53million dollars was approved by IN for charter schools so no reduction in funding for this year.

A PD will be held to train staff to design independent study for students below level.

There is currently 6 new IEPS up to 24now, 4 are potential self -contained. TMLA has a study table T/Th with 45 students currently involved who are on the bubble for passing ISTEP.

Basketball will begin the end of October. Step to have a meeting October 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion:** by Tom Pekras

Move to accept TMLA school report.

Seconded by George Nassos and carried without dissent

**Financial Report** – All Campus Financials & AQS Financials – Tiffani Cooper via Skype  
TMLA – positive bottom line, Title 1 app was approved for \$106K. Cash reserve is still good. Enrollment figures are due in February

Plato – Currently showing a loss because of the 3months rent paid in August. We just received title 1 Grant approval so those funds can be submitted for reimbursement and federal monies are due to be received as well.

Both schools would be better off with an increase in enrollment. George asked what the direct student expenditures were. Tiffani explained its for Speech, OT, textbooks, copies, computers, transportation... TMLA reserve is \$400K

AQS - \$782K in revenues – Plato and TMLA Fees and Passages payments

\$736K in expenses showing a \$46k bottom line

AQS Corp Financials

\$17K positive bottom line, we are currently under budget from last year.

**Motion:** by Laura Davidson

Move to accept School and AQS and Corp Financials.

Seconded by Tom Pekras and carried without dissent

Mike told the board that the decision was made to terminate Tiffani Cooper from her position as Director of Accounting. The move and working remotely was on a trial basis and it was not in the best interest of AQS to continue. Mike introduced Valerie Young, who has been hired to take over the duties of Director of Accounting.

### **AQS Project Development Updates – Mike Bakalis and Leo Athas**

#### **A) Legal Issues – Leo Athas**

ECUEA case was dismissed. TMLA has a current EEOC case from Tameka Wilson for discrimination in firing

Nick Goletis is working with Mike and Leo on a project to create a multi-use facility that includes a school

Mike discussed the following:

**B) AQS/Hellenic-American Academy** – needs full accreditation help. Can use the old building to house partial international students and domestic students.

**C) AQS/Elmhurst College** – Tim Ricordati working with a group in Vietnam to bring students over. Will be touring St. Joes in Westchester as a possible site on Oct 17<sup>th</sup>. Will be for Vietnamese students and American students. The building is vacant and available.

**D) AQS/Vancouver, Canada** - Mike working with Hong Guo for student placement and counseling

**E) AQS/lake County, Illinois** – 2 new schools in Waukegan and N Chicago, ready to submit the proposal. Not certain the status.

**F) AQS/American College of Greece** – This location teaches in English and is interested in Mike conducting a PD of staff at the elementary school

**Plato School Volunteer Needs** – Mike asked the board to either volunteer or reach out to Charles with anyone who would be available to volunteer at Plato.

When asked Mike mentioned that the new legislation will not help with school finances increasing this year.

**Old Business** – No old Business

**New Business** – No new business

**Adjournment – 3:11pm**

**Motion by:** Pam Paul

Seconded by George Nassos carried without dissent

Next meeting November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017