

AQS Board Meeting
1:00pm October 6, 2022
Via Zoom Meeting
1311 Butterfield Road, Suite 114, Downers Grove, IL 60515

President Bakalis called the regular Board of Directors meeting to order at 1:03pm.

Those in virtual attendance and constituting a quorum were:

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

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

Meeting Minutes June 2, 2022

Motion: by Marlene Golembo

Seconded by Laura Davidson and carried without dissent.

School Reports

- Plato Learning Academy – Carole Davis

Mrs. Carole Davis introduced herself as the new principal of Plato Learning Academy. She has been in education for 21 years, teaching after being an active parent in her children's schools. She came to AQS from Barack Obama academy having taught all grades except kindergarten. Her initial plans are to work on managing personnel and working on cultivating a good environment in the school.

- Enrollment is currently at 176. Due to enrollment numbers 2nd and 3rd have been combined, utilizing one teaching staff and one Paraprofessional. There have been no SPED withdrawals.
- Increasing teacher and staff capacity as well as using restorative practices to keep students on campus has resulted in a low number of discipline issues.
- Facility issues are being handled by Jeremy Garcia and currently has nothing to report. There have been a fire drill and a lockdown drill since school began. Both went well with one notice of lights being on in empty classrooms during the lockdown drill.
- Mrs. Davis has spoken with the Chicago Police Department for increased presence and support, specifically during dismissal on Wednesdays. CPD notified Mrs. Davis that their shift changes occur during our dismissals so will do the best to be present.
- Staff Disciplinary report – there were 4 who were dismissed on good terms during the probationary period of employment. They all were not a good fit for the school due to some attendance issues, personnel interaction and student involvement.
- Parent issues – Mrs. Davis has met with several families requiring additional support and advising of what is expected of parents of Plato students, not only on campus but at home as well.
- NWEA – getting setup next week to begin NWEA testing. All staff have done assessment and attended a PD to dive deep in to restorative practices.
- Dr. Bakalis asked why 2nd grade was so small. Mrs. Davis said that the COVID schooling years showed all CPS schools losing over 7 thousand students. Not sure where they went but the impact has been felt at Plato as well as other CPS schools

- After school programs currently underway are – Boys and Girls club, STEM, sports, girl empowerment, 21st Century.
- Staffing needs - Plato currently has a temporary art teacher hoping to fulfill fulltime with an ELA contract worker. Looking to fill the Social worker and Counselor spots.
- George asked why on the facilities report its mentioned that we have an abundance of hand sanitizer. Mrs. Davis reported that we have a lot purchased for Plato that we were just not able to use, the Fire Marshall has requested that we dispose of it so this will be handed out to families and other schools in need.

Motion: by Tom Pekras

Move to accept Plato School Report.

Seconded by Marlene Golembo and carried without dissent.

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

Mike reported that we have an accounting firm handling our financial reporting and records. AQS board members had reviewed the financials before the meeting and had not submitted any questions or concerns

Plato Financials – CPS is delayed in their payments, not explanation as to why that is. Mike asked Mrs. Davis is she expected any big expenses for the upcoming academic year, Mrs. Davis said potentially yes in salaries for a Social Worker and a Counselor since both may be covered by contract workers.

AQS Financials – no questions or comments

Motion: by George Nassos

Move to accept Plato Financials

Seconded by Pam Paul and carried without dissent.

Motion: by Marlene Golembo

Move to accept AQS Financials

Seconded by Terri Vanderjack and carried without dissent

Plato Renewal and New licensure rules – Patricia Yadgir

The application for Plato’s renewal was turned in July 29th, 2022. We will hold a town hall meeting October 13th to exhibit not only staff and student support of Plato but also community support. Expected to attend are administration from Plato Learning Academy and AQS, State Representatives, local alderman, neighbors and friends of Plato as well as local business.

CPS will make a campus visit on November 2nd and 3rd as part of the renewal. They will be looking at everything during their visit which will include speaking with staff and students, looking at bulletin boards and notices displayed, cleanliness of the campus, parent interactions, teaching process and engagement, among a many other check box items. The renewal hearing will be in November with an official decision and notice being provided in January.

In an attempt to help get staff on campus, ISBE has instituted a quick turnaround for a conditional Paraprofessional certification as well as a short term sub license. The Para is required to have graduated high school and taken the work keys exam, while the short term sub is required to have at least a bachelors degree from an accredited institution. The Para certificate is good for 3 years at which time the additional school requirements must be met. The STS license is nonrenewable after the initial 3 years. Those with the STS can apply for teacher licensure as long as they meet all schooling requirements.

New AQS Office and future location of in-person board meetings – Dr. Bakalis

The building owners have asked that we move our office so another firm can take over our current space as well as the adjoining offices. This move will be within the same complex and the building owners will cover the cost to move the contents as well as utilities to be activated and/or moved. The only downside is that we won't have a conference room for meetings. We are hoping to hold future board meetings at a local library or Plato Learning Academy.

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

New Business – No New business

Old Business – No Old Business

Motion: by Laura Davidson

Move to adjourn the meeting

Seconded by Tom Pekras and carried without dissent.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:15pm

Next Meeting – March 2, 2023 – 1:00pm – this will be a virtual meeting via Zoom