



**Minutes of Regular Meeting of Board of Directors of  
Plato Academy Schools Corporation**

**Date:** Friday, January 12, 2018

**Time:** 12:30 pm

**Meeting Location:** Plato Academy Tampa, 4903 Ehrlich Road, Tampa, FL 33624

**Satellite Location:** Superior Schools Corporation, 861 N. Hercules Avenue, Clearwater, FL 33765

**Teleconference per conference number posted on Plato Academy website**

**Plato Academy Directors:**

**Dr. Elias M. Kolettis, Chairman**

**Mr. Louis Kokkinakos**

**Ms. Dagmar Ortiz**

**Mr. Chris Alahouzos (absent)**

**Mr. John Petalas (absent)**

**Plato Academy Principals:**

**Mr. Stephen Donnelly, Plato Academy Palm Harbor**

**Ms. Katrina Courts, Plato Academy Largo**

**Ms. Karen Staab, Plato Academy Seminole**

**Ms. Danielle Turro, Plato Academy Tarpon Springs**

**Ms. Michelle West, Plato Academy St. Petersburg**

**Ms. Carri Aranzabal, Plato Academy Pinellas Park**

**Ms. Jennifer Perez, Plato Academy Trinity**

**Mr. Matthew Gunderson, Plato Academy Tampa**

**Mr. Adam Beard, AP Designee, Plato Academy Clearwater**

**Charter School Representatives:** Mr. Stephen Donnelly, Plato Academy Palm Harbor; Katrina Courts, Plato Academy Largo; Ms. Lisa Herbst, Plato Academy Pinellas Park; Ms. Tracey Hayes, Plato Academy Tarpon Springs; Ms. Michelle West, Plato Academy St. Petersburg; Ms. Jennifer Perez, Plato Academy Trinity; Mr. Adam Beard, Designee, Plato Academy Clearwater; Ms. Karen Staab, Plato Academy Seminole, Mr. Matthew Gunderson, Plato Academy Tampa

**Plato Academy Schools Representative:** Mr. Jereme Monette, Professional Development Director

**Superior Schools Representatives:** Mr. Steve Christopoulos, President & CEO; Ms. Lisa Herbst, General Counsel; Ms. Tracey Hayes, Chief Operations Officer; Ms. Rina Psomas, Director of Admissions

**Other parents and visitors attended.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Pursuant to public notice, the meeting commenced at approximately 12:44pm, with a Call to Order by Dr. Elias M. Kolettis. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established. The board meeting packet including the agenda, previous board meeting minutes, financial statements and handouts had been distributed to the Board Members in advance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tracey Henry, Rosemarie Harnen, and Emma Bryan all spoke regarding their concerns of the progress of the new Plato Academy St. Petersburg building.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Dr. Kolettis asked the members to review the minutes from the last Plato Academy board meeting held on October 27, 2017 and to note any corrections or modifications.

**Motion made on behalf of Ms. Dagmar Ortiz, with a second by Mr. Louis Kokkinakos to adopt the August October 27, 2017 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

The Plato Academy Principals provided their school reports to the Board Members. Dr. Kolettis thanked all the principals for their hard work.

## **MANAGEMENT COMPANY REPORT**

Mr. Christopoulos noted that he greatly respected all the Plato Academy outstanding school leaders.

Academic Performance: Mr. Christopoulos noted that SAT10 testing had occurred at all the schools and that the results were all being reviewed by the school leaders and teacher to help identify learning gaps and to put into place individual plans for students if needed. Mr. Christopoulos noted that next year the school would be using iMap program for assessment purposes, a program more effective and less expensive.

Professional Development: Nick Chatzopoulos and Jereme Monette noted a new professional development program being used called iStation. He noted that all the school leaders had embraced the professional development mentor program and that he was getting great feedback and results. He noted the leadership pipeline in place, and individual plans were in place. He noted that plans are underway to teach all the teacher how to use at each campus and that at each school there is super user that will assist in the training.

Student Enrollment: Ms. Psomas gave the status of the current enrollment numbers for all the Plato Academy schools. She noted that the second lotteries for the schools had occurred for the CSP grant schools, Plato Academy Tampa and Trinity.

Staffing updates: Mr. Christopoulos noted that a teacher at Plato Academy Pinellas Park had moved over the holiday break and the school would be filling that spot.

Financial updates. Mr. Christopoulos gave a report and noted both good news and bad news. He noted some deficiencies in some of the financials but the good news was that earlier in the day a case was heard by a judge re HB7069 re the legislation passed to increase funding for charter schools by mil tax sharing which is to be distributed by February 1. He noted that it looks favorable that the charter schools may get the funds. He noted the deficits were caused by higher salary costs. He noted that Plato Academy always tries to do better than the District schools for salary. He also noted the increase in facilities and plant costs, and technology costs. He noted that he is working hard to bring the technology cost down and has been in contact with several different IT companies to provide competitive prices. He noted the good news would be the mil tax money for charter schools, as all public schools should be funded at the same level. He reviewed the financials with the board members.

**Motion made by Ms. Dagmar Ortiz, with a second by Mr. Louis Kokkinakos to approve the December 2017 financial reports for all the Plato Academy schools. The motion passed unanimously.**

Facilities Updates: Mr. Christopoulos addressed the board and the attending parents and noted that he was very confident that the Plato Academy St. Petersburg new building would be complete by the 2018-19 school year. He noted that all had expected to be further along in the process, and went through the obstacles that were encountered with the City of St. Petersburg. He noted that the school would now be 2 classes per grade at the new location, which was a change that was necessitated through the process with the City of St. Petersburg. He noted that the permits are expected any day and that contractors had been hired and are ready to mobilize when that occurs. He noted he that he thought the current landlord would work with the school to provide an existing building for a few additional months if needed if the building was not ready in time. He noted the existing landlord pastor has been wonderful to work with over the years that school has been there. Dr. Kolettis noted a Plan B would be in place if there was a need, but he also did not expect that would be needed. He noted the goal is to be in the new building and functioning for the new school year. It was noted that parents would be receiving updates as to the progress.

Mr. Christopoulos noted that all other facilities were operating well, noting a few items occurring at the campuses. Mr. Christopoulos went over some potential sites to relocate. He noted there was nothing definite at the time, but that for the existing Plato Academy Tarpon Springs lease there was a need to send renewal paperwork to stay through the end of the 2018-19 school year. Mr. Christopoulos noted that the existing Plato Academy Tarpon Springs property was in transition and that he would give a report at the next board meeting.

**Motion made by Ms. Dagmar Ortiz, with a second by Mr. Louis Kokkinakos, to authorize Dr. Kolettis to send renewal documentation for Plato Academy Tarpon Springs lease. The motion passed unanimously.**

Dr. Kolettis noted that Plato Academy needed a solution for all properties coming due for lease renewals and needing new locations. He noted that the Plato Academy property committee has not found any suitable locations on their own or through other brokers that fit the Plato Academy program. He also noted that based on the current financials Plato Academy does not have the financial capacity at this time to purchase properties itself right now to prepare new locations for schools such as Plato Academy Tarpon Springs. He made the recommendation to work with Superior Schools' affiliated entities, Arcadia development and affiliated land holding companies, to find, purchase or lease, and develop school facilities for Plato Academy. He noted that Plato Academy had already work with Superior Schools' affiliated entities to build and lease the existing Plato Academy Clearwater, Plato Academy Pinellas Park, and Plato Academy Trinity school buildings, and would recommend to continue to do so for all future buildings, including Plato Academy St. Petersburg and Plato Academy Tarpon Springs. He noted that Arcadia Development has a proven track record of developing quality properties for Plato Academy. He encouraged Mr. Christopoulos to continue to bring properties to Plato Academy for its consideration to building and lease, and he also encouraged the other board members to continue to look for properties that could work for Plato Academy.

**Motion made by Ms. Dagmar Ortiz, with a second by Mr. Louis Kokkinakos, to continue to work with Arcadia Development and Superior Schools' affiliated entities to build and lease properties for Plato Academy schools, with the reservation of rights for Plato Academy to also use other means to identify, build and lease properties. The motion passed unanimously.**

Technology Update: Mr. Chatzopoulos provided a technology report. He noted that the Plato Academy has been working on a different IT provider solution and bringing in-house an IT director to help contain IT costs.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

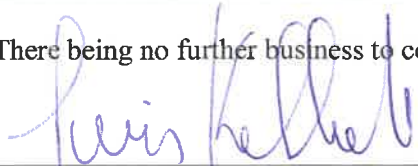
New Plato Academy Charter School Applications: Dr. Kolettis noted that the continued demand exists for Plato Academy Charter schools and that three applications have been proposed for filing in Pasco, Hillsborough and Leon Counties. It was noted that a Plato Academy Trinity future leader wants to lead the Plato Academy Leon County charter school.

Olympia Academy Charter School. Dr. Kolettis noted that he had been approached regarding a new line of schools that would feature a school that blends high academics with computer coding language. He noted that Jereme Monette would be the leader of the new line of school. Mr. Monette addressed the board regarding the new charter school line. The matter was discussed among the Board Members and there was no interest in taking on a new line under the existing Plato Academy board structure. Dr. Kolettis noted that Plato Academy would be willing to provide permission to the new charter school start up to use the Plato Academy Charter School applications and materials as a base for the new Olympia Academy charter school applications, noting that much of the information in the charter school applications and other materials was also the content of Superior Schools. Mr. Christopoulos noted that Superior Schools would also be giving Olympia Academy permission to use the content from the applications and other documents. Mr. Christopoulos noted that it would be the intent of Superior Schools to work with the new charter school and its new leadership to manage the new line of schools. Dr. Kolettis wished the new endeavor much success.

**Motion made by Ms. Dagmar Ortiz, with a second by Mr. Louis Kokkinakos, to provide Olympia Academy with permission to use content of Plato Academy charter school applications and associated materials. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:12 pm.

  
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Mr. Louis Kokkinakos, Vice Chairman  
Plato Academy Schools Corporation

Date: 3/2/18