

**AECI CHARTER SCHOOL NETWORK
838 BROOK AVENUE
BRONX, NEW YORK**

MEETING OF THE BOARD

Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2022
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: 116 East 169th Street, Bronx, NY

1. Welcome Role Call: Present were Carlo Sciattarella, Ricardo Cosme Ruiz, Irma Zardoya, Alberto Villaman

CEO: Derick Spaulding
Principal AECI I: Colin Healy
Principal AECI II: Santiago Taveras
Counsel: Flora Edwards, Esq.
Guests: AECI I PTO President Gregory Kimble
BoostEd - Josh Moreau

2. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Alberto Villaman seconded by Irma Zardoya to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 11, 2022. Approved unanimously.

3. CEO Report

- a. State mid-term visits for each school were held on June 1-2, 2022. The State utilized an outside consultant along with their own representative to conduct a day-long review of all the systems and structures related to student success at each school. The review included interviews with BOT members, finance, principals, leadership teams and student focus groups. The goal was to see where we are at in our progress for each school as well as to understand the challenges each school faces in striving toward academic excellence. Informal feedback indicates that both schools were very well prepared for the visit; are progressing well have a clear sense of vision and understand both their strengths and challenges and have developed plans to meet their goals.
- b. Planning for the summer and the 2023-24 school year continues to ensure consistency between the two schools without losing focus on the individual goals and objectives of each school.

- c. The HR consultant continues to provide support in the recruitment process for an HR Director. In addition she is reviewing the handbook to assure we are in compliance and is preparing training sessions for staff at each school around HR topics (sexual harassment, crisis communication etc) to occur this summer in school specific professional development

4. Principal's Report - AECI I

- a. There are 457 students enrolled which includes 116 Freshmen. Attendance for the year is 88.18%. There are 130 in-coming freshmen registered for the 2022-23 school year with 702 applications for 125 seats for the coming 2022-23 year.

- b. The graduation rate is projected at 96.4.6%

- c. School Activities

- i. Career Day

May 18th was Career Day was held on May 18th. 23 different guests from a diverse selection of industries, from lawyers to film editors set up booths in our gym to dialogue with our sophomores and juniors. Sophomores and juniors were given lessons in Advisory in advance to prepare them for the event.

- ii. Decision Day

Decision Day was held on May 27th. Seniors had the opportunity to announce to their classmates their post-graduation plans and teachers shared words of wisdom, Four \$1,000 AECI scholarships were announced, and afterwards students got to participate in a carnival type environment with bouncy castles and games.

- iii. Senior Trip

This year 68 students attended the senior trip to Dorney Park.

- iv. Pride Month

June is Pride month at AECI. On June 13th, students participated in a Paint and Snack. For \$5, students painted Pride themed illustrations that will be featured on our display monitors. All proceeds raised will be donated to the Trans Youth Equality Foundation.

v. Caribbean Heritage Month.

Display monitors feature awareness slides about famous Caribbean Americans who are celebrating Pride

vi. Prom

On June 3rd, 94 students attended prom at F and J Prom.

vii. International Trip Planning

Initial discussions are being held with teachers, students, and families to determine interest in an international trip in February of 2023. Potential destinations are Italy, France and Spain. Strategies to raise monies to offset the cost of the trip are being explored.

c. Academics

This year we implemented a 9th grade mini-school. All 9th graders have their own floor, mostly their own teachers, their own dean, and own X-Period intervention process. We've begun exploring ways to expand this successful structure by targeting our students with IEPs and ELL population. A special education teacher has put forth a proposal for will focus on the needs of students with IEPs.

5. Principal's Report AECI 2

a. Enrollment 310 students are currently enrolled. Attendance for the year is 84.6%. Follow-up of absent students include follow-up of students missing classes. There are 118 in-coming freshmen registered for the 2022-23 school year with 693 applications for 125 seats for the coming 2022-23 year

b. COVID Update

4 teachers and 2 students tested positive for COVID

c. Safety evacuation procedures were revised and refined and a practice drill was held.

d. Academics

i. Six College students were engaged to tutor AECI 2 students in Algebra, Algebra 2, Geometry, Living Environment and Earth Science. Student groups of 3-5 students are assigned to each tutor every period, In addition, tutoring is available on Saturdays.

ii. On June 9th Ninth Grade students sat for a mock regents. Follow-up in areas requiring additional support is being developed.

- iii. Development of programming for the in-coming ninth grade class began this past month.

e School Events

- i. Fire Drills: We activated and updated the BRT and conducted the final 4 fire drills for the year.
- ii. Baseball Game: Trip- 36 students in the 9th and 10th grade and 4 staff members went on to Citifield to watch the Mets vs. Nationals.
- iii. Central Park Trip- The 10th grade students wen on a trip to Central Park on the day the 11th graders had their US History Final.
- iv. Sports

Both the girls' softball and boys' baseball made it to the playoffs. Both teams experienced success and we look forward to seeing them grow next year.
- v. Student End of Year Party

On June 10th, the students had an end of year party celebrating the end of the school year.
- vi. Dress for Success

Approximately 50% of the students participated in the dress for success day.
- vii. Sample Weekly Lobby Displays were shared with the Board

6. Academic Affairs Committee

The Committee met on June 10th. The Committee reviewed the State visit and follow-up. The need to follow-up with the key design elements for the Network in anticipation for the renewal visit and revise the section on leadership and leadership evaluation for Board approval. In addition the Committee reviewed the various budget categories for each school as they impact the Academic Program. The Committee reviewed books and materials and the balance between hard copy and electronic versions and handwriting and writing.

Next month the Committee will focus on AP evaluations and the Board retreat..

7. Finance Committee

The Committee met on June 2, 2022 and reviewed the 2022-23 budget in detail. The budget presentation a number of meetings with the CEO and the Principals and three finance committee meetingd since January to refine the budgets for each school. The budgets for both schools are balanced and we are working on refining the salary grade. Facility requirements are built in including actual and projected expenses.

Moved by Alberto Villaman seconded by Irma Zardoya to approve the budgets for AECI I and AECI II for the 2022-23 school year. Approved unanimously.

8. Facilities Committee

Efforts continue on aquisition of additional space for AECI II and for permanent space for both schools.

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Ricardo Cosme Ruiz to amend the contract to Taurino Construction Management authorized by the Resolution of March 29, 2022 to authorize a change order in the amount of \$10,000 to assess the viability of additional modifications to the gymnasium. Approved unanimously.

9. New Business

a. New Hires AECI I

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Alberto Villaman to hire the following:

Rochelle Robin	Special Education Teacher
Kirsten Kulhanek	Mathematics Teacher
Lauren Sanfilippo	Writing Teacher
Louie Lewis Phys Ed	Teacher
Giselle Torres	Architecture Teacher

Approved Unanimously

b. AECI II

i. New Hires

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Ricardo Cosme Ruiz to hire the following:

Benjamin Johnson	Mathematics Teacher
Steven Bufford, Jr.	English Teacher
Eric Thomas	Science Teacher Assistant
Chelsesa Chin	Mathematics Teacher
Florence Elizabeth Davis	Science Teacher

Approved Unanimously

ii. Moved by Alberto Villaman and seconded by Irma Zardoya to authorize a personal services contract to Richard Trauner for consulting services in the area of Special Education compliance in an amount not to exceed \$46,000 for the period July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023. Approved unanimously.

iii. Moved by Ricardio Cosme Ruiz and seconded by Alberto Villaman to

authorize a personal services contract to Tandra Birkitt for consulting services in the area of Social Studies in an amount not to exceed \$57,200 for the period July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023. Approved unanimously

- iv. Moved by Irma Zardoya and seconded by Alberto Villaman to authorize a personal services contract to Courtney Brown for consulting services as a Teachers College ELA/Literacy Coach in an amount not to exceed \$32,125.00 for the period July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023. Approved unanimously
- v. Moved by Alberto Villaman and seconded by Ricardo Cosme Ruiz to authorize a personal services contract to Victoria Fernandez for consulting services as a Teachers College Mathematics Coach in an amount not to exceed \$32,125.00 for the period July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023. Approved unanimously.
- vi. Moved by Ricardo Cosme Ruiz and seconded by Irma Zardoya to authorize a personal services contract to Maurice Clayton for consulting services in the area of digital art and graphic design in an amount not to exceed \$55,000.00 for the period July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023. Approved unanimously

c. 2022-23 Calendar

Moved by Ricardo Cosme Ruiz seconded by Alberto Cosme Ruiz to approve the AECI Network calendar for the 2022-23 school year. Approved unanimously.

11. Executive Session

Moved by Ricardo Cosme Ruiz seconded by Alberto Villaman at 8:55pm to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel and real estate. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Alberto Villaman seconded by Irma Zardoya at 9:15pm to return to the record. Approved unanimously

12. Salary Increases for Instructional Staff

WHEREAS, the Board is committed to supporting its teachers and counselors and social workers to the best of its financial ability; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the hard work and effort of the AECI community in promoting the educational progress of our students,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the CEO be and hereby is authorized to implement salary increases which are as competitive as possible with prevailing salaries based on years of experience and level of educational attainment.

Moved by Ricardo Cosme Ruiz seconded by Irma Zardoya. Approved unanimously.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Alberto Villaman at 9:20pm to adjourn, Approved unanimously.