

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

MEETING

Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2023
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: via Zoom

1. Welcome Role Call: Present were Carlo Schiattarella, Irma Zardoya, Paul Comrie, Alberto Villaman, Shameeka Gonzalez

CEO:	Derick Spaulding
Principal AECI I:	Colin Healy
Principal AECI II:	Santiago Taveras
Counsel:	Flora Edwards, Esq.
BoostEd:	Joshua Moreau
	Hector Rodriguez, Director of Operations
	Christopher Mastrocola - Assistant Principal - AECI II
	Donna Rodriguez - Assistant Principal - AECI I
	Avril Guzman - Director of Student Life - AECI II

2. Approval of Minutes of February 15, 2023

Moved by Irma Zardoya and seconded by Alberto Villaman to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on February 15, 2023. Approved unanimously.

3. CEO Report

- a. Review of survey results are in progress with a view to incorporating student and parent perspectives in guiding changes and identification of areas which require improvement and areas with potential for growth.
- b. Network standards for teachers aligned to the Danielson Framework have been finalized. This was the final steps in finalizing Network language, expectations and evaluation standards for all key Network roles (i.e., teacher, dean, counsel, AP, Principal and CEO).
- c. Work continues with the gathering of documentation for the development of a five year strategic plan.

- d. A process to update revisions to charters to incorporate a middle school for each school and renew our charters is under way. A Committee has been established to include strategic stakeholders from within the Network of schools and key partners.
- e. The Network received a visit from the from the East Harlem Scholars Network to understand our school systems and structures; specifically our leadership spectrum
- d. The CEO and the team attended SOMOS conference the weekend of March 11-12. The conference is a legislative gathering that offers an opportunity to meet legislators and to learn about policies, programs and resources for our Network schools and opened the door to enhanced AECI - SUNY partnerships.

4. Human Resources Report

- a. Review of an employer census which provides a cost comparison of various health benefit delivery systems.
- b. Proposals for provision of the 401k plan were reviewed for presentation to the Finance Committee.
- c. Work continues toward the creation of a network wide uniform policy and process for disciplinary actions

5. Principal's Report - AECI I

- a. Enrollment is at 448 Students including 110 freshmen. An open house was held on for prospective students and parents. A recruitment initiative using social media has been launched and initial feedback appears to be positive.
- b. Suspensions for February are lower than last year.
- b. Attendance for February was 85.92% . All parents receive text messages for late and absent students and are offered incentives in the form of trip participation for perfect attendance.
- c. Professional Development activities included a discussion with teachers and students regarding student- teacher interaction and conflict resolution.
- d. Four students are currently enrolled in externships at the Center for Architecture.
- e. School Activities included:
 - I. The student led poster campaign is almost complete.
 - ii. Student trips included a international trip from February 19, 2023 to February 26, 2023 to Milan, French Riviera, Barcelona, Monaco

- iii. A trip to the Cooper Hewitt Design Museum in NYC on March 7, 2023
- iv. An Overnight trip to Syracuse and Binghamton University for SUPA students on March 9, 2023 to March 10, 2023
- v. Poetry Slam with Cheer Performances held on February 17, 2023
- vi. Black History Month Activities included:
 - Trivia contests at lunch connecting content to the theme of the month
 - A Door Decorating Contest
 - Trip to see The Rhythm and Blues Revue at the Apollo
 - Live jazz-history performance in our gym of cannonic jazz pieces and lessons of their cultural significance
- vii. The National Honor Society Sock Drive raised 325 pairs of socks for those in need.

AP Donna Rodriguez reported on the Survey Results -

- I. Parent Survey - 429 responses the results exceeded the Citywide and Bronx satisfaction level.
- ii. With the exception of Academic Press which, although higher than the citywide and Bronx results, requires additional attention.
 - Preventing Bullying which, although higher than the citywide and Bronx results, requires additional attention
 - Student Social Emotional support although higher than the citywide and Bronx results, requires additional attention
 - Teacher Survey Academic Press and classroom behavior results indicates a need for greater attention.
 - Special classroom visitations, coaching and increased focus on the adoption of new techniques in the classroom to promote classroom interaction.
 - A focus on classroom management and conflict resolution strategies
 - Innovation and Collective Responsibility 0 response is to provide an additional role for teacher development and participation in curriculum development
 - Teachers have a less positive response to the Prevention of Bullying than students. Improved strategies for communication with teachers

as to steps are taken by the Deans office to mediate and prevent bullying including development of protocols for student discussion

6. Principal's Report - AECI II

- a. There are 413 including - 122 Freshmen, 111 Sophomores, 83 Juniors and 97 Seniors.
- b. Attendance for February was 85.58%.
- c. One staff tested positive for COVID and no students tested positive for COVID since our last meeting
- d. School Events included:
 - I. Sip & Paint on February 14, 2023
 - ii. Virtual Reality Program
 - iii. Robotics Program

AP Christopher Mastrocolla presented the findings gleaned from the Surveys

- I. The parent survey reported high satisfaction in the areas of Inclusive Leadership, Outreach, Parent-Principal Trust and Parent-Teacher Trust in which AECI II scored higher than DOE Schools.
- ii. Student survey results revealed high marks in the areas of inclusive leadership, cultural awareness, student safety.

Areas which present challenges are in providing social emotional support , and prevention of bullying. Although academic success and adherence is on par with City wide and Bronx High School efforts will be made to chance services and strategies designed to promote student success
- iii. The Teacher survey revealed satisfaction in the areas of guidance, cultural awareness, instructional leadership and outreach to parents. The areas of academic press and classroom behavior presents a challenge following student return from COVID at home instruction. This year's efforts will focus on increased academic support services and professional development focusing on academic rigor and classroom management.
- iv. An are of discrepancy in the perceptions between teachers and students is the degree to which students and teachers believe that the work is challenging and engaging. In order to close the gap engage students by making connections to

the students lives and aspirations, provide additional instructional support and classroom management techniques.

7. Academic Affairs Committee Report

The Committee met and reviewed the alignment of surveys and provided input. In addition, the Committee reviewed the alignment of the dashboard.

8. Finance Committee Report

- a. The Committee met to review budgeting for the coming year which should be further refined following the issuance of the Governor's budget.
- b. This year's Budget is meeting target despite a drop of enrollment following COVID.
- c. Additional signatories will be added to accounts with additional signatures required for expenditures in excess of \$20,000. A formal resolution will be presented to the Board in April.
- d. Discussion regarding advantages and disadvantages of using of bill.com for disbursements in lieu of cutting individual paper checks.
- e. Discussion of the news related to actions taken by the New York State Department of Financial Services concerning Signature Bank. Recommended action steps to be to be discussed in Executive Session.

9 Facilities Committee

The Committee met on to review various options to meet additional space requirements

10. Executive Session

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez seconded by Paul Comrie at 8:00pm to go into Executive Session to discuss real estate and financial transactions. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Alberto Villaman and seconded by Irma Zardoya at 8:32pm to return to the record. Approved unanimously.

11. Moved by Alberto Villaman seconded by Paul Comrie at 8:45pm to adjourn. Approved unanimously.