

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

MEETING

Date: Tuesday May 9, 2023
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: via Zoom

1. Welcome Role Call: Present were Carlo Schiattarella, Alberto Villaman, Irma Zardoya, Paul Comrie, Shameeka Gonzalez, Gregory Kimble, Ricardo Cosme Ruiz

CEO:	Derick Spaulding
Principal AECI I:	Colin Healy
Director of Human Resources	Hector Rodriguez
Assistant Principal AECI II	Christopher Mastrocola
Counsel:	Flora Edwards, Esq.
BoostEd:	Joshua Moreau
	Hector Rodriguez, Director of Operations
	Petra Morales, Parent of AECI I Student

2. Approval of Minutes of March 14, 2023

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez and seconded by Gregory Kimble to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on April 20, 2023. Approved unanimously.

3. CEO Report

- a. Summer planning has begun with both schools. The focus is on the alignment of themes and school offerings.
- b. The next phase of renewal and expansion has begun involving Board support for the Network and its Schools.
- c. The creation of a 5-year plan to guide the Network's growth and direction is in progress.
- d. Plans are underway for the Network's Professional Development Program and the identification of topic for the Board retreat.
- e. The Network is finalizing the transfer from a PEO system to a self-sustaining system for the administration of benefits and payroll.

f. Budget planning continues for the coming year.

4. Human Resources Report

a. Discussed the transfer of the 401K to Capital Group which provides greater options for participants and which provides a dedicated financial advisor. .

b. Discussion continues regarding moving from a PEO toward a stand alone ADP system.

c. Discussion continues regarding the transfer of health benefits from AETNA to United Health Care.

5. Principal's Report - AECI I

a. Enrollment is at 447 Students including 113 freshmen.

b. As of this date there are 125 incoming 9th graders with 90 have submitted full documentation. In-person and on-line registration continues ahead of prior years.

c. Attendance for April was 83.54% . Different strategies to increase attendance were discussed at the Academic Affairs Committee. The number of suspensions has decreased

d. We are projecting 94.5% graduation rate,

e. Preparation for the Regents examination is fully underway for all Regents classes with a combination of in-after school and Saturday sessions.

f. Traditional Summer school plans includes Regents and credit makeups. In addition the -Summer Bridge grant has been approved for \$10,000. Program will be a month long ELA/Math remediation program with fun activities and supplemental trips for 40 incoming 9th graders. Next steps include recruitment of the students.

f. Parent Teacher Conferences were held on April 20, 2023 with approximately 150 parents in attendance.

g. A SAT preparation day was held on April 25, 2023.

h. The Mediation Center now up and running- teachers and councilors are now trained to mediate issues with students. Next month training for students will begin.

I. School Activities included:

I. Juliet Broadway Trip for Juniors

- ii. College Trip to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- iii. Trip for NHS and Black Pearl to Washington DC Visited White House, Smithsonian, Georgetown University, Spa Day, Capitol visit, team building activities
- iv. Teacher Appreciation Week Students, teachers, colleagues writing handwritten cards to teachers, Student Council and National Honor Society decorating the building and creating gift baskets, lunch and snacks provided for teachers.

6. Principal's Report - AECI II

Because Santiago Taveras is with the students on a field trip, the report was given by AP Christopher Mastrocola.

- a. There are 412 including - 124 Freshmen, 111 Sophomores, 83 Juniors and 94 Seniors. The lottery was held April 1, 2023 with more than 200 applications more than last year. 123 students have been registered against a target of 125. Registration continues.
- b. Attendance for February was 83.77%.
- c. There were no incidents of COVID this past month
- d. Summer school plans include recruitment of teachers and the inauguration of the first Summer Boost program for incoming 9th graders which consists if ELA, Math, Computer Science and enrichment activities.

7. Academic Affairs Committee Report

The Committee met on May 8th and discussed the following:

- a. The Committee reviewed attendance data and discussed strategies for bringing attendance rates up to pre-COVID numbers.
- b. Reviewed the Quarterly pass rates and discussed issues and concerns and identified strategies to enhance student performance throughout the year
- c. Review the summer program

8. Finance Committee Report

The Committee met on May 9, 2023

- a. The Committee reviewed the proposal to transfer of the 401K Program to Capital Group which provides greater options for participants and which provides a dedicated financial advisor.

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez and seconded by Alberto Villaman to authorize the chair to enter into an Agreement with the Capital Group to manage the 401K program for the period September 1 2023 through August 31, 2024, subject to review by counsel. Approved unanimously.

- b. The Committee reviewed the transfer from a PEO to an in-house system. Further discussion of the financial implications will be discussed further,

- c. The Committee reviewed a proposal move from Extensis for payroll administration and HRIS Systems to ADP .

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez and seconded by Paul Comrie to authorize the Chair to enter into an Agreement with ADP for payroll administration and HRIS Systems for the period September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024 subject to review by counsel.

- d. The 2023-24 budget was reviewed. The state per pupil increase projected at 3.9% and the budgets of both schools are balanced including an increase for instructional staff for both schools as set forth in the following resolution:

Increase 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 education 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 Shameeka Gonzalez seconded by Gregory Kimble. Approved unanimously.

e. Renewal of Management Agreement

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez seconded by Alberto Villaman to renew the Agreement with BoostEd for operation and financial support services for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 at a cost not to exceed \$250,000. Approved unanimously.

9. Facilities Committee

To be discussed in Executive Session.

10. New Matters

a. New Matters - AECI I

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Shameeka Gonzalez to authorize the purchase of 150 G9 Chromebooks from Staples, Inc., the lowest of three quotes, at a cost not to exceed \$39,742.00. Approved unanimously.

12. Executive Session

Moved by Irma Zardoya_ seconded by Shameeka Gonzalez_ at 7:56pm to go into Executive Session to discuss real estate and legal matters. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Irma Zardoya and seconded by Paul Comrie at 8:12pm to return to the record. Approved unanimously.

13. Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez seconded by Irma Zardoya at 8:15 pm to adjourn. Approved unanimously.