

AECI CHARTER SCHOOL NETWORK
116 East 169th Street
Bronx, New York

MEETING OF THE BOARD

Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2024
Time: 6pm - 8pm
Location: 116 E. 169th Street
Bronx, New York

1. Welcome Role Call: Present were Irma Zardoya, Shameeka Gonzalez, Alberto Villaman, Gregory Kimble, Peter Quiñones

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| Chief Executive Officer | Derick Spaulding |
| Human Resources Director | Hector Rodriguez |
| Post Secondary Director: | Lauren Quigley |
| Counsel: | Flora Edwards, Esq. |
| BoostEd: | Joshua Moreau |
| Principal of AECI: | Colin Healy |
| Principal of AECI2: | Santiago Taveras |
| Guests: | |
| Stephan Baffoe, AECI Post Secondary Counselor | |
| Lexlis Jimenez, AECI2 College Counselor | |
| Veronica Echevarria, AECI HR/Payroll Assistant | |

2. **Approval of Minutes of August 20, 2024**

Moved by Gregory Kimble seconded by Alberto Villaman to approve the minutes of August 20, 2024. Approved unanimously

3. **Appointment of New Board Member**

Moved by Alberto Villaman seconded by Gregory Kimble

The AECI CHARTER SCHOOL NETWORK Board of Trustees, having conducted a thorough criminal history record check via fingerprinting which is deemed acceptable by NYSED, and having discovered no State or federal criminal history, or having provided information regarding such history to NYSED, if found, and having verified that any academic and/or professional credential or qualification presented by the proposed member is genuine, and having reviewed the application in its entirety, has voted to select PETER QUIÑONES as a member to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on September 10, 2029, pending approval by NYSED. The resolution approving PETER QUIÑONES is adopted upon NYSED's approval.
Approved Unanimously

4. **CEO Report**

- a. Update on Middle School Process including the search for a Principal for AECI I Middle School. An update regarding the opening year for the AECI II Middle School will be presented at the next meeting.
- b. Currently collaborating with a designer to conform the network logo to incorporate the middle schools.
- c. Review continues on budgets, space and personnel requirements for the high schools and the expansion for the middle schools.
- d. Work continues on alignment of staffing, media presence, partnerships of both schools. A review of the on-line media platforms for both high schools is under way.
- e. Evaluation of beginning year systems, programs, alignment of instructional practices and new school year transitions
- f. Enrollment at both schools is at full capacity

5. **Human Resources Report**

- a. Health Insurance Open Enrollment - Open enrollment began September 4th and will close on September 16th. This year is a passive enrollment and presentations on benefits were held.
- b. Retirement Plan Audit is being finalized this month and should be submitted by the beginning of October.
- c. Staff Training Sessions will be held at the end of September for all staff in the areas of Sexual Harassment, Blood Borne Pathogens, and Cyber Security training.
- d. New Hires - AECI Network welcomes 17 new hires for the 2024-2025 academic year. 5 new hires for AECI and 12 for AECI2.

6. **Postsecondary Report**

- a. PSR Office staffing update: Post Secondary offices are fully staffed

- b. Pre-College Program recruitment - 9th grade SEO Scholar recruitment, 10th grade Opportunity Network recruitment, & 11th grade Thrive Scholar recruitment. Recruitment will run through February.
- c. Posse Nominations Update: 3 students moving forward to stage 2, 1 student from AECI2 and 2 students from AECI.(POSSE is a Full tuition scholarship for a select 13 schools, has a vigorous 3 step process)
- d. Class of 2024 outcome presentation with the following highlights. Presentation by Lexlis Jimenez for AECI2 and Stephan Baffoe for AECI.

AECI 2024 Updates:

- 95 Graduates: 55% 4 year college, 29% 2 year & 16% other
- 75.80 Average GPA
- 871 Average SAT
- 1472 App. submitted (an increase from 1463 in 2023)
- Secured \$1,541,841 in scholarships and grants

AECI2 2024 Updates:

- 51% 4 year college, 37% 2 year & 11.3% other
- 80.57 Average GPA
- 860 Average SAT
- 1148 App. submitted (an increase from 827 in 2023)
- Secured \$1,137,622 in scholarships and grants

7. Principal's Report - AECI I

- a. 470 students currently enrolled reflecting an increase of 20 to 25 students as compared with last year
- b. Summer graduation for 2 students raised graduation rate to 96.98%
- c. New student led activity: 2 senior students are working with Geometry teachers as assisting with grading and tutoring students.
- d. A new audio visual class taught by Mr. Basch. Students will be working on the yearbook, Media as well as other projects.
- e. Students are becoming more involved in developing their schedules and in SUPA classes.

8. Principal's Report - AECI II

- a. Total enrollment is at 465 students. The school is running at full capacity.

- b. Meetings were held for probationary staff members.
- c. New displays on every floor provide students with updates on all events in real time.

9. **Facilities Committee**

To be discussed in Executive Session

10. **Personnel Committee**

The Committee met on September 9, 2024 to review new hires to discuss goals for the coming year including compensation studies, administrative staff incentives and recruitment efforts,

Moved by Alberto Villaman seconded by Gregory Kimble to approve the following appointments:

- a. For AECI I

Taisha Medina Counselor (replacement for Counselor on leave)

Ashley Hawkins Youth Advisor

- b. For AECI II

Ernest Ojevwe Teaching Assistance

Marlene Crespo Mathematics Teacher

11. **New Business**

- a. AECI II - Purchase of Chrome Books

Moved by Alberto Villaman and seconded by Gregory Kimble

To authorize the purchase of 123 Chrome Books from CDW, the lowest of three responsible bidders at a cost not to exceed \$34,123.75

Approved unanimously

12. **Executive Session**

Moved by Alberto Villaman and seconded by Shameeka Gonzalez at 7:15pm to go into Executive Session to discuss real estate and potential litigation. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Alberto Villaman Zardoya seconded by Shameeka Gonzalez at 7:48pm to return to the record. Approved unanimously.

13. **Adjournment**

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez seconded by Alberto Villaman at 8:00pm to adjourn. Approved unanimously.