

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

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD**

Date: Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Time: 6pm

Location: Virtual

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

CEO:	Derick Spaulding
Human Resources Director	Hector Rodriguez
Principal AECI I	Colin Healy
Principal AECI II	Santiago Taveras
A/P AECI II	Christopher Mastrocola
Counsel:	Flora Edwards, Esq.
BoostEd:	Joshua Moreau

2. **Approval of Minutes of October 14, 2023**

Moved by Gregory Kimble seconded by Alberto Villaman to approve the minutes of October 14, 2023. Approved unanimously

3. **CEO Report**

- A. **SED Visit AECI II** - The visit by the State Education Department for AECI II took place on November 9-10, 2023. The visit provided an opportunity to show the integration of school culture, SEC, academics, and theme based learning to support the whole student. SED's report is anticipated early Spring, 2024.
- B. **SED Visit AECI I** - Preparations are underway for the AECI I renewal visit scheduled for November 29-30, 2023 with a focus on demonstrating the schools consistent effort in all of its programs which has resulted in a graduation rate above 95%. over the years.
- C. **BOT Retreat** - The results of the BOT retreat are under study to identify the next steps for the Network.
- D. Work is in progress to refresh the school websites and the introductory phase of designing a Network website.

- E. Work continues toward aligning systems, structures and language at both schools tied to our Network

4. **Human Resources Report**

- A. **Benefits** - Supplemental benefits (e.g. AFLAC, Commuter Benefits, FSA, COBRA, etc...) have been administered and deductions of these benefits began on November 1, 2023.
- B. **HR and Payroll Assistant** - Search continues for a candidate. Assistance in this search is being provided by Joanitha Groves.
- C. **HR Evaluation Process** - Working with Ms. Groves and Mr. Spaulding on a comprehensive evaluation system for the Director of HR role.

5. **Principal's Report - AECI I**

- A. **Enrollment** is at 450 students compared to 433 last years on this date.
- B. **Attendance** for this month is 90.10%. A school wide attendance initiative has begun. School-wide, grade-level, and classroom incentives include dress down days, gift bags, t-shirts, trips. Focus is on being visible and consistent.
- C. **Academics**
  - i. PSAT Day was October 25th for all juniors. This was the first time the exam was all digital on Chromebooks. All juniors sat for the exam and the exam was administered successfully.
  - ii. Posse Finalist: Senior Zavion Price is a finalist for the very prestigious Posse Scholarship which offers a full-tuition scholarship at Lawrence University in Wisconsin. Recipients gain access to a supportive peer group from NYC, which is designed to foster a strong sense of community and belonging on campus.
  - iii. Monthly PD sessions continue to focus on school goals of improving co-teaching and developing common strategies across the Humanities.
- D. **School Events**
  - i. Hispanic Food Festival was held on October 13, 2023

- ii. Spirit Week was held October 16-20 and included a Pep Rally culminating in Homecoming Dance with 125 students in attendance.
  - iii. Halloween Movie Night was on October 27, 2023
  - iv. Senior Trip Fright Fest was held on October 30th for academically eligible students.
  - v. Student Council Elections were held on November 13, 2023 This year's focus is on political action in and outside the building
  - vi. Poetry Staff Appreciation Night was held on November 15, 2023
  - vii. School trips included; Apple Picking, City Hall, Rockefeller Center, Movies, Ninja Ninja Athletics.
  - viii. College trips included: NYIT on November 8 2023, Manhattan College on October 14, 2023; National Hispanic College Fair at Mercy College on October 24, 2023.
- E. Progress continues on the development of a 10 page bulletin in Spanish and English that details the school's offering. The bulletin will be sent to more than 100 middle schools in the coming week and will be appearing on social media. Next Level will be created in the coming weeks.
- F. Progress continues in the development of evaluation systems for non-instructional employees

6. **Principal's Report AECI II**

- A. **Enrollment** is at 456 Students comprised of 132 Freshmen, 120 Sophomores, 121 Juniors and 83 Seniors.
- B. **Attendance** is at 86.91% which includes a number of students who remain on the register but are not attending AECI.
- C. **Health and Safety** - one staff member tested positive for COVID. No students tested positive for COVID since our last meeting.
- D. **SAT Exam** - on, the SAT was administered October 11, 2023 to 12th Graders
- E. **School Events included:**
  - i. Senior Picture Day on October 10, 2023

- iii. Halloween Dance was held on October 27, 2023
- iv. Thanksgiving Dinner was held on November 1, 2023.

7. **Academic Affairs Committee**

The next meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee will be scheduled for January.

8. **Finance Committee Report**

The Audit has been finalized. Financial planning for the coming year will begin in January.

9. **Facilities Committee**

To be discussed

11. **New Matters**

A. **AECI I : New Hires**

Marisa Buccheri      Special Education Teacher

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Alberto Villaman. Unanimously approved.

B. **AECI II: New Hires**

Sarah Thorn              History Teacher

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Gregory Kimble. Unanimously approved

C. **AECI II - Schools That Can**

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Paul Comrie to authorize the Principal to enter into an agreement with Schools That Can to co-provide a full year teaching career readiness Program for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students consisting of co-facilitation 1 day per week, 3-4 classes per week, weekly co-planning sessions, and access to STC curriculum materials at a cost not to exceed \$10,000. Approved unanimously.

D. **AECI II - Architectural Services**

Moved by Alberto Villaman seconded by Gregory Kimble to authorize the CEO to enter into an Agreement with Partners for Architecture for the preparation of

schematic drawings to support a program for a potential new facility for AECI II at a cost not to exceed \$25,000. Approved unanimously

12. Executive Session

Moved by Alberto Villaman. Seconded by Paul Comrie at 7:08pm to go into Executive Session to discuss real estate. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Gergory Kimble seconded by Paul Comrie at 7:20pm to return to the record. Approved unanimously

13. Moved by Alberto Villaman seconded by Paul Comrie at 7:25pm to adjourn. Approved unanimously.