

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

**MEETING OF THE BOARD**

Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024  
Time: 6pm  
Location: 116 East 169th Street  
Bronx, New York

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

CEO:	Derick Spaulding
Human Resources Director	Hector Rodriguez
Principal AECI I	Colin Healy
Principal AECI II	Santiago Taveras
Assistant Principal	Christopher Mastrocola
Director of Post Secondary Readiness	Lauren Quigley
Director of Partnerships - AECI II	Avril Guzmán
Counsel:	Flora Edwards, Esq.
BoostEd:	Joshua Moreau

2. **Approval of Minutes of December 12, 2023**

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez seconded by Irma Zardoya to approve the minutes of December 12, 2023. Approved unanimously

3. **CEO Report**

- a. Retreat materials were presented for Board review.
- b. Update on the memorial for AECI 2 former student Denzel Binty.
- c. Work in progress includes (i) Network website, (ii) middle school framework, (iii) new board membership, (iv) marketing materials for the Network
- d. Work continues on alignment of systems, structures and language at both schools tied to our Network
- e. Evidence of Monthly Network Highlights was presented

4. **Human Resources Report**

- a. HR and Payroll Assistant - A candidate has been identified for presentation to the Board for approval

- b. HR Evaluation Process - The work on the HR evaluation process continues to develop and a draft should be completed by the end of the month for review by the Personnel Committee.
- c. Termination Protocol / Severance Policy - Work continues on the development of a protocol for employee terminations and the development of a severance policy for schools to follow when applicable.

5. **Post-Secondary Readiness Report**

- a. College Application Update- 97% of seniors across both high schools have applied to college.
- b. Application numbers by school:
  - i. AECI1- 1386 applications
  - ii. AECI2- 1053 applications
- c. Pre-College Program recruitment concluded with recruitment sessions for SEO Scholars and Thrive Scholars at both schools. OppNet sessions have been scheduled for the upcoming weeks. These programs provide students with between 2-8 years of college and career readiness support.
  - i. SEO Scholars (9th grade)- 25 students applying
  - ii. OppNet (10th grade)- 40 students invited to session
  - iii. Thrive Scholars(11th grade)- 13 students applying
- d. Spring Planning has commenced

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

- a. Enrollment is at 445 students compared to 444 last years on this date.
- b. Attendance is for this month is 85%. A school wide attendance initiative is progress. The first Monday of each month, the grade level with the best attendance gets a dress down day. Students are earning weekly points for their attendance that can be exchanged for special lunches, gift bags, gift cards, and trips.
- c. Saturday Academy sessions are in place with the goal of meeting the academic needs of students who require extra assistance in meeting graduation requirements.
- d. Professional Development during the month of December focussed on improvement of classroom management in the 9th grade. Work continues on systems and structures to overall increase the effectiveness of the 9th grade structure already in place.

- e. Work continues on Reading and Writing Across the Humanities and Implementing Vocabulary
- f. School Activities
  - i. November 15, 2023: Teacher Appreciation Poetry Night. Students crafted poems, framed them, and read them to their favorite staff member.
  - ii. December 15, 2023 National Honor Society Induction Ceremony with 7 new inductees
  - iii. December 22, 2023 Winter Wonderland Celebration- Student Council Decorated School
  - iv. December 22, 2023 Yearly Holiday Luncheon for Staff was held in the Gym
  - v. January 5, 2024- Alumni Day featured 25 former AECI students who returned to talk to our juniors and seniors regarding how to be successful during the rest of high school and in college.
  - vi. November 8, 2023 College Trip to NYIT
  - vii. December 8, 2023 Romeo and Juliet at Circle in the Square
  - viii. December 15, 2023 Chess Club and Dungeons and Dragons Club Trip
  - ix. December 19, 2023 Roller Skating Trip at WTC
  - x. November 17, 2023 Cardio Boxing Trip to a Boxing Gym
  - xi. AECI Cheer team came in 3rd place in its first competition

**7. Principal's Report - AECI II**

- a. Enrollment is at 451 students comprised of - 129 Freshmen, 119 Sophomores, 119 Juniors and 84 Seniors . The school is receiving applications for the coming school year.
- b. Attendance for the past month was 85.11%..
- c. Health and Safety 2 staff members tested positive for COVID, 2 students tested positive for COVID since our last meeting.
- d. On December 18, 2023 a Memorial Ceremony which included a candlelight vigil was held for AECI former student, Denzel Binty. The ceremony was attended by AECI 2 staff and teachers, students and a many former students who returned to the school to pay their respects.
- e. School Activities
  - i. Video Game Tournaments

- ii. December 19, 2023 iFly trip
- iii. December 14, 2023 PTO Meeting
- iv. December 15, 2023 Winter Dance
- v. December 16, 2023 Open House
- vi. December 19, 2023 Fordham University Trip
- vii. December 20, 2023 Toy Giveaway - with toys and activities for the younger siblings of our students.
- viii. December 22, 2023 Staff Celebration

8. **Finance Committee**

The Committee met and reviewed the budget and discussed the various compensation plans for teachers, administration and staff and a timetable for implementation. When finalized a proposal will be presented to the Board.

9. **Personnel Committee**

- a. Next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2024.

10. **Facilities Committee**

To be discussed in Executive Session

12. **New Business**

- a. **New Hires - AECI I**

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Shameeka Gonzalez to approve the hiring of Axel Mercedes DeLeon Maintenance

Approved Unanimously

13. **Executive Session**

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez seconded by Irma Zardoya at 8:00pm to go into Executive Session to discuss disciplinary matters and real estate. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez seconded by Irma Zardoya at 9:00pm to return to the record. Approved unanimously

14. **Adjournment**

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez seconded by Irma Zardoya at 9:05pm to adjourn. Approved unanimously.