

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

MEETING OF THE BOARD

Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2024
Time: 6pm
Location: 116 East 169th Street
Bronx, New York

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

CEO:	Derick Spaulding
Human Resources Director	Hector Rodriguez
Director Post Secondary Readiness	Lauren Quigley
Principal AECI I	Colin Healy
Principal AECI II	Santiago Taveras
Assistant Principal AECI II	Christopher Mastracola
Counsel:	Flora Edwards, Esq.
BoostEd:	Joshua Moreau
Technology Teacher (AECII)	Michael Gomez
Teacher Mathematics (AECI II)	Antigone Cox

2. Student Presentation on Technology lead by Michael Gomez demonstrating various robotics, radio, drone projects created by students as well as fixing chrome book screens. Next year we have a grant for AP Computer Science and Technology

3. **Approval of Minutes of March 12 2024**

Moved by Carlo Schiattarella seconded by Alberto Villaman to approve the minutes of March 12, 2024. Approved unanimously

4. **CEO Report**

- a. Review of the effectiveness of performance to support mid-year / end-year results and evaluation of the effectiveness of supports
- b. Results of the renewal and expansion plans for AECI I is pending. The final action plans for AECI II have been submitted and state approval is pending.
- c. Coaching and working with School leaders regarding staffing, media presence, partnerships and general alignment of both schools continues.
- d. Planning is under way for the summer session including summer bridge programs alignment of instructional practices and transitions to the new school year.

5. **HR Report**

- a. **HR Evaluation Process** - The process has been reviewed by the HR Committee and has been finalized.
- b. **Employee Handbook** - The Handbook is under review and drafts will be sent to principals and CEO before Spring break.
- c. **Budget Review** HR data has been provided Josh with data for planning for the FY 2024-25 budget
- d. **Liability Insurance** - The process of renewing the Network's general liability insurance has begun.
- e. **Off-Boarding Process** Work continues to formalize the process for the Network that streamlines off boarding (i.e. submission of Resignation/Termination, Collection of School property, Exit Interviews, etc)

6. **Post Secondary Readiness Report**

- a. **F.A.F.SA Rollout Challenges & Impact on Financial Aid Packaging**
 - I. Some schools have managed to package students using the CSS Profile, but this is an exception rather than the rule.
 - ii Some schools have had to extend their May 1st deposit deadlines because of these delays.
 - iii. As a result, our PSR offices are reassessing their procedures and time-lines for student commitments. This includes reevaluating our approach to handling deposit deadlines. resulting in widespread delays in financial aid packaging.
- b. **Reinstatement of SAT Requirements by Select Colleges**
 - I. Several highly selective colleges, including Brown, Dartmouth, Georgetown, and Yale, have announced plans to reinstate SAT requirements for freshman applicants, beginning with the Fall 2025 admissions cycle. The SAT is optional at both CUNY and SUNY. AECI will continue to monitor changes in policy and reassess the guidance provided as a means to help us continue to prioritize equity and accessibility for our students.
- c. **Pre-College program partnership results:**
 - I. SEO Scholars-10 students selected: AECI1- 4 AECI2- 6
 - ii. OppNet- 6 students have moved on to interviews, 3 from each school

iii. Thrive- 4 students selected: AECI1-3 AECI2-1

7. **Principal's Report AECI I**

- a. **Enrollment** - Enrollment is at 443 students. 88 incoming 9th graders were accepted the seat on the first day. In person registration continues both in person and online. Additional tours for families still making their decisions.
- b. **Attendance** for this month is 86.41%. The school wide attendance initiative continues including incentives such as Dress Down Days for Attendance- First Monday of every month. Every Friday is Early Bird Bacon, Egg and Cheese Day
- c. **School Activities** included
 - I. Spirit Week: 4/18-24- 4/22/24 included Dress Down Days, Core Value Awards- Pieing Staff Members, All proceeds donated to the Malala Fund, an Eclipse Day Activity was held
- d. The graduation is currently projected at 93-95%
- e. **Mediation Center**
 - 60 mediation sessions were conducted by the Mediation Team this year.
 - Vast majority of the sessions are proactive.
 - Next month we will begin training student mediators.
 - Professional Development with staff focused on the mediation center/ anti bullying
- f. Plans are under way for the Regents and for Summer School/Summer Bridge Program.

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

- a. Enrollment is at 448 students. As of this writing, 602 students applied for the 2024-2025 school year as follows: -9th grade has 470 applications; -10th grade has 92 applications 11th grade has 32 applications; 12th has 8 applications. An Open House was held on March 6th from 5-8pm. March 9th from 10am-1 pm; March 13th from 5-7pm; March 16th from 10 am- 1pm; March 23rd from 10am to 1pm.
- b. Attendance is at 83.96% . The school wide attendance initiative continues.
- c. **School Events**
 - March 4 Yearbook Photos and Senior Retakes- 8:00am-12:00pm
 - March 6 SAT 11th Grade Only (Digital):
 - March 8 PTO Computer Classes 5:00pm-6:30pm
 - March 13 PSAT 9th Grade Only (Digital):
 - March 14 PTO: 5:00pm-7:00pm

March 15 PTO Computer Classes 5:00pm-6:30pm
March 19 Seniors: Go Kart Racing
March 20 Career Fair and Dress For Success
March 20 PTO: 5:00pm-7:00pm
March 22 PTO Computer Classes 5:00pm-6:30pm
March 27 PSAT 10th Grade Only (Digital): Everyone Else (Asynchronous Learning)

9. **Academic Affairs Committee**

A meeting of the Committee was held on March 25th. The Committee focused on writing and ELA and how to best support English Language Learners. Plans for the summer program were discussed as well as curriculum alignment.

10. **Finance Committee**

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 Alberto villaman. Approved unanimously.

11. **Facilities Committee**

To be discussed in Executive Session

12. **Human Resources Committee**

The Committee met on April 5, 2024 and reviewed the Evaluation Process for the Director of Human Resources, the Termination Protocol and , the Leave of Absence Form, increases for instructional staff and off-boarding procedures,

13. **New Business**

A. Renewal of Boost Ed

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez seconded by Irma Zardoya to renew the contract for Boost Ed for 2024-25 at cost not to exceed \$130vk per school for a total of \$260,000. Approved Unanimously

B. 2024-25 Calendar

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez seconded by Alberto Villaman to approve the calendar for the 2024-25 school year. Approved unanimously.

13. **Executive Session**

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez seconded by Irma Zardoya at 8:28pm to go into Executive Session to discuss real estate. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez seconded by Irma Zardoya at 9:02pm to return to the record. Approved unanimously

14. **Adjournment**

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Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by _Shameeka Gonzalez at 9:20pm to adjourn. Approved unanimously.