

AECI CHARTER SCHOOL NETWORK

MEETING OF THE BOARD

Date: **Tuesday, January 13, 2026**
Time: **6pm**
Location: **AECI 2**
116 East 169th Street
Bronx, New York 10452

1. **Welcome Role Call:** Present were Shameeka Gonzalez, Peter Quiñones, Gregory Kimble, Paul Comrie, Devon Prioleau, Robert Burton

Chief Executive Officer	Derick Spaulding
Human Resources Director	Hector Rodriguez
HR & Payroll Assistant	Elizabeth Tsoi
Counsel:	Flora Edwards, Esq.

2. **Approval of Minutes of December 9, 2025 and December 15, 2025**

Moved by **Paul Comrie**; seconded by **Robert Burton** to table **approval of the minutes of December 9, 2025 and December 15, 2025** for review at the February Board meeting.
Approved unanimously

3. **CEO Report**

- a. Derick Spaulding provided an overview of the status of AECI 1 and 2 and the AECI 1 Middle School (see below for the reports. See Nos . 4., 5, and 6 below.
- b. Denise Loimon, the new Assistant Principal for the AECI 2 middle school, was introduced to the Board.
- c. A copy of the By-laws was included in the Board Materials and Board members were encouraged to review the By-Laws and make any suggestions for amendments.

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

- a. Enrollment -471 students enrolled L 116 Freshmen, 122 Sophomores, 133 Juniors and 120 Seniors
- b. Attendance for December was 86/75%
- c. The following Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) reflect the school's current operational, academic, and organizational health
 - i. The continued increase in enrollment is one indicator of the School's success.
 - ii. Academic Performance - Students are currently preparing for mock state examinations in ELA and Math scheduled for January 20–23, which will run concurrently with high school Regents exams. These assessments serve as critical benchmarks to measure student readiness, instructional effectiveness, and areas for targeted intervention ahead of the spring testing cycle. The use of mock exams reflects a data-driven approach and a focus on continuous academic improvement.

iii. Current operations remain stable; Enrollment sustainability is a critical focus area that warrants continued monitoring and targeted intervention. Specifically, we are closely examining application volume, inquiry-to-enrollment conversion rates, and family engagement metrics related to open houses and outreach efforts. These data points will help us assess the effectiveness of our marketing strategies, community presence, and messaging to prospective families

iv. The school is strengthening its recruitment and marketing efforts through increased participation in external open houses, hosting in-house events, and refining outreach strategies to better highlight our academic programming and school culture. Ongoing analysis of these data points will inform adjustments and ensure a proactive approach to enrollment growth

v. Recruitment activities for the coming year include participation in external open houses. The first in-house open house of the year on Saturday was held on January 10, 2026

iv. Notwithstanding recent staffing changes, including the resignation of a STEM teacher and an ICT teacher, the school has responded with urgency and intentionality. Interim coverage and continuity plans are in place to ensure minimal disruption to student learning, and we are actively recruiting candidates who align with our instructional vision and school culture. These actions reflect adaptive leadership, transparent communication, and a commitment to long-term organizational fit rather than short-term fixes

d. School Events

i. A peer engagement session led by Mr. Sadiki Lewis and a group of high school students for our 6th-grade students. The session focused on bullying, its impact, and the importance of peer accountability and empathy. This experience was particularly impactful as it allowed our students to hear directly from older peers, making the message both relatable and credible. Following the session, students demonstrated meaningful reflection and continued to reference the discussion in class conversations, indicating lasting impact and internalization of the lessons shared. This event supports our broader goals around student well-being, school culture, and social-emotional learning, while also strengthening cross-grade community connections and reinforcing positive student leadership.

ii. An upcoming major initiative is our family open houses for registered families, which will provide an opportunity for families to visit the building, meet school leadership and staff, and learn more about our academic programming through a structured presentation. These open houses directly align with our strategic priorities around student recruitment, family engagement, and enrollment sustainability. By creating intentional opportunities for families to connect with the school community and leadership team, we are strengthening trust, reinforcing our school's mission and instructional vision, and supporting informed enrollment decisions. This initiative also supports transparency and relationship-building, which are critical to long-term organizational stability and community confidence.

iii. An Architectural Fair is scheduled for April, Board participation is welcomed.

5. Principal's Report - AECI 2

a. School Statistics

i. Freshmen 152, Sophomores 129, Juniors 125, and Seniors 115: Total: 521, The school is

overenrolled by 21 students

ii Attendance for December was 87.08%

b. During the month of December, AECI 2 focused on strengthening school culture, family engagement, and student enrichment through a series of academic, community, and celebratory events.

c. The school maintained a safe and healthy environment, reporting zero COVID-19 cases among both students and staff during this period.

d. School events included

i. Video Game Tournament Parts 1 and 2, which provided students with structured, supervised opportunities to build community, teamwork, and healthy competition.

ii. Academic and postsecondary support remained a priority, as the school hosted Financial Aid Support Day 2 (PSO) to assist families and students with critical college planning resources.

iii. AECI 2 also emphasized transparency and stakeholder involvement by holding a PTA meeting, ensuring families and school leadership remained actively connected.

iv. Outreach and enrollment efforts continued with the second of six scheduled Open Houses, welcoming prospective middle and high school families to learn more about the AECI 2 program and culture.

v. The month concluded with several community-centered celebrations that reflected the school's commitment to joy and appreciation.

vi. A Toy Giveaway supported families during the holiday season, while a Staff Holiday Celebration recognized faculty and staff for their dedication and hard work throughout the year. These events reinforced a positive school climate and a strong sense of community heading into the winter break.

6. Principal's Report - AECI 1 Middle School

a. Operational Effectiveness Our operational KPIs indicate strong performance and proactive planning. A key focus area has been student recruitment and enrollment sustainability. The school has actively participated in external open houses and is hosting its first in-house open house of the year on Saturday, January 10, demonstrating intentional outreach and family engagement. These efforts reflect effective coordination, clear messaging, and a commitment to maintaining and growing enrollment. Day-to-day operations continue to run smoothly despite staffing transitions, indicating a resilient system and strong leadership oversight

b. Academic Performance: Academically, our KPIs center on student preparedness and instructional alignment to state standards. Students are currently preparing for mock state examinations in ELA and Math scheduled for January 20–23, which will run concurrently with high school Regents exams. These assessments serve as critical benchmarks to measure student readiness, instructional effectiveness, and areas for targeted intervention ahead of the spring testing cycle. The use of mock exams reflects a data-driven approach and a focus on continuous academic improvement

c. Organizational Health: While we have experienced recent staffing changes, including the resignation

of a STEM teacher and an ICT teacher, the school has responded with urgency and intentionality. Interim coverage and continuity plans are in place to ensure minimal disruption to student learning, and we are actively recruiting candidates who align with our instructional vision and school culture. These actions reflect adaptive leadership, transparent communication, and a commitment to long-term organizational fit rather than short-term fixes

d. A recent event of strategic and community significance was a peer engagement session led by Mr. Sadiki Lewis and a group of high school students for our 6th-grade students. The session focused on bullying, its impact, and the importance of peer accountability and empathy. This experience was particularly impactful as it allowed our students to hear directly from older peers, making the message both relatable and credible. Following the session, students demonstrated meaningful reflection and continued to reference the discussion in class conversations, indicating lasting impact and internalization of the lessons shared. This event supports our broader goals around student well-being, school culture, and social-emotional learning, while also strengthening cross-grade community connections and reinforcing positive student leadership

7. Post-Secondary Readiness

a. Officially rolled out our partnership with LevelAll to senior classes at both schools. This represents a step forward in our department-level discussions regarding making our curriculum more robust and expanding our classes' focus from concentrating solely on college prep (applications, college lists etc.). This partnership provides a platform to deepen the work around the transition and soft skills that our students need as they undertake the next steps in their education.

b. Our team has completed the vetting process for a new Student Relationship Management System (SRM) and will be moving forward with OverGrad, pending approval from the principals. This move will align our work further with our goals of providing comprehensive support to students through the application process

c. The addition of these platforms replace Naviance for data management, application transmission, and curriculum, further streamlining the work within our department and making data more readily accessible as our network needs grow.

8. Human Resources

a. **Liability Insurance (Pre-Renewal Meeting)** - Has been set up to discuss this upcoming renewal.

b. **Health Insurance (Pre-Renewal Meeting)** - Will be set up this month to go over claims history and utilization data to understand potential rates for 2026

c. **Relay Partnership** - Working with a rep. to begin a Teacher Residency program and a certification pathway program

d. W-2s were sent out to all employees via regular mail

e. Initiative – Relate Graduate School creating pipelines of training for student teachers for the acquisition of teaching certifications

9. Human Resources Committee

a. The Committee reviewed and approved the new hires.

b. The development of staffing charts for the network and each school was discussed 10. **New**

Hires / New Business:

Moved by Robert Burton and seconded by DeVon Prioleau to approve the appointment of the following for:

a. **AECI 1**

Ashley Garcia - Special Education Teacher

b. **AECI 2**

Kristopher Rosario - Writing Teacher

Sumiya Shahan - Geometry Teacher, Leave Replacement

Approved Unanimously

c. Resolutions

i Memorial Resolution- Isador Duncan

WHEREAS the AECI Charter School Network lost a valued member of the staff on January 3, 2026, with the passing of Isadore Dunbar, and

WHEREAS Isadore Dunbar served more than 18 years at AECI Charter School of Architecture Engineering and Construction Industries (AECI I); and

WHEREAS Isadore Dunbar served with dedication and commitment to the well-being and safety of the faculty, staff and students of AECI I;

WHEREAS Isadore Dunbar's sense of humor, kindness, energy and graciousness enriched those fortunate enough to know and work with him; and

WHEREAS Isadore Dunbar was much loved and respected by his family, friends, co-workers, and many students,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the AECI Charter School Network recognizes the significant contributions of Isadore Dunbar over the course of his career at AECI and mourns his death; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AECI Charter School Network extends its sincerest condolences to Isadore Dunbar's family.

Moved by Paul Comrie; seconded by: Robert Burton Approved Unanimously ii.

Resolution in Recognition & Appreciation of Service - Irma Zardoya

WHEREAS, Irma Zardoya, is a founding member of AECI and has served as Vice-Chair and Chair of the AECI Charter School Network for more than a decade, and

WHEREAS, Irma Zardoya has provided outstanding leadership and guidance to AECI. During her tenure, AECI saw the creation of the New York City Charter High School for Architecture, Engineering and Construction Industries, the creation of the New York City

Charter High School for Computer Engineering and Innovation, the merger of the two schools and the creation of the AECI Charter School Network and the expansion of the Charters of both schools to include a middle school, and

WHEREAS, Irma Zardoya has submitted her resignation as a member of the Board,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Board extends its heartfelt appreciation to Irma Zardoya for her dedication, leadership and service to AECI and its mission.

Moved by **Paul Comrie** Seconded by **Robert Burton**. Approved Unanimously

11. Executive Session

Moved by **Devon Prioleau** seconded by **Greg Kimble** to go into executive session to discuss personnel at **7:45 pm**

Moved by **Paul Comrie**, seconded by **DeVon Prioleau** to return to the record at **8:25pm**

12. Adjournment

Move by **Robert Burton** seconded by **DeVon Prioleau** to adjourn at **8:30pm**. Approved **unanimously**.