

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

**MEETING OF THE BOARD**

Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2021  
Time: 6:00 pm  
Location: VIA REMOTE VIDEO CONFERENCE

1. Welcome Role Call: Present were Carlo Schiattarella, Irma Zardoya, Shameeka González, Alberto Villaman, Paul Comrie, Ricardo Cosme Ruíz

CEO: Derick Spaulding  
Principal AECI I: Colin Healy  
Principal AECI II: Dr. Charles Gallo  
Counsel: Flora Edwards, Esq  
Guest: Josh Moreau, BoostEd

Vice Chairperson Irma Zardoya chaired the meeting at the request of the Chair.

2. Approval of the Minutes of Meeting of December 8, 2021

Moved by Alberto Villaman seconded by Shameeka Gonzalez to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 8, 2021. Approved unanimously.

3. Principal's Report - AECI I

- a. There are 469 students enrolled which includes 116 freshmen. Attendance is at 94.6%
- b. A 95% graduation rate is projected.
- c. More than 1,000 applications to college have already been submitted. There is a marked increase in 4-yr college and private college applications including one early acceptance to NYU.
- d. Saturday Academy starts Saturday, January 16th. Twenty teachers have made the commitment to come in for the next three Saturdays.
- e. COVID testing will be available for students/parents requesting tests. Additional tutoring and counselling sessions have been scheduled. If the environment permits

a full summer session could be planned to engage students following the restrictions imposed due to the COVID pandemic,

- f. Students have been coming to the building for a quiet place to work. More students are coming each week.
- g. Winter Wonderland Celebration was held on December 23, 2020 with 140 students in attendance and received a very positive response from parents. Activities included games, smores, raffles, holiday music.
- h. Recruitment activities for the 2021-22 school year include outreach to middle schools and virtual school visits and a recruitment video.
- i. An esports program has been initiated which involves competitive video gaming playing high schools across the city.

#### 4. Principal's Report - AECI II

- a. There are 215 students currently enrolled for the fall term. The recruitment campaign has begun for the lottery in April, 2021. As of this date there are 160 applications for the Freshman class. Virtual Open House tours are being coordinated for possible incoming students on January 9 and 15. A Virtual tour video is available on our schools website.
- b. Student progress reports were mailed out on December 15. The pass rate is approximately 72.3%.
- c. Attendance is at 93.8% which represents an increase of 5% compared to last month.
- d. Small groups of students have been selected for additional support. As of Monday January 11, students who have expressed the need for a quiet place to learn will be coming into the school building and will log in to complete their online assignments. Chromebooks and headsets will be provided to each student. All PPE safeguards will be in place for staff and students. Food services will provide a light breakfast and cold lunch for all participants.
- e. Because the school is located in a yellow zone, 20% of the students and staff will be selected for random COVID testing. AECI2 has partnered with Brook Avenue Associates to help provide COVID 19 testing for all students and staff. The medical provider offers full service for the community and has informed us that parents will not be charged any fees for their COVID tests performed.
- f. Lehman College Now Program has accepted 10 students in grade 10 for their upcoming spring session. Ten students will take either MAT126 or English III for college credit.

This is the first time 10th grade students were permitted to apply,

- g. Facilities
  - i. The Certificate of Occupancy and Assembly Permit are still pending
  - ii. The Facility is cleaned and disinfected daily.
  - iii. The First floor entry has been enhanced by use of various vinyl wraps.
- h. A grant application has been submitted to T Mobile to reduce the cost of chrome books and hot spots.

5. Academic Committee Report

The Academic Committee held a meeting on Monday, January 11, 2021. The committee continued to review the current key design elements in the charter of both schools and decided to identify five categories for key design elements that aligned to the State's Performance Framework Benchmarks. The goal is to develop some uniform key design elements that both schools share in common while also identifying key design elements that are particular to each school and their theme. The identified areas are:

- a. Teaching & Learning which include (i) Curriculum, (ii) Instruction and (iii) Student Assessment
- b. Supportive Environment for Student Growth & Development
- c. Culture, Climate and Family Engagement
- d. College Readiness
- e. Support for Diversified Learners

The principals will draft each school's planned response to the key design elements and will report back to the Committee.

6. Finance Committee

The Committee met on January 11, 2021, the budget is on target. Budget planning for 2021-22 continues. Meetings will be held with the principals at the beginning of February to continue planning for next year pending an update on the per pupil rate.

7. Facilities Committee

Programming requirements for the new facility was reviewed. The Facility Committee is

scheduled to meet Friday, January 5, 2021 to review the space requirements of the instructional program and academic and student support services as well as the possibility of on-site parking.

8. The New Logo for the AECI Network was discussed. Different designs were reviewed.
9. Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez at 7:55 pm seconded by Paul Comrie to go into Executive Session to discuss real estate. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez at 8:30pm seconded by Carlo Schiattarella to return to the record. Approved unanimously

10. New Business
  - a. Moved by Paul Comrie and seconded by Shameeka Gonzalez that the Chair of the Board represent the AECI Charter School Network on the Board of Friends of AECI. Approved unanimously.
  - b. Moved by Alberto Villaman and seconded by Shameeka Gonzalez to authorize the Chair to execute a Contract with Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers PLLC for engineering services in connection with a subsurface investigation to meet NYCTC requirements at a cost not to exceed \$33,500.
  - c. Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez and seconded by Paul Comrie to authorize the Chair to execute a Contract with Big Apple Testing to take the borings in order to meet the NYCTC requirements at an amount not to exceed \$38,000. Approved Unanimously
  - d. Moved by Paul Comrie and seconded by Shameeka Gonzalez to authorize the Chair to execute a Contract with PVE Engineering for Phase I and Phase II geotechnical services at an amount not to exceed \$29,064.00. Approved unanimously.
  - e. Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez and seconded by Carlo Schiattarella to authorize the Chair to execute a Contract with PVE Engineering for supplemental research at a cost not to exceed \$18,796.85
11. Moved by Alberto Villaman seconded by Shameeka Gonzalez adjourn at 9:00pm. Approved unanimously.