

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

MEETING OF THE BOARD

Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2021
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: VIA REMOTE VIDEO CONFERENCE

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

CEO: Derick Spaulding
Principal AECI I: Colin Healy
Principal AECI II: Dr. Charles Gallo
Counsel: Flora Edwards, Esq
Guests: Josh Moreau, BoostEd
Peter Bachman, JCJ Architecture

2. The Chair reviewed the AECI Meeting Norms which were adopted at the last Board Retreat which include the following:
 - a. Be present; phone on vibrate.
 - b. Be respectful of the opinions of others.
 - c. Be considerate of others when they do not meet expectations.
 - d. School and students should be the only consideration (no personal agendas)
 - e. Encourage communication so that all voices get to be heard,
 - f. Committees should be functional and meet regularly.

The development of an Agenda for the next Board Retreat was discussed.

3. Approval of the Minutes of Meeting of January 12, 2021

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Robert Burton to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 12, 2021. Approved unanimously.

4. Principal's Report - AECI I

- a. There are 468 students enrolled which includes 119 freshmen. Attendance is at 94.1%

- b. The 4 year graduation rate is projected at 95% .
- c. Update on Class of 2021 and 2022 was provided. The end of term pass rate was 79% which reflects an improvement from 76% at the end of Quarter 1. Of the class of 2021, 49% of the graduating class cohort are on track for completing college credits which is a improvement over the past year.
- d. AECI I continues to be in good standing in accordance with NYSED Guidelines as follows:
 - I. 4 Year Graduation Rate: 95%
 - ii. College and Career Rating: 4 out of 4
 - iii. All Regents Exceeded State Average Except Chemistry
- e. Saturday Academy has been running in person sessions for three straight Saturdays with 20 Teachers and 94 Students.
- f. Reopening Plan & COVID Update
 - I. A survey was distributed to parents regarding reopening in March. Based on results received to date (91 responses) , 36% of the parents want in person instruction.
 - ii, Approximately 50% of the staff have received the COVID vaccine,
- g. Recruitment activities for the 2021-22 school year include outreach to middle schools and virtual school visits and a recruitment video, which was shown at the meeting, and a radio spot.

5. Facilities Committee

The Committee met on February 8., 2021. The Concept Design Report for the new facility was disseminated and reviewed by the Committee which recommends that JCJ be authorized to proceed with schematic drawings consistent with the Concept Design Report.

Presentation by Peter Bachmann, JCJ Architecture of the Concept Design Report.

Moved by Ricardo Cosme Ruiz seconded by Paul Comrie to approve the Concept Design Report and authorize JCJ Architecture to proceed with development of schematic drawings consistent with the Concept Design Report. Approved unanimously.

6. Principal's Report - AECI II

- a. There are 267 lottery applications for the fall term. Virtual Open House tours continued this month. The dates for February were February 6th. More open house events are scheduled for March. Open House tours are being performed both online and in person by appointment.
- b. Student report cards were mailed out February 4 to all parents and guardians.
- c. Scholarship report indicates an average pass rate of 80% which reflects performance during Covid.
- d. Midterm exams and mock regents exams were held during the week of February. Daily average attendance for these exams was 97%. Data from the exams will be examined and utilized for planning instruction for the spring semester.
- e. Daily attendance was 94% for the month of January. This is an 8% increase as compared with last January 2020. Total attendance for the year is 91.3%.
- f. Transitional planning has been implemented for all students in an effort to raise awareness of career opportunities. Several online events are in planning stages that will provide students with exposure to career planning and the colleges that provide undergraduate degrees in selected fields.
- g. Home visits were held for 10th grade students who were either excessively absent and had multiple failures. Grade 9 visits will take place this coming week.
- h. For the past month, AECI2 had 15-20 students have been coming to the building and each day to work in a quiet and connected room. Most of them made up missing work and were happy to be in a quiet environment. This will continue through March 15 when we reopen as parents have supported this initiative and it is producing student success.
- I. AECI2 staff have been advised to set up an appointment online to receive the covid vaccine.
- j. Lehman College Now has accepted 10 students in grade 10 for their upcoming spring session. Ten students have registered and are in the program. Dr. Gallo met with them online on February 4 and congratulated them for their dedication to academic excellence. This is the first time 10th grade students were permitted to apply.

k. Facilities

- I. The Certificate of Occupancy and Assembly Permits are still pending
- ii. The Facility is cleaned and disinfected daily.
- iii. Internet and phone service on the first floor is a problem.

- l. A grant application has been submitted to T Mobile to reduce the cost of chrome books and hot spots.

7. Academic Committee Report

The Academic Committee held a meeting on Monday, February 8, 2021. Present were: Colin Healy, Charles Gallo, Derick Spaulding, Irma Zardoya

The team continued to discuss the key design elements for both schools and collaboratively developed a draft explaining our vision for teaching and learning. Each principal will now prepare a draft for their schools using the teaching and learning vision to describe the key design elements of curriculum, instruction and student assessment. They will share their drafts at the next Academic Committee Meeting.

There was discussion about student assessment and how we best assess our students in the absence of NYS Regent's Exams. We will start with the development of a pilot end of year assessment in one or two subjects. Teachers from both schools will work collaboratively to develop this summative assessment to be administered to students in both schools attending the course. We believe that the teacher collaboration between the two schools will foster sharing of curriculum, sharing of best practices and identification of assessment strategies.

8 . Finance Committee

The Committee met on February 8, 2021, meetings are being scheduled with both AECI I and AECI II to refine budget projections for the current year and to inform budget planning for the 2021-22 year. Based on current information available, per pupil funding is projected to remain the same for the coming year. Based on the existing parameters the Committee will consider various approaches to compensation for both instructional and non-instructional personnel and funding for training for non instructional personnel.

9. New Business

a. AECI I - new camera system

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez seconded by Irma Zardoya to authorize the Chair to enter into a 36 month lease with CDC Government for a new camera system at a cost not to exceed \$45,547.70 which was the lowest of three qualified quotes. Approved

unanimously.

- b. AECI II - purchase of Chromebooks, Google platform licenses and hot spots

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez seconded by Ricardo Cosme Ruiz to authorize the purchase of 200 Chromebooks, including Google platform licenses, hot spots, and unlimited data for 1 year from KBS Mobility at a cost not to exceed \$54,173.00 which was the lowest of three quotes for all equipment and internet services.

- 10. Moved by Robert Burton at 8:11 pm seconded by Ricardo Cosme Ruiz to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel and real estate. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Irma Zardoya at 9:20pm seconded by Paul Comrie to return to the record. Approved unanimously

- 11. Moved by Robert Burton seconded by Irma Zardoya to adjourn at 9:30pm. Approved unanimously.