

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

MEETING OF THE BOARD

Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: VIA REMOTE VIDEO CONFERENCE

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

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

2. Approval of the Minutes of Meeting of March 9, 2021

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded Alberto Villaman to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 9, 2021. Approved unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 25, 2021

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Alberto Villaman to approve the minutes of the special meeting of March 25, 2021. Approved unanimously

4. Principal's Report - AECI I

- a. There are 468 students enrolled which includes 119 freshmen. Attendance is at 93.3%. There are 515 9th grade applications of a total of 565 applications for 120 seats for the coming year. The lottery will be held on April 15, 2021.

- b. In-Person Learning Progress

There is an average of 108 students in the building each day. Concerns about COVID are major factors in person attendance. The Instructional Models, including

co-teaching are a major factor in encouraging in person attendance. The challenge of managing expectations for both remote and in-class learning is being addressed.

c. Events

- i. Community Officer Town Hall
- ii. Open House
- iii. SAT Day was held on April 13, 2021 with 85 students took the exam
Senior Events include a meeting with parents regarding the activities and include Tie Dye, Senior BBQ scheduled for June, the Prom is scheduled for June 3 2021, and Graduation is scheduled for June 25, 2021. Students and staff need to be tested for COVID before attending the events and must wear masks.

d. College Applications and Acceptances

Three students have been accepted for the Oppnet Program which provides college preparation activities beginning with the Sophomore Year and through the college acceptance process. There are 90 slots citywide. Three AECI I students have been accepted to the program,

A list of colleges and universities to which graduating seniors have applied was distributed. As of this date, 3 students have been accepted to Syracuse, 1 student to Temple, 3 students to NYU, 1 student to Carnegie Mellon, and 1 student to Pratt University with more acceptances expected in the coming months.

5. Principal's Report - AECI II

- a. There are 215 students currently enrolled with 579 applications for the fall term.
 - Both virtual and in person Open House tours continued through April 9. The February Open House event brought 15 parents into the school for a tour. Many parents knew the school's reputation and gave positive feedback regarding their opinion of the school and its staff. The lottery drawing is scheduled for April 16 at 6:00 pm and will take place live on the first floor building. The event will be recorded and uploaded to the school's website. Attendance is at 92.5%.
- b. Instruction
 - i. NYSED Parent survey links were sent out to parents, teachers, and students for the past 6 weeks. No data has become available as of yet.
 - ii. In-Person/Blended Learning: Grade 9 has 52 students in Blended and 57 in Remote learning. Grade 10 has 51 in Blended and 55 in Remote learning A number of parents switched from one in person cohort (Mon/Wed and

Tues/Thurs) to accommodate changes in work schedule and/or daycare at home. Parents have expressed their appreciation regarding the school's accommodating their request to switch.

- iii. The School counselor is reaching out to parents of students who were failing 2 or more classes and are remaining at home. We discussed the fact that their child needs in person support and highly encouraged them to send their child in for 2 days per week. Some agreed and others said they will wait until report cards come out next week to decide. On Saturday, April 10 teachers were available online for 4 hours to help struggling students get help with 35 students in attendance. A schedule was created and students were mandated to attend the Zoom session. Parents were notified by regular mail and phone outreach that we need their child to attend one or more of these Saturday sessions. In addition the School counselor, Ashley Castellon, contacted the home of student who failed to attend a session.
- iv. The third quarter marking period ends on April 16. Student report cards will go out the week of April 19.
- v. AECI2 staff are continuing vaccinations. So far, only 1 student has tested positive. Because the building was closed for spring break it was not necessarily to suspend classes. The Situation Room was notified and any staff and student who was in proximity of the student was notified in writing.
- vi. AECI2 applied to become part of the Syracuse Project Advance Program for fall 2021. The SUPA classes provide college credit to students earning a grade of C or higher in the online course. This would enable AECI2 to expose students to higher rigor course work and earn college credit prior to graduating.
- vii. In preparing for the upcoming school year, additional equipment to the computer science program will include modular Pi-Tops and robotics equipment for grade 11.

c. Facilities

There was a flood on the first floor building on Tuesday April 6. The building was shut down and students were relocated to the upper floors of the school until the floor dried out.

Neither the Certificate of Occupancy nor the Assembly Permit have been issued.

A new line was installed on the first floor and Internet service has been restored.

d. Grants and Funding

A Dollar General Summer Reading Grant submitted for review. Decisions is anticipated on May 13, 2021.

6. Facilities Committee

The Committee met on April 12, 2021 to review the status of due diligence for the new facility and to discuss future interim space requirements.

7. Academic Committee Report

The Committee met on April 12, 2021.

a. The Committee continued discussion of the development of the key design elements. Five major categories were identified and work continues to articulate the network's vision for each category. The principals of each school developed draft statement of the applicability of each of the key design elements to the school. The Committee is reviewing the drafts and plans to present them at the June board meeting,

b. The pilot network assessment in History has begun. Teachers and administrators of both schools are working together in designing and administering an end of year common assessment in June. This pilot will lead to other network assessments being developed in other subject areas.

8. Finance Committee

a. A Meeting was held on April 13, 2021 to refine budget projections for the current year and to inform budget planning for the 2021-22 year. .

9. New Business

a. AE C I I

I. Purchase of Chrome Books

Moved by Alberto Villaman seconded by Shameeka Gonzalez to approve the purchase of 500 Chromebooks from CDW, the lowest of three quotes, at a cost not to exceed \$117,500. Approved unanimously.

ii. New Hire

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Shameeka Gonzalez to hire Ryan Brogan to teach mathematics. Approved unanimously.

b. AECI II

Purchase of PiTops and Robotics Accessories

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Robert Burton to authorize the purchase of a new modular design Pi Tops and Robotics accessories for student use from Tequipment, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$22,867.50 which includes \$20,117.50 in materials and \$1,750.00 in professional development and training. Because of the proprietary nature of the equipment, Tequipment, Inc. is the sole source authorized distributor in the region and therefore there were no other quotes. Approved unanimously.

10. Moved by Robert Burton and seconded by Irma Zardoya at 7:15pm to go into executive session to discuss contracts and real estate.

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Robert Burton at 9:24pm to return to the record

11. New Business - Salary Increases 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 Irma Zardoya seconded Robert Burton. Approved unanimously

12. Moved by Robert Burton seconded by Alberto Villaman to adjourn at 9:30pm. Approved unanimously.