

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

**MEETING OF THE BOARD**

Date: Tuesday, November 9, 2021  
Time: 6:00 pm  
Location: remote video conference

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

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

2. Approval of Minutes of October 12, 2021

Moved by Paul Comrie and seconded by Irma Zardoya to approve the Minutes of October 12, 2021. Approved unanimously

3. Principal's Report - AECI I

- a. There are 466 students enrolled which includes 119 Freshmen. Attendance is 89.7%.
- b. Academic Initiatives. The following academic policies were initiated to support the goal of increasing pass rates and the timeliness of students submitting work:
  - i. The end of the 1st Quarter was Friday, November 5th. It is anticipated that pass rates will be similar to pre-pandemic periods.
  - ii. Preparations are under way for midterm examination scheduled for the end of January. The midterm examinations will mirror the Regents exams.
  - iii. Progress reports will be issued to provide students with a reminder of the final deadline for submission of work before the progress report deadline.
- c. School Activities
  - i. Pep Rally

To kick off the sports season, during lunch periods students attended a celebration in the gym. All of the AECI student athletes were introduced to the school, a drumline composed of teachers and students was present, and athletes performed trick plays and shots.

ii. Spanish Heritage Month

Spanish Heritage Month concluded with a food festival in the gym during lunch periods. Students and staff brought in traditional food to accompany the music and decorations. Tickets were sold to the event. Approximately \$500 were raised for the end of year senior scholarships.

iii Spirit Week

The theme for each day was designed to support school pride. Days included Superhero Day, Color Wars, and Pajama Day.

iv. Homecoming Dance was held on Friday evening in the school gym. Over 125 students attended. Event was chaperoned by four teachers and the entire deans office and security staff.

v. Upcoming Thanksgiving Celebration

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, which is the last day before Thanksgiving break, students will participate in a special Thanksgiving celebration in the cafeteria, with extra food and desserts.

vi. Student Council elections will take place next week with our first ever student debate during Town Halls.

4. Principal's Report AECI 2

- a. Enrollment - 325 students are currently enrolled.
- b. Attendance is 87%. Follow-up calls for student absences are done every day by 10:00 am. In addition, activities designed to promote attendance were identified.
- c. The School continues to receive applications for the April 2022 lottery through Schola. The school participated in a special high school fair at the ICAHN Academy. Over 125 applications were distributed in four hours. Two Open House events were held at the campus for potential students on October 14 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm and on October 23 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Both events had positive outcomes and parents

were impressed with the school facility. As of the date of the meeting, 100 applications are in process which is a good early start to the recruitment process.

d. Academics:

- i. Student report cards will be issued Wednesday, November 10, 2021.
- ii. Parent Teacher conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, November 10 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm and 6:00-8:00 pm. Parents were notified by email and by phone massager.
- iii. Students were instructed to submit all missing or incomplete assignments by Friday, November 5.. Students identified as failing two or more classes will be invited to participate in our X Period sessions beginning the week of November 15 scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays through January 21, which is the week before Regents.

e. School Activities

- i. Student Government elections were held in October. The newly elected officers are President Christopher Urena; Vice President,. Jennifer Addai; Treasurer, Jacqueline Addai. . Tenth Grade representatives are Cloudy Lopez and Juliana Valerio. Ninth grade representatives are Kylia Jones and Joel Klousse.
- ii. The AECI2 first annual Block Party was held on Friday, November 5 with 275 students in grades 9-11. Guests included the United States Marine Corp, NYC Health and Hospitals, Community Affairs Division of the NYCPD representative Carmen Tejada, James Dobbins III Director Guns Down, Life Up Initiatives, and others.

f. School Facilities Report

- i. The Walker Memorial Church along with their architects/engineers visited the school campus last week and performed a walkthrough.
- ii. The P/A system has been ordered and will be installed as soon as it is delivered. There is an additional component for a bell system which is on

back order.

g. Grants & Funding

- i. The school was awarded a Hyde and Watson Grant for \$13,700 to provide funding for the purchase of new science lab furniture and equipment for student use.
- ii. The school received an ECF Grant for \$84,498.75 which will be utilized to purchase more student chrome books and hotspots for students to sign out and use at home.

5. Academic Affairs Committee

The Academic Committee met on October 25, 2021 to review the work of prior meetings .

The need for an after action assessment process was discussed. A joint meeting to begin a conversation with teachers from both schools is planned.

Given the probability of a moratorium on the state wide examinations, a focus is required on the development of uniform assessment tools which accurately reflects student progress.

The resources needed to promote success in post-secondary education was discussed.

Use of ARP-ESSER Funding to maximize effectiveness was discussed,

6. Finance Committee

The Committee met on November 8, 2021. The budget modification process was discussed. The bonding process for the new facility was reviewed. The budget is on target in comparison with the projections.

7. Old Business:

Resumes for a Human Resources Director were reviewed. A protocol for review of resumes and interviews has been developed.

8. New Business: AECI II

a. New Hires

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez and seconded by Alberto Villaman to hire:

Ricardo Longo Minervino

Computer Science Teacher

Nichol Crooks

Science/Living Environment

Approved Unanimously

9. Executive Session

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Shameeka Gonzalez at 7:04 pm to go into Executive Session to discuss real estate. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Paul Comrie seconded by Shameeka Gonzalez at 7:41 pm to return to the record. Approved unanimously

10. Adjournment

Moved by Alberto Villaman seconded by Paul Comrie at 7:50pm to adjourn, Approved unanimously.