

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

MEETING OF THE BOARD

Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2022
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: remote video conference

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

CEO: Derick Spaulding
Principal AECI I: Colin Healy
Principal AECI II: Derick Spaulding (Acting)
Counsel: Flora Edwards, Esq.
Guest: AECI I PTO President Gregory Kimble
Santi Taveras

2. Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2022 as corrected

Moved by Alberto Villaman and seconded by Shameeka Gonzalez to approve the Minutes of January 11, 2022 as corrected. Approved unanimously

3. Principal's Report - AECI I

- a. There are 464 students enrolled which includes 119 Freshmen. Attendance is at 86%.

- b. COVID Update

Over the past 14 days there has only been one reported COVID case.

- c. Academics

- i. Semester grade results were distributed to the Board for review.

- ii. 10th grade students will begin Autocad. Implementation which was postponed because of the pandemic.

- iii. The 3D printing lab is now fully operational with a 3D Printer. Students are engaged in a 3D modeling activity to redesign the cafeteria using a scale model of the cafeteria.

iv. Saturday Academy classes are scheduled to begin the week of February 22nd and mandatory x periods have been increased.

d. School Activities

I. A Committee of teachers and students was formed to plan the activities and lessons for the Black History Month which include:

i.i The National Honor Society students will be teaching a Black History lesson to the 2nd block of the ELA 9 classes.

i.ii A trip to Albany for students to see *Courage: The Black Struggle for Quality Education Exhibit* at the New York State Museum.

i.iii A bake sale of authentic Southern desserts

i.iv A door decorating contest which showcases prominent black figures, and important events reflecting the black diaspora.

i.v Black portraiture activity in which students will identify historical and contemporary black figures and depict them using portraiture

i.vi Hip Hop Lesson which provides students with an analysis of how Hip-hop is seen in the academic world and provides students with an opportunity to talk about their favorite mainstream/ indie hip-hop artists through a historical lense

ii. School Store

The school store has reopened and will fund ten \$1,000 scholarships for our graduating seniors. Seniors can apply for academic scholarships or Core Value scholarships.

e. Professional Development

On January 31st, all guards had a full day of professional development. Guards engaged in verbal de-escalation training, a session on how to infuse the AECI Core Values in their work, and a meeting with Student Council to hear their views regarding how students like to be communicated with in the building.

4. _____ Principal's Report AECI 2

- a. Enrollment - 310 students are currently enrolled with approximately 300 students on the wait list. Attendance is 78%. Attendance is improving with attendance on February 8, 2022 at 92%. The School continues recruitment for the 2022-23 school year.
- b. COVID Update
 - i. One substantiated teacher specific Covid case and three students that informed us of their positive results from an outside testing agency have been report for the past month. We have shifted to reflect a 5 day quarantine with a positive case
 - ii. We have three shifts of cleaning services sanitizing during and after school to ensure the building is clean. We remain diligent about our masking, services, protocols for healthy environment
 - iii. Our return rapid tests have been very successful in catching asymptomatic and symptomatic cases
 - iv. We are almost prepped with a one-to-one chromebook program to ensure if do go out on remote, everything remains consistent
- c. Academics
 - I. Professional Development activities is focused on resetting school expectations, vision out student success, staff relations, student crisis management and credit recovery.
 - ii. The mock regents week was successful. Results will be used for 3rd quarter grades.
 - iii. Grade reports were distributed to the Board for review and discussion
 - iv. We have an established x-period for extra support Tuesday and Thursdays
 - v. A social emotionally support system to reinvent detention was established.
 - vi Recruitment of additional staff is on-going.

d. Facilities

- I. The quality of cleaning services was discussed
- ii. Space requirements for the coming are a priority.

e. School Events

- I. On January 13 the school held a family college night for juniors and parents. The program focused on the importance of financial planning for college and included in English and Spanish on tax preparation and a discussion of the outline of the FASFA process and mapping the college preparation process from now until graduation
- ii. The Saturday Academic bootcamp was aimed at getting students to complete late and missing assignments to improve their academic standing. Almost 25% of our student body attended
- iii. Due to the snowstorm a second Academic bootcamp was held virtually
- iv. Black history month is featured in our daily lesson delivery, school decorations and planning of events
- v Other events include College swag Thursdays, basketball, soccer and volleyball games and the upcoming Winter Ball.

5. Academic Affairs Committee

A meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee will be scheduled for Monday, February 15, 2022.

6. Personnel Committee

A meeting of the Committee will be scheduled within the next two weeks

7. New Business

 a. New Hires AECI I

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Ricardo Cosme Ruiz to hire the following:

Johanna Enger

ELA Teacher

_____ Approved unanimously

b. AECI I Contract Revision

WHEREAS on December 14, 2021, the Board authorized a contract with Taurino for renovation to St Peter's and St, Paul in an amount not to exceed \$155,356.00; and,

WHEREAS, this amount including the electric work to be performed but inadvertently omitted the cost of demolition and carpentry at an additional cost of \$89,108;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the resolution entered December 14, 2021 be amended to authorize the Chair to enter in to a contract with Taurino Management, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$244,464.00 .

Moved by Irma Zardoya and seconded Alberto Villaman. Approved unanimously.

b. AECI II Appointment of Santi Taveras -

Whereas, AECI II's Principal, Charles Gallo, has tendered his resignation; and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees (the "Board") believes an outstanding principal is a key to achieving the mission of the School; and

Whereas, following multiple interviews and careful review, the Board has determined that Santi Taveras' experience and proven leadership ability will have a beneficial, positive impact on the academic achievement of the School's students; and

Whereas, the Board desires that Mr. Taveras undertake, and Mr. Taveras agrees to undertake, the role of the educational and administrative leader at the School and to fully support the philosophy, mission and curriculum of the School and to work with the staff, parents and children of the School and the Board, to achieve these ends.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, the Chair of the Board be, and herein is, authorized to enter into a one-year contract with Santi Taveras as Principal of AECI II subject to review of counsel.

Moved by Alberto Villaman seconded by Irma Zardoya approved unanimously.

c. AECI II - New Hires

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Alberto Villaman to hire the following:

Maya Victoria	9th Grade Guidance Counselor
Danielle Kingsbury	10th Grade Writing
Tina Baffoe	Special Education
Jazmin Echevarria	Parent Coordinator
Enia Ivelisse Ogando	Cleaning Services
Yaniny Ceprin Ortega	Cleaning Services

Approved unanimously

10. Executive Session

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Alberto Villaman at 7:27 pm to go into Executive Session to discuss real estate. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Alberto Villaman seconded by Irma Zardoya at 8:03pm to return to the record. Approved unanimously

11. Adjournment

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Alberto Villaman at 8:15pm to adjourn, Approved unanimously.