

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

MEETING OF THE BOARD

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

1. Welcome Role Call: Present were Carlo Sciattarella, Irma Zardoya, Shameeka Gonzalez, Paul Comrie

CEO: Derick Spaulding
Principal AECI I: Colin Healy
Principal AECI II: Santi Taveras
Counsel: Flora Edwards, Esq.
Guest: AECI I PTO President Gregory Kimble
BoostEd - Josh Moreau

2. Approval of Minutes of February 8, 2022

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Shameeka Gonzalez to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 8, 2022. Approved unanimously.

3. CEO Report

- a. School leadership is discussing strategies to reflect a more qualitative lens of school progress at the Board meeting was discussed.
- b. With two experienced principals at the helm, both schools are exploring the development of short term and long term leadership from within.
- c. Both schools are considering the guiding principles for the theme aspects of each school including outcome certifications tied to the school's theme.
- d. School leadership is discussing how to provide anecdotal qualitative evidence of school progress.
- e. Suggested topics for the Spring Board retreat are being considered.
- f. Progress is being made in the search for a candidate to fill the position of HR Director with a report to be made at the next Board meeting

4. Principal's Report - AECI I

- a. There are 460 students enrolled which includes 118 Freshmen. Attendance is 88.5%.
- b. COVID Update

Over the past 14 days there have been two reported COVID cases. In accordance with NYC guidance, masks are now optional at AECI and teachers may arrange desks in quads.

- c. Academics

- i. Evaluation of a curriculum for ELA which has been tested and led to over 90% Regents pass rate and over 95% SUPA pass rate. A timeline for implementation to insure proper coordination. A plan is being developed to assess outcomes of the coaching process on a weekly, monthly, and yearly basis.
- ii. Action plans are being developed by grade team leaders who are tasked with overseeing the Mock Regents process. Over the past few months, Kid Talk meetings have been chaired by the team leaders.
- iii. Efforts to ensure that students submit work in a more timely manner include identification of Progress Reports as an official deadline to submit work which means that that students now have 8 deadlines throughout the year to keep them on task.
- iv. The first of two Saturday Academies were held in anticipation of the 3rd Quarter Progress Report which will be issued on March 15, 2022. 92 students attended this past Saturday which is marked increase from Saturday Academies in the past that were held this early in the Spring
- v. 11th Grade Advisories are focused on the post-secondary process including providing students with an opportunity to review their transcripts and reflect on how best to achieve their post-secondary goals.
- vi. PSATs will be administered to all 10th graders on March 23rd
- vii. Mock Regents are scheduled for the last week in March to all students scheduled to take Regents exams in June. Work in content teams has begun on creating these exams and reviewing the scoring process for the Regents. Content leaders are taking the lead designing and implementing the exams.

- vii. The second round of formal observations are in progress .
- d. School Activities
- i. Spirit Week: Themed Days will culminate in a school dance on Friday March 18th.
 - ii. A trip to Dave and Busters for honor students is scheduled for the week of March 14, 2022.
 - iii. A Junior class trip to the Center of Architecture is being planned for later in March.
 - iv, Senior Trips include Ice Skating scheduled for the week of March 8, 2022.
 - v. Parent Teachers Conferences are scheduled for March 15th.
 - vi. A dinner was held for the valedictorian and the salutatorian at which parents and friends were invited.
5. Principal's Report AECI 2
- a. Enrollment - 307 students are currently enrolled with approximately 300 students on the wait list. Attendance is 85.7%. An attendance meeting is scheduled every other week to identify students that are chronically absent. The team reviews the data and provides feedback on what next steps to implement for each student being discussed
 - b. COVID Update
No covid cases have been reported during the last month. In accordance with NYC guidance, masks are not required but students are encouraged to wear masks. Teachers may now arrange classroom furniture in small groups, aligned to the activity/lesson
 - c. Academics
 - i. Virtual PSAT/SAT prep classes are scheduled for March 12th and 19th in anticipation of administration of the PSAT/SAT for 10th and 11th grade students on March 23rd.
 - ii.. The administrative team meets weekly and addresses events coming up. This week topics included the upcoming Parent /Teacher Conferences, the administration of the PSAT/SAT.
 - d. Professional Development
 - i. The February 28th professional development program focussed on dealing with students in crisis, using the Cornell University Therapeutic Crisis Intervention model which included on pain-based behaviors and how to

identify student triggers and strategies on how to approach and support students in crisis.

- ii. The Social Emotional Team Meeting occurs every Friday and focuses on identifying students that may be at risk or possibly experiencing trauma. The meeting is facilitated by the counselors and the student support staff member. The group discusses the student, the behaviors and review strategies on how to best support each student

c. School Events

- i. An Award Ceremony was held on March 4th
- ii. Restorative Saturdays are scheduled for March 12th and 19th which provides students with an opportunity to examine their conduct and explore alternative responses.
- iii. The evening of March 12th a school dance was held from 5:00pm to 9:00pm
- iv. Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for March 17, 2022 from 2:00 - 4:00 PM & 6:00 to 8:00 PM
- v. A trip to three colleges is scheduled for March 31 to April 1.
- vi. The first weekly parent newsletter was distributed on Sunday night and received a positive response, This practice, which will continue, is directed at improving communication between the school and the families.
- vii. The video monitor in the Lobby profiles students on the honor roll, Restorative Saturdays and Award Ceremony The display is designed to serve as an incentive to students and staff by highlighting student work and celebrate achievement.
- viii. The next PTO meeting is scheduled for March 15. 2022

6. Academic Affairs Committee

A meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee was held on March 1, 2022. The following topics were discussed:

- a. Revisions to the dashboard to reflect longitudinal data.
- b. Standardization of year end assessments in the various subject areas across both schools was discussed.

- c. The targeted use for the additional funding allocated to both schools was discussed.
 - d. Revision of the key design elements along with other aspects of the charter and the evaluation rubrics were reviewed with a view to a possible revision of the Charter prior to renewal.
7. Finance Committee
- a. A meeting of the committee is scheduled for the week of March 14, 2022. Financial reports were distributed to committee members.
 - b. An initial draft of the 2022-23 budget has been prepared and will be reviewed with the CEO and the Principals prior to submission to the Finance Committee and the board for approval.
 - c. The availability of a new federal grant was discussed.

8. Facilities Committee

- a. Additional space is being explored for AECI 2 for the coming academic year.

9. Personnel Committee

The Committee met on Thursday, March 3, 2022 and discussed the transition of the new principal and the progress on the search for the HR Director.

10. New Business

a. AECI I Contract Revision

WHEREAS on February 8, 2022, the Board authorized a contract with Taurino Construction Management for renovation to St Peter's and St, Paul in an amount not to exceed \$244,464.00; and,

WHEREAS, additional electrical work and new HVAC units were required, a change order request in the amount of \$16,663.83 was presented for approval; and,

WHEREAS, in order to meet the deadline for completion of the work and in light of the impact of the additional work on the sequence of construction, authorization was requested to proceed with the work identified in the change order pending Board approval; and,

WHEREAS, delaying the performance of the work would have resulted in increased costs requiring demobilization and remobilization at a future date in order to perform the work and complete the project, it is hereby

RESOLVED that the Chair of the Board be authorized to issue payment on Change Order No. #1 of the contract between AECI and Taurino Construction Management

in an amount not to exceed \$16,683.33.

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Paul Comrie. Approved unanimously.

12. Executive Session

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Paul Comrie at 7:38 pm to go into Executive Session to discuss real estate. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Irma Zardoya seconded by Shameeka Gonzalez at 8:07pm to return to the record. Approved unanimously

13. Adjournment

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