

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

**MEETING OF THE BOARD**

Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2022  
Time: 6:00 pm  
Location: remote video conference

1. Welcome Role Call: Present were Carlo Sciattarella, Irma Zardoya, Shameeka Gonzalez, Alberto Villaman

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

2. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez seconded by Alberto Villaman to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 8, 2022. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Alberto Villaman seconded by Shameeka Gonzalez to approve the minutes of the special meeting of March 29, 2022. Approved unanimously.

3. CEO Report

- a. Work continues on building internal capacity and identifying the events which impact student progress
- b. Preparations are under way for State mid-term visit for each school scheduled for the end of April.
- c. The impact of of college visits on student perceptions and aspirations was discussed
- d. The impact of the HR consultant on the management of HR issues, the search for an HR Director was reviewed as well as a review of the handbook and policies in order to insure that we are up to date and in compliance. The next step is training to support proper HR investigations when required.

- e. Planning has started for summer school and the 2022-23 calendars including staffing/program needs.
- f. A Network Advertisement program is being developed and was piloted in the catchment areas of both schools in both English and Spanish with the goal of increasing the ESL population..

4.. Principal's Report - AECI I

- a. There are 456 students enrolled which includes 118 Freshmen. Attendance is 88.8%. Ms. Rivera is in the process of creating Power Point and Excel presentations with relevant data for the biweekly attendance meetings in order to focus on the patterns of attendance by grade and by students.

- b. COVID Update

Over the past 30 days there have been two reported COVID cases.

- c. Academics

- i. ELA Curriculum Coach:

The new curriculum coach teacher has been working with the ELA Department on how to norm and score our mock Regents exams and has been coordinating the Regents prep plan with teachers and will help administration with ensuring it is implemented correctly. 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 time line for implementation to insure proper coordination is being developed as well as a plan to assess outcomes of the coaching process on a weekly, monthly, and yearly basis.

- ii. The first Mock Regents week was held this past month. The purpose of the exercise is to simulate actual Regents conditions; students took full-length exams that counted for their grades. The data that teachers received was invaluable but the impact on students was most important as none of them have taken Regents before. The conditions and culture of the week provided an opportunity for student to understand the importance of class work and preparation to the outcome of the actual Regents,

d. School Activities

- i. Syracuse University Trip: 45 juniors enrolled in our dual-credit Syracuse University program will be taking an overnight trip to Syracuse University and Ithaca University on May 16th-17th. The goal of the trip is for students to actually visit the campus and make a real connection with the institution in which they are currently enrolled. On April 12, 2022 a mandatory meeting for parents in advance of the trip was held to explain expectations
- ii. Career Day: On May 18th AECI will host Career Day in the gymnasium which will feature twenty professionals from a robust selection of careers. Students will have preparatory lessons in Advisory.
- iii. Decision Day: On May 27th, AECI will hold its annual Decision Day at which students will announce their post-secondary decisions. In addition, the winners of the Core Value Scholarships will be announced. The day will feature carnival type games and activities following the event
- iv. The Lottery for 2022-2023 school year was held on April 11, 2022. The winners were notified today. There were 713 applications for 125 seats.
- v. Parent Teacher Conferences were held on March 15th.
- vi. April marks the beginning an attendance initiative. Along with posters and other messaging stressing the importance of attendance, students who have perfect attendance will be rewarded with raffles and luncheons, and specific students per grade level will be targeted with rewards for perfect attendance over two week intervals.

5. Principal's Report AECI 2

- a. Enrollment - 313 students are currently enrolled with approximately 300 students on the wait list. Attendance is 85.7%.
- b. COVID Update  
No covid cases have been reported during the last month.
- c. Academic Status Report

The Scholarship data for AECI 2 shows a slight less than one percent increase in the total class pass rate from 2019-20 to this current school year 2021-22, from 81.55% to 82.20% passing this current school year. ELA, Math, Science and social studies content areas show a dip in the second year, and an increase the third year. Regents' results are unavailable due to the cancellation of the Regents during COVID. In preparation for the possible resumption of the Regents' exams in June, we have administered mock Regents' exams in all the relevant content areas this past January.

The expectation is that students will be familiar with the test format and develop the necessary skills to sit for the exam in June. In terms of Credit Accumulation, 76 of the 94 Juniors have at least 25.5 credits and are on track for graduation for a Regents' Diploma.

- d. PSAT/SAT- First administration of the PSAT/SAT for our 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders. On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, our students had an opportunity to take the College Board practice SAT and the SAT. Results are expected within the next few weeks. Mr. Mastrocola scheduled all of the students for the PSAT/SAT test. He was able to take into consideration the needs of ENL and SWD students and program them accordingly. He took responsibility for ordering test materials, covering walls, packaging the tests and materials and all other areas around the implementation of the test
- e. Credit Recovery Program - March 29<sup>th</sup> marked the beginning of the credit recovery program for students who did not pass the first two Quarters using a new credit recovery system - Edmentum Platform. In preparation for the implementation of the system, Ms. Guzman met with the Edmentum representative., gathered student grade information for the first two quarters, met with the counselors, created the classes, assigned the teachers and the students to the classes and along with the Edmentum representative, she also did the training with the staff on how to use the Edmentum platform. Students have until June 3<sup>rd</sup> to complete their assigned tasks.
- f. Our Student Support team implemented the Yondr Pouch system where students receive a pouch to store their cell phone. The pouch is sealed with a magnet and students carry the pouch with their phone throughout the day. At the end of the day, staff opens the pouch, and the students have access to their cell phones. The rollout of the pouches has been relatively successful with just a few students testing the pouch and the no cell use policy.
- g. Weekly emails are disseminated to staff, students and parents which provide information regarding events at the school and reinforce our shared commitment to the academic success of our students.
- h. Computer Studies b- Curriculum development meetings are on-going with the three computer teachers to develop a series of computer courses .
- i. School Events
  - i. Jazz Museum in Harlem- On March 30<sup>th</sup>, a group of twenty 9<sup>th</sup> grade students traveled by to the Harlem Jazz Museum. The students had a wonderful learning experience and some delicious soul food.

- ii. College Visits - Forty AECI 2 eleventh grade students experienced their first overnight trip from March 30- April 1st to Utica College, Syracuse University and Oswego College. Students toured the campus of each school and attended information sessions where they asked questions and received information about the college/university. .
- iii Book Club - The first meeting of the Book Club was held on April 1st. with over 30 students in attendance. The first book for discussion was The Ace of Spades which deals with many current issues including racial and LGTB discrimination. The club will meet weekly.

6. Academic Affairs Committee

A meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee is scheduled for May, 2022.:

7. Finance Committee

- a. A meeting of the committee was held on March 21, 2022. Draft budgets were reviewed by the Principals with a view to finalizing the budgets for each school for the 2022-23. school year for both schools.
- b. Renewal of Boosted Agreement 2022-23

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez seconded by Alberto Villaman to extend the contract to BoostEd for the provision of accounting and financial support services to AECI I and AECI II for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 at a cost not to exceed \$238,800. Approved Unanimously.

8. Facilities Committee

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

9. Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee met to review HR issues and to he need for a HR Consultant to assist in the progress of the search for an HR Director .

10. New Business

a. New Hires AECI I

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez seconded by Alberto Villaman to hire the following:

Rosse Mary Molina ELA and Teach for America  
Ousmane Diop ELA and Teach for America  
Shannel Tomlinson Phys Ed/ Health

Approved Unanimously

b. New Board Member - Election of Gregory Kimble to the Board

Moved by Alberto Villaman seconded by Shameeka Gonzalez

The AECI CHARTER SCHOOL NETWORK Board of Trustees, having conducted a thorough criminal history record check via fingerprinting which is deemed acceptable by NYSED, and having discovered no State or federal criminal history, or having provided information regarding such history to NYSED, if found, and having verified that any academic and/or professional credential or qualification presented by the proposed member is genuine, and having reviewed the application in its entirety, has voted to select GREGORY KIMBLE as a member to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on April 12, 2027, pending approval by NYSED. The resolution approving GREGORY KIMBLE is adopted upon NYSED's approval.

Unanimously approved.

11. Executive Session

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez seconded by Alberto Villaman at 7:25 pm to go into Executive Session to discuss real estate. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Shameeka Gonzalez seconded by Alberto Villaman at 7:42pm to return to the record. Approved unanimously

13. Adjournment

Moved by Alberto Villaman seconded by Shameeka Gonzalez at 7:49pm to adjourn, Approved unanimously.