AECI CHARTER SCHOOL NETWORK
838 Brook Avenue
Bronx, New York

MEETING OF THE BOARD

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2025
Time: 6pm
Location: 116 E. 169 Street
Bronx, New York

1. **Welcome Role Call**: Present were Irma Zardoya, Shameeka Gonzalez, Peter Quiñones, Devon Prioleau, Gregory Kimble, Paul Comrie.

   Chief Executive Officer Derick Spaulding
   Human Resources Director Hector Rodriguez
   AECI HR/Payroll Assistant Veronica Echevarria
   Director of Post Secondary Lauren Quigley
   Principal AECI I HS Colin Healy
   Principal AECI I Middle School Tyra Williams
   Principal AECI II Santiago Taveras
   Assistant Principal AECI II Christopher Mastrocola
   Josh Moreau Boost Ed

   Guest: No guests

2. **Approval of Minutes of February 11th, 2025**

   Moved by Gregory Kimble; seconded by Shamika Gonzalez to approve the minutes of February 11, 2025. Approved unanimously

3. **CEO Report**

   a. Update on AECI Network Building process

      i. Moving forward with the new Annex location for ACE2.

   b. Update on Grant writing to secure options for Network

      i. Grant writer will potentially secure grants and qualify for other grants

4. **Post Secondary Report**

   a. Admissions Update

      i. Student Interviews: Students interviewing at Stanford, MIT, Yale, Duke, Smith College, MHC, Lehman Honors, Fordham

ii. Admissions Highlights: Hampshire College, Syracuse University (2x), Fordham University, University of Connecticut (3x), Drexel (4x), RPI, RIT.

b. Scholarship Program Updates

i. Gates Scholarship finalist, Jack Kent Cooke Semifinalist, Handler Scholarship University of Rochester, Coronet Scholars at Syracuse

c. Financial Aid Update

i. AECI 1 - 66% FASFA Completion

ii. AECI 2 - 63% FASFA Completion

d. Education Updates

i. Opportunity Program budget cuts- supports underserved students across N.Y State

- Governor Hochul has proposed a 4.3% cut to OP funding
- A $2.2 million reduction would directly impact the students we serve

e. New Deal for CUNY- aimed at reversing decades of underfunding and protect the quality of education at CUNY

i. Adjust ratios of full time faculty and staff to students

ii. Align ratios of mental health counselors and academic advisors to national standards

iii. Make CUNY Free: Eliminate undergraduate tuition and fees for in-state undergraduate students

5. **Human Resources Report**

a. Compensation Survey

i. Report has been released. Being reviewed by Principals, CEO, CFO and HR Committee

b. Instructional/Non-Instructional Staff Increases

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i.Currently being reviewed with Principals, CEO and CFO in preparation for renewal letters for the 2025-2026 S.Y.

c. BankStreet Teacher Recruitment Fair

i. Middle school recruitment efforts are underway. The fair had low turnout with candidates looking for early childhood programs.

d. Liability Insurance Pre-Renewal

i.Liability insurance applications are being reviewed and submitted by March 30, 2025.

e.Health Insurance Renewal -

i.Met with broker and CFO to go over claims and increase projections. Communication will go out to the Network of potential changes to healthcare plans.

6. **Principal's Report - AECI I**

a. Enrollment - 119 9th Grade Students, 470 Students enrolled.

b. Midterms

i.First joint midterm with AECI2

c. Professional Development

i. Review of Midterm data.

e.Black History Month

Instruction	School Culture	Trips
Lessons from NHS. -All contents had BHM Lessons with associated bulletin boards	-Door Decorating Contest -Day of the Arts -Princess and the Frog Movie -Food Festival	-Trip to the Apollo Theatre

f. Events

i. Pep Rally

ii. Ramadan Begins

iii. Literacy Month Planning

7. **Principal's Report AECI II**

a. Enrollment - Students - Freshmen 107, Sophomores 120, Juniors 106, and Seniors 110: Total: 443

b. Attendance for February dipped 27% due to weather & vacations.

c. Academics

i. Graduation Projection 90% - Added a class to help 8 at risk seniors graduate.

ii. Adding 9 Mercy University credits

d. Lottery - 690 applicants

e. Events

i. Black History month door decorating competition

ii. Renaissance Exams

iii. Food Tastings: Butter Beans Wins!

iv. Dominos Tournament

v. Annual African American Reading

vi. Honor Roll Celebration

vii. New York Edge Partnership Has Started

viii. ESL Classes for Parents

8. **Principal's Report AECI I Middle School**

a. MS Enrollment Applications

i. 62 Applications as of 3-10-25

b. Recruitment Efforts

i. Final open House Saturday, March 22nd.

ii. Vanguard Mailing to the following zip codes 10451 - 10456.

iii. Bronx Community Board 1 will visit AECI 1 on Wednesday, March 19th.

iv. AECI will present at the Bronx Community Board 1 meeting on Thursday, March 27th at 6pm.

v. Invited families from Choice Charter School to our virtual

open houses scheduled for Thursday, 3/6 and Tuesday, 3/11.

c. Hiring - Working with Hector to finalize postings for positions for the middle school. 4 teachers, 1 counselor, 1 administrative assistant, 1 associate dean.

d. Curriculum Orders

i. ordered (via FAMIS) our science curriculum (Amplify) and math curriculum (Desmos Math via Amplify).

ii. In the process of ordering ELA curriculum (HMH).SS will be via DOE and is called Passport.

e. MS Logistics - Continued weekly meeting with AECI Leadership team to brainstorm scheduling, staff (shared), space, etc.

9. **New Appointments**

N/A

10. **New Business**

11. **HR Committee**

N/A

12. **Resolutions**

1. 136 EAST 169TH STREET LEASE BRONX, NEW YORK

WHEREAS, AECI 2 requires additional space to accommodate the School's growing population and emerging needs; and

WHEREAS, AECI 2 has identified suitable facilities at 136 East 169th Street which are in close proximity to the School's 116 East 169th Street location

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that

The Chair of the Board is hereby authorized to execute a lease with Grand Concourse Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Greater New York Corporation of Seventh Day Adventists in accordance with the following provisions:

1. Term: March I, 2025 to June 30, 2025; from July I, 2025 to June 30, 2026; and

from July 2, 2026 to June 30 2027 with the options to renew from July I, 2027 to June 30, 2028; July 1,2028 to June 30, 2029; from July I, 2029 to December 31, 2029.

2. Rent: $12,000.00 per annum for the first year with annual increases of 4% per annum for each year thereafter

Moved by Paul Comrie Seconded by Devon Prioleau

2. Authorization of Engagement of Grant Writer

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has authorized the Chief Executive Officer to engage the services of a qualified grant writer to develop and submit grant proposals on behalf of The AECI Charter School Network, with the goal of securing funding to enhance the capacity of the Schools to serve our students and further that the CEO be responsible for selecting a grant writer based on their experience, expertise, and proposed fees, in accordance with AECI's budget and procurement guidelines, and

WHEREAS, Metis Associates has demonstrated that it has the background, capacity and experience to provide grant writing services to AECI

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Chair of the Board be, and hereby is, authorized to enter into an agreement with Metis Associates to provide grant writing services at a cost not to exceed FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS subject to review of Counsel.

Moved by Gregory Kimble Seconded by Shameeka Gonzalez

3. School Calendar

Moved by Devon Prioleau Seconded Peter Quiñones to approve the School Calendar for the 2025-26 Academic Year.

13. **Facilities Committee**

To be discussed in Executive Session

14. Academic Committee

a. Common assessment test

i. Both schools developed and administered ELA & Living Environment assessment tests.

b. Discussed having AP's visit each other's school.
c. Partnership with New Visions to establish data for grants.

15. **Executive Session**

Moved by Gregory Kimble; seconded by Shameeka Gonzalez at 8:00pm to return to the record. Approved unanimously.

16. **Adjournmen**t

Moved by Peter Quiñones; seconded by Devon Prioleau at 8:15pm to adjourn. Approved unanimously.