AECI CHARTER SCHOOL NETWORK

MEETING OF THE BOARD

Date: **Tuesday, February 3rd, 2026**
Time: **6pm**
Location: **AECI 2**
116 East 169th Street
Bronx, New York 10452

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

Chief Executive Officer	Derick Spaulding
Human Resources Director	Hector Rodriguez
HR & Payroll Assistant	Elizabeth Tsoi
CFO	Josh Moreau
Consultant	Carlo Schiattarella

2. **Approval of Minutes of December 9, 2025, December 15, 2025, and January 13, 2026**

Moved by Peter Quinones; seconded by DeVon Prioleau to **approve** the minutes of **December 9, 2025, and December 15, 2025,** Board meeting. **Approved unanimously**

Moved by Greg Kimble; seconded by Peter Quinones to **approve** the minutes of **January 13, 2026,** Board meeting. **Approved unanimously**

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

- The January data, we can see that our topline data year over year is projected to be very steady this year. This data includes graduation rate and college course completion rates.
- Attendance is tracking up a few percentage points from last year.
- Suspensions are much higher than last year, and we are on track to be more in line with previous years. The suspensions are for relatively minor issues and not for events like fights etc. We are looking at ensuring we are exploring all options instead of suspensions.
- Scholarship data went down 3 percentage points from last year and one point from the year before that. We will be meeting with teachers to investigate further.
- We had a very well attended Open House to attract new students for the upcoming school year. In addition, the Outreach Team had 5 events over this month to recruit new families.

4. **Principal's Report - AECI 2**

Strong Regents Growth (Humanities)

From the NYSED Midyear Review (2022) → Charter Renewal Visit (2024):

- Humanities Department improved from:
  - Outperforming in 1 metric 2022 To Outperforming in 16 metrics 2025

Strong Regents Growth (STEM)

From Midyear Review (2022) → Charter Renewal Visit (2024):

- STEM Department improved from:
  - Outperforming in 9 metrics 2022 To Outperforming in 21 metrics 2025

This shows consistent and accelerating growth for Regents Exams.

- Scholarship data went down 9% from 92% for T1 to 83%. We are meeting with teachers to ensure students who are failing receive support so Q3 class data increases.

- The Community Service Group celebrated their outreach efforts, handing out flyers to support school engagement, by being treated to a special Rockettes performance Academically, January Regents tutoring was especially successful, with many more students passing their Regents classes.

- In addition, the school hosted a walkthrough with representatives from 1000 Walton to examine classroom environments and strengthen instructional spaces. Students also benefited from a visit by KK, the CEO from Data, who spoke about the future of computer engineering and innovation. He had just served as a headliner speaker at the AI Summit at the Javits Center this past January and the year before.

5. **Principal's Report - AECI 1 Middle School**

- Since the last Board meeting, a positive trend has emerged in student enrollment for the 2026–2027 school year. We currently have 57 students enrolled in 6th grade and 11 in 7th grade, indicating steady early interest and continued confidence in our program.
- In addition, several key academic data points are forthcoming. During the final week of January, students completed mock ELA and Math assessments. We are also administering mid-year NWEA testing during the week of February 2. Data from both assessments will be analyzed and shared in March, providing the Board with updated insight into student progress and instructional impact.
- At this time, there are no dashboard data points that require deeper attention or intervention. Current indicators remain stable, and we will continue to monitor all data

closely as additional academic results become available later this quarter.

- Recently, we successfully hired two new teachers following the departure of two staff members, restoring instructional capacity and stability. This was a strategically important step in maintaining program continuity and supporting student learning.
- In parallel, the school team is intentionally rebuilding and strengthening the school community, with a focus on staff collaboration, student support, and overall morale. These efforts are helping reestablish consistency and a positive culture across the school.
- In addition, the school community is actively rebuilding and strengthening its culture. A key development has been the launch of a 6th-grade cheer club, led in collaboration by high school staff and students. This cross-campus initiative has strengthened student engagement, leadership, and school connectedness. We are also expanding extracurricular offerings, with additional clubs planned for the upcoming spring semester to further support student involvement and community building.

6. **Post-Secondary Readiness**

- As our post-secondary teams at both schools are supporting the Class of 2026, February is the time we turn our attention towards preparing the Class of 2027. We're in the process of evaluating our internal junior college readiness curriculum series to make sure it encompasses all post-secondary paths.
- PS teams will be pushing into junior advisory (1) and theme courses (2) from February-May to prepare students for the post-secondary process. Topics include post-secondary pathways, college research and list building, financial aid basics, letter of recommendation requests, and activity sheet/resume building.
- It's hard to believe but preparations are already underway for our Decision Day Celebration Carnivals at both schools. Please save the date if you'd like to join us as we celebrate the Class of 2026's post-secondary commitments:
    - AECI1- Friday, May 15th
    - AECI2- Friday, May 22nd
- Our partnership with OverGrad is moving forward. OverGrad has sent over the Service Agreement for our review. Once executed, we'll begin onboarding and the data migration from Naviance which will ensure we retain historical PSR data going back as far as 2017.
- I want to highlight the growing partnership work happening at AECI1. In addition to his responsibilities as a post-secondary counselor, Mr. Baffoe has taken on the role of Partnership Coordinator at AECI1 over the last 3 school years. He recently presented on the growth of the program at a staff meeting, and I wanted to share his presentation to amplify the work he's doing and the outcomes he's been able to produce. As we continue to expand our career exploration opportunities for students,

Mr. Baffoe has opened the door to hands-on experiences, enabling our students to think more critically about their lives after AECI!

7. **Human Resources**

- **Farm to School Grant -** To increase schools' purchases of New York State (NYS) farm products for use in school meals by building relationships between schools and NYS farm product suppliers.
- **Employee Handbook (March 2026) -** Handbook is reviewed every 6 months to ensure up-to-date policies and procedures. Updates have been provided to legal and administration for review.

8. **New Hires:**

Moved by Peter Quinones and seconded by Greg Kimble to approve the appointment of the following:

a. **AECI 1**

Ashli-Amari Bent - Special Education Teacher (M.S.)

Ballori Ghosh - STEM Teacher (M.S.)

Approved Unanimously

9. **New Business:** (Resolutions)

COPIER RESOLUTION

Moved by Devon Prioleau seconded by Paul Comrie to approve the purchase of 9 Canon printers and from Baur Office Solutions, the lowest of three qualified bidders, at a cost not to exceed $39,600.00. **Approved unanimously**

CHANGE IN HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REVIEW PROCESS

WHEREAS, as part of its responsibilities, the Human Resources Committee regularly reviews the resumes of candidates for the instructional and administrative positions and

WHEREAS, prior to presenting the candidates to the Human Resources Committee, the administration of the AECI Schools conducts an extensive review of the candidate's background, professional experience, references, as well as multiple interviews.

BE HEREBY RESOLVED THAT unless requested by the Chief Executive Officer or the Director of Human Resources the Human Resources Committee, a review of prospective employees by the Human Resources Committee will heretofore be limited to Principals, Assistant Principals and Network administrative positions.

Moved by Greg Kimble; seconded by DeVon Prioleau. Approved unanimously

ESTABLISHING INTENT TO BE REIMBURSED FOR PRE-PROJECT EXPENDITURES

WHEREAS the growing enrollment and expansion of AECI I to include a middle school requires additional space which meet the needs of both the middle school and the high school; and

WHEREAS a suitable property for the construction of a school to house both the Middle School and the High School has been identified at 2970 Third Avenue, Bronx, NY; and

WHEREAS the estimated cost of acquisition of the property and construction is anticipated to be approximately $65,000,000; and

WHEREAS, based on a review of existing and projected finances, the Board has determined that a 30-year tax deferred bond represents the most cost effective and viable method for financing the acquisition and construction of a new facility to house the AECI 1 Middle School and High School; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has authorized the submission of an application to Build NYC for issuance of a tax-exempt bond at an amount not to exceed $65,000,000.00 and,

WHEREAS, AECI has prepared and filed an application to Build NYC for the issuance of a bond not to exceed $65,000.000.00; and

WHEREAS AECI is responsible for the legal fees of Build NYC for the preparation of the necessary documents for the bond sale; and,

WHEREAS BUILD NYC is required to hire bond counsel in review and preparation of the necessary documents in connection with the bond sale; and

WHEREAS legal fees are part the cost of issuance and are covered at closing with bond proceeds and,

WHEREAS, in the event that, if for any reason the Build NYC Board does not approve the transaction or the transaction does not move forward, those fees will be due from AECI,

BE HEREBY RESOLVED that in the event that the NYC Board does not approve the transaction, or the transaction does not move forward, AECI agree to pay the cost of legal fees of BUILD NYC for the preparation of documents in connection with the bond sale at a cost not to exceed $150,000.00 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event that the NYC Board does not approve the transaction, or the transaction does not move forward, AECI agree to pay the cost of legal fees of

COHEN SCHNEIDER LAW for the review and preparation of documents in connection with the bond sale at a cost not to exceed $150,000.

Moved by Devon Prioleau; seconded by Peter Comrie **Approved unanimously**

11. **Executive Session**

No session was held.

12. **Adjournment**

Move by Paul Comrie; seconded by DeVon Prioleau to adjourn at **7:53pm.**

Approved unanimously