AECI CHARTER SCHOOL NETWORK

MEETING OF THE BOARD

Date: **Tuesday, March 11th, 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 , Ruben Gonzalez (Candidate), Robert Burton

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 February 3rd, 2026**

Moved by Robert Burton seconded by Paul Comrie to **approve** the minutes of **February 3rd, 2026** Board Meeting. **Approved unanimously.**

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

- Current enrollment has reached **472 students**, with a healthy application pool of **404** for the coming cycle.
- Attendance trends are mixed; the year-to-date average for 2025–2026 is **88.95%**, which shows a steady climb from **86.94%** in 2024–2025 and **85.75%** in 2023–2024, though February had very low attendance due to snow and cold.
- Behavioral data remains stable with **23 suspensions** year-to-date. Though we are on track to exceed the number of suspensions last year, suspensions continue to be for relatively low-level issues.
- We currently have a Special Education percentage of 21% and an ENL percentage of 14%. Our ENL percentage has risen significantly after being stagnant for a few years.
- AECI 1 continues to leverage its unique ACE (Architecture, Construction, and Engineering) theme to provide high-impact opportunities and community engagement:
- **Industry & Post-Secondary Exposure:** Our students recently participated in a "Day in the Life" event at **CBRE**, providing them with direct exposure to commercial real estate and industry professional pathways.

- Additionally, **40 juniors** in our SUPA program are attending an overnight trip this week to **SUNY Maritime and Syracuse University**.
- **Civic Engagement:** We are actively recruiting students for the **Bronx District Attorney's Youth Summit** on March 25, focusing on youth voices in public safety.
- We have also shared opportunities for the **"Justice For All" Summer Institute** at federal courthouses to encourage students interested in law and advocacy.
- **Celebrating the Arts:** Following a reschedule, our annual **Day of the Arts** was held this month, with grade-specific sessions designed to showcase student creativity and foster school spirit.
- **Cultural & Behavioral Support:** As we move through the month of **Ramadan**, we have implemented accommodations for our fasting students, including dedicated prayer spaces and extra social-emotional check-ins to support their well-being.
- We are currently preparing for our **NYSED Mid-year Check-in**

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

- For the 2025–2026 school year, attendance rates are resulting in a year-to-date average of 88.88%, which is 1% higher than last year. While we continue to focus on strengthening daily attendance, this upward trend is encouraging.
- In addition, our suspension rates continue to decrease, reflecting the positive impact of our behavioral supports and restorative practices.
- We are also proud to report that 14 students have been nominated for College Board National Recognition Awards based on their strong performance on College Board exams this fall, highlighting the academic excellence and dedication of our students and staff.
- We recently held our Honor Roll Awards ceremonies, recognizing students for their academic achievement and reinforcing our commitment to a culture of excellence.
- Our ongoing PTA meetings continue to strengthen family engagement and collaboration, ensuring that parents remain active partners in supporting our students and school initiatives.
- In addition, students have participated in team-building experiences, including a snow tubing trip, which fostered positive peer relationships, school spirit, and social-emotional development.
- Finally, our school-wide Dominos Tournament has officially kicked off, generating tremendous excitement and student involvement, with the championship finals taking place this Wednesday. These events collectively support academic motivation, family partnership, and a strong sense of community across our school.

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

- At present, 6th-grade enrollment stands at 59 students, reflecting strong interest in our middle school program. We currently have 15 confirmed students in our 7th-grade cohort,with additional prospective families continuing to move through the admissions process.
- Recently, our students had the opportunity to participate in Black History Month events, including the Food Bazaar and the Day of the Arts. These events provided meaningful opportunities for students to celebrate culture, creativity, and community while strengthening connections with the broader school network. Participation in these events supports our goal of fostering a strong sense of belonging and continuity between our school and the high school, while enriching the overall student experience.
- Recently, we reviewed our NWEA Winter MAP assessment results, which provided valuable insight into student growth and areas of need across both ELA and Math. The data allowed us to analyze student performance by achievement bands and identify specific skill gaps, which have directly informed the formation of our targeted intervention groups during WIN and intervention periods.
- Students are now receiving more differentiated support aligned to their individual learning needs, particularly in foundational reading comprehension and mathematical problem-solving.
- In addition, we are using this data to guide instructional planning as we prepare for the upcoming New York State ELA and Math assessments this spring. Teachers are incorporating targeted test-preparation strategies, practice with NYS-aligned question types, and focused skill-building into their lessons to ensure students feel confident and well-prepared. These efforts are strategically important as they support both academic growth and our broader goal of building strong assessment literacy and performance among our inaugural middle school cohort.

6. **Post-Secondary Readiness**

- Overgrad onboarding has begun! This is the first step in not only streamlining the application management process for our PS offices, but will also help us organize and deepen the work we do around data collection.
    - Once we're set up to use the basics of Overgrad, I'll be working with them to customize our accounts to allow us to track not only college application data but will also be building out the capacity to track all of the career and internship being done at both schools.
    - This will aid us as we move forward in our development work around grants, bonds, and other opportunities.

- Financial Aid Updates (3/2)
    - AECI 1- 75% FAFSA Completion
    - AECI 2- 89% FAFSA Completion

7. **Human Resources**

- **Instructional Staff Increases -** Currently being reviewed with Principals, CEO and CFO in preparation for renewal letters for the 2025-2026 S.Y.
- **Genova Burns LLC -** New labor attorney retained.
- **Liability Insurance Pre-Renewal -** Liability insurance applications are being reviewed and submitted by March 20, 2026.
- **Health Insurance Renewal -** Claims and utilization data show our renewal will be on par with last year's rate.
- **Handbook Updates -** Are currently being reviewed by legal and administration. Updates should be completed by April.

8. **New Hires:**

a. **AECI 1**

Onassis Cabrera - School Counselor

b**. AECI 2**

Karolay Sanchez - Computer Science Teacher

Shakisha Thompson - 6th Grade Math Teacher - M.S.

Moved by Devon Prielaou and seconded by Robert Burton to approve the appointment of New Hires. **Approved Unanimously**

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

SPAIN TRIP RESOLUTION

BOARD RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE WAY OF SAINT JAMES EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

WHEREAS, AECI 2 Charter High School is committed to providing students with educational opportunities that enhance cultural understanding, leadership development, and experiential learning; and

WHEREAS, participation in international educational and cultural programs supports the mission of AECI 2 Charter High School by exposing students to global perspectives and historical learning experiences; and

WHEREAS, International Studies Foundation USA Inc., a recognized 501(c)(3) public charity organization, offers an educational program entitled **"The Way of Saint James 2026"**, which includes travel, accommodation, meals, transportation, and educational activities; and

WHEREAS, AECI 2 Charter High School has received a proforma invoice dated March 3, 2026, for participation in the program for **four (4) students and one (1) monitor**, at a total cost of **$17,500.00**; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has determined that participation in this program aligns with the educational goals of the school and will provide meaningful enrichment opportunities for participating students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of AECI 2 Charter High School authorizes the school to participate in **The Way of Saint James 2026 educational program** offered by International Studies Foundation USA Inc.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes payment in the amount **not to exceed $17,500.00** for the participation of four (4) students and one (1) monitor in the program, including travel, accommodations, meals, transportation, and related program activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate officers of the school are authorized to execute any necessary documents and arrange payment to **International Studies Foundation USA Inc.** in connection with this program.

Moved by Devon Prielou**;** seconded by Robert Burton**. Approved unanimously**

10. Executive Session

No Session was held.

11. Adjournment

Move by Paul Comrie; seconded by Devon Prielou to adjourn at 7:55pm. **Approved unanimously**