AECI CHARTER SCHOOL NETWORK

MEETING OF THE BOARD

Date: **Tuesday, April 14th, 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

Chief Executive Officer	Derick Spaulding
Human Resources Director	Hector Rodriguez
HR & Payroll Assistant	Elizabeth Tsoi
AECI 1 Principal	Colin Healy
AECI 1 Principal	Tyra Williams
AECI 1 Post Secondary Readiness	Lauren Quigley
AECI 2 Principal	Santiago Taveras
AECI 2 Asst. Principal	Chris Mastroccola
AECI 2 Asst. Principal	Denise Loimon
CFO	Josh Moreau
Consultant	Carlo Schiattarella

2. **Approval of Minutes of March 11th, 2026**

Moved by **Paul Comrie** seconded by **Peter Quinones** to **approve** the minutes of **March 11th, 2026** Board Meeting. **Approved unanimously.**

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

- We've had three new students and three discharges.
- For the year our attendance rate is a tick under 90% after a strong attendance in March. We are on track to have our best attendance since the pandemic school years.
- We had 7 suspensions for the month of March for various infractions, including one physical altercation. We have more suspensions than last year, though last year was our all-time low in suspensions.
- As of our Lottery Date of 4/1 our application numbers have increased 15% since last year.
- We conducted our lottery for the high school on 4/1. 122 parents accepted on the first day for approximately 130 seats.
- We had our 100 Days 'Till Graduation Celebration for graduation eligible students. This event also allows us to have deeper conversations with students not on track to graduate.

- Spirit Week was held 3/27-3/31 that ended in the whole school participating in Battle of the Classes in the Gym.
- AECI Charter High School celebrated Literacy Month by fostering a "JOY of reading" through a blend of community storytelling and interactive events. Staff members participated by sharing personal book recommendations and photos for building-wide posters, creating a visible culture of literacy. The month culminated on March 31 with a school-wide Literacy Fair in the gym, where students from all grades engaged in activities and redeemed "Tiger Bucks" earned for reading achievements. Supported by student volunteers from STUCO and NHS, the fair served as a collaborative finale to the month's mission of making literature accessible and engaging for the entire school community.
- CNBC did a feature on the school's Personal Finance curriculum- highlighting the growing issue of gambling among students across the country.
- Senior VR Trip was held for eligible seniors
- Boys Basketball won the city championship. 2 students participating in the all star game at Barclay's Center.

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

- Current KPIs reflect both progress and priority areas across the school. Operationally, enrollment remains the primary indicator, with 17 sixth-grade students and 6 seventh-grade students enrolled as of March 31, 2026. Academically, readiness for the NYS State exams is a key measure, with instruction aligned to standards and informed by NWEA data to drive targeted interventions. Organizationally, strong student engagement and school culture are evident through ongoing partnerships with the high school, including events such as the Battle of the Grades and the Literacy Fair.
- The most notable shift has been the transition from recruitment planning to active enrollment. While there is early traction in sixth-grade enrollment, overall numbers indicate the need for continued focus. There has also been a shift toward more intensive academic preparation, with greater alignment with NYS State Exams and a more strategic use of data to guide instruction.
- Enrollment—particularly in seventh grade—requires continued and targeted recruitment efforts. Additionally, ongoing analysis of NWEA data and student readiness for the NYS
- State Exams will be critical to ensuring that interventions effectively support student achievement.
- School Event Road mapping - Our school community has continued to benefit from our partnership with the high school, as evidenced by events such as the Battle of the Grades, which showcased student endurance and teamwork through athletic challenges, and the Literacy Fair, which promoted student engagement and academic enrichment.
- The upcoming NYS State Exams—ELA on April 22–23 and Math on May 5–6—are a key priority. Instruction is aligned to these assessments, with targeted support driven by NWEA data and practice with prior exams. This work directly supports our strategic focus on

improving student achievement and academic outcomes.

- Continued Board support around student recruitment efforts is essential, particularly to strengthen seventh-grade enrollment. Ongoing visibility into enrollment progress and academic readiness will be important as we work toward meeting our goals.

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

- The dashboard reflects continued positive momentum, with attendance showing an improvement from the previous month, rebounding after a brief dip and reinforcing overall stability in the mid-to-high 80% range.
- At the same time, suspensions have decreased month-over-month, indicating strengthening school culture and effective student support systems.
- Enrollment remains steady with slight growth across grades, and applications have continued to rise leading up to the March 24 deadline, signaling strong demand and sustained interest in AECI 2.
- Since the March 10 Board Meeting, the school has built strong momentum through a series of well-attended Open Houses (March 7, 12, 14), supporting enrollment goals. Academic milestones, including Digital PSAT and SAT administrations, highlight a continued focus on college readiness. The March 24 application deadline marked a key milestone in the admissions cycle.
- Community engagement has remained vibrant through events such as the Career Fair, Junior Family Night, PTA meeting, and student activities like the Chess Tournament and
- Boys Event. The observance of Eid-al-Fitr also reflects the school's ongoing commitment to inclusivity and community connection.

6. **Post-Secondary Readiness**

a. We're getting ready to celebrate our Class of 2026 Decision Days next month, which is always an exciting milestone for our students and school communities
   i. AECI1- Decision Day Carnival and Senior BBQ- May 15th
   ii. AECI2- Decisions Day Celebration and Carnival- May 22nd
b. Decision Day is a big part of how we build and reinforce a strong college and career culture. It celebrates where students are headed while also giving younger students a clear, visible sense of what's possible.
c. It's also an important moment for us from a data perspective, as we're able to begin capturing students' final post-secondary decisions which helps strengthen our overall reporting.

- OverGrad
  a. Contracting with Overgrad has been a big step forward for us in terms of systems. It's helping us streamline how we manage college applications while also improving how we collect and use data.

b. As we continue to build it out, we'll be able to track not just college outcomes, but also the career exploration, internships, and other experiences students are having along the way. This will be critical to our data collection moving forward as we deepen our tracking to include career and internship opportunities.
c. **Next Steps:** We've onboarded PS, grade level counseling, and admin accounts and are in the process of onboarding all staff across the network. Student accounts are being created and moving historical data from Naviance to Overgrad is the next step. Training will be set up for the summer and early fall to acclimate all staff to the platform for a successful launch in Fall 2026
d. Level All
    i. The rollout of Level All has also been really impactful. It's given us a consistent, engaging way to deliver college, career, and life skills content across both schools.
    ii. As we continue to work on strengthening the elements of our curriculum not related directly to the post-secondary application process, we've already begun to utilize Level All's transitional lessons to help think more concretely about skills they'll need to master after graduation, regardless of their chosen pathway
e. Overgrad is the next step. Training will be set up for the summer and early fall to acclimate all staff to the platform for a successful launch in Fall 2026

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    c. Together, these tools are helping us be more intentional and aligned in our work, while also building our capacity to scale and better understand what's driving student engagement.
- **Next steps:** Expanding offerings through collaboration the grade level counselors, SPED department, and advisory classes
- Dual Enrollment Expansion
    a. The planned expansion of our Mercy University HSAP and AP offerings has also been an important step forward. Allowing us to provide more consistent access to rigorous, college-level coursework across grade levels, while continuing to strengthen our overall college-readiness pipeline.
    b. As we continue to build out our academic program, we're being intentional about

how and when students access these opportunities. We've begun refining our course selection to ensure students are better prepared and supported in taking on advanced coursework earlier in their high school experience.

c. This expansion requires us to strengthen internal systems specifically around staffing, scheduling, and academic support to ensure these courses are implemented to set students up for success.
d. **Next steps:** continue expanding offerings while deepening alignment with our theme and student needs. Course offerings for 26-27 school year are being solidified and teachers are being supported through the course certification process.
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    iii. This expansion requires us to strengthen internal systems specifically around staffing, scheduling, and academic support to ensure these courses are implemented to set students up for success.
    v. **Next steps:** continue expanding offerings while deepening alignment with our theme and student needs. Course offerings for 26-27 school year are being solidified, and teachers are being supported through the course certification process.

7. **CEO Report**

- State visit was an interim renewal evaluation of our schools and program.
- CSP conference to discuss measurement of progress and evaluation of our grant
- Our build NYC proposal was unanimously approved and lasted for mayoral sign

off. One major political challenge requires discussion progress on AECI 2 building at 1000 Walton continues.

- Network support to meet with Harriet Tubman officials to secure students. Propose idea of a school takeover.
- The leadership academy hosted its AP leadership series in our building. AP's participated.
- Partnership and internship piece driving the narrative of our schools now and in the future. Learnings from New Market tax credit.

8. **Human Resources**

Committee was not held.

9. **New Hires:**

a. **AECI 1**

No New Hires

b**. AECI 2**

Daniel Romo - ELA Teacher

Karina Ortiz - ELA Teacher

Rose Clarke - NYU Candidate ELA

Alejandro Bonilla - NYU Candidate SPED

Mayorie Rozon - NYU Candidate Bio

Moved by **Greg Kimble** and seconded by **Paul Comrie** to approve the appointment of New Hires. **Approved Unanimously**

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

A. Renewal of Boost Ed

Moved by **Paul Comrie**, seconded by **Peter Quinones** to renew the contract for Boost Ed for 2026-27 at cost not to exceed $358,000.00 for AECI Schools. **Approved Unanimously**

B. Furniture for 1000 Walton (AECI 2)

Moved by **Peter Comrie**, seconded by **Greg Kimble**, to authorize AECI 2 to enter into an agreement with Hertz Furniture Systems, LLC, for the purchase and delivery of classroom furniture, including student chairs, desks, teacher desks, and related accessories, as outlined in Quote #728892, at a total cost not to exceed $114,535.65.

It should be noted that the Hertz Furniture bid is the lowest of three bids received for this project

and is deemed to be the most cost-effective option that meets the School's specifications and needs. Approved unanimously.

C. Sports Furniture (AECI 2)

Moved by **Greg Kimble**, seconded by **Paul Comrie**, to authorize AECI 2 to enter into an agreement with Advantage Sport & Fitness, Inc., for the purchase and installation of gym and fitness equipment, including cardio machines, strength training equipment, free weights, and related accessories, as outlined in Quote #Q.000058742, at a total cost not to exceed $86,265.72.

It should be noted that the Advantage Sport & Fitness bid is the lowest of three bids received for this project and is deemed to be the most cost-effective option that meets the School's programmatic and facility needs. Approved unanimously.

D. Student Success Platform (AECI MIDDLE SCHOOLS)

Moved by **Paul Comrie**, seconded by **Peter Quinones**, to authorize AECI Middle School to enter into an agreement with Panorama Education, Inc., for the provision of Student Success platform services, including ongoing integration of student information system (SIS) data, assessment data, behavior and incident reporting, intervention tracking, and survey support, as outlined in Invoice #INV15504, at a total cost not to exceed $13,435.00.

It should be noted that the Panorama is the lowest of three bids received for this project and is deemed to be the most cost-effective option that meets the School's programmatic and facility needs. Approved unanimously.

11. **Adjournment**

Move by **Greg Kimble**, seconded by **Paul Comrie** to adjourn at 8:56pm. **Approved Unanimously**