

**ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 28, 2018
6:30 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER: 6:40 PM

This meeting has been publicized in accordance with Section 5, Ch 231, PL 1975, and Open Public Meeting Law by notification of the Home News Tribune and at the Academy for Urban Leadership Charter School within the legal time required. Time may be allotted for public comment at this meeting.

II. FLAG SALUTE

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under god, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

III. MISSION STATEMENT

To employ an educational design and experience that merges the highest standards of academic excellence while fostering convictions and commitment to social and economic justice. The school acknowledges that both family and community involvement are integral to the student's academic achievement level, and will focus on fostering strong relationships between the school, family and community. Through these partnerships, the school will strive to create a nurturing environment by providing each student with the five resources deemed necessary for healthy child development by the President's Summit for America's Future. These include: a one-on-one relationship with a caring adult, a safe place to learn and grow, a healthy start, a marketable skill through effective education, and a chance to give back to peers and the community.

In order to provide a quality education, the curriculum offered will involve rigorous academics with a holistic approach to education. Special emphasis will be placed on service learning and espousing the importance of civic and social responsibility. The development of character, leadership skills, conflict resolution abilities, and community responsibility will be stressed to provide the students with the necessary tools to become contributing members of a democratic society.

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IV. ROLL CALL

Board Members

Robert Fink (President)	Present
Edgardo Galleno (Vice President)	Present
Claudine Bishop	Present
Hector Bonilla	Present – Arrived at 6:47 PM
Michelle Roman	Present
Stephanie Valdiviezo	Present
Jesenia Vargas	Present – Arrived at 6:42 PM

Additional attendees:

Nestor Collazo (Lead Person)	Present
Roberto Reyes (Principal)	Absent
Shanesia Davis-Clyburn (Vice Principal)	Present
Jeannie Paz (Vice Principal)	Present
Patricia Bombelyn (Board Solicitor)	Present
Johnny Rosa (Board Secretary)	Present
Ariel Fernandez (Teacher Representative)	Present
Johanna Rodriguez (Parent Representative)	Absent

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Move that the Board of Trustees approve the **Regular Board Minutes** dated February 28, 2018.

Motion: Edgardo Galleno, **Second:** Michelle Roman, **Roll Call:** Robert Fink Yes, Edgardo Galleno Yes, Claudine Bishop Yes, Michelle Roman Abstain, Stephanie Valdiviezo Yes, Jesenia Vargas Yes. (Hector Bonilla had not yet arrived for the meeting.)

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

None

VII. PRESENTATION

2018-2019 Budget Presentation

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Mr. Johnny Rosa, School Business Administrator, presented the 2018-2019 school budget to the Board of Trustees and to those attending the Board meeting. Mr. Rosa included the following topics in his presentation:

- Considerations in developing a school budget
- Budget goals
- Budgeted revenue – this is where the money comes from – the total revenue is \$9,992,204
- Budgeted appropriations – this is how the money is spent
- Salaries/Benefits
- Appropriations breakdown
- Budget fixed costs
- Budget variable costs
- 108 line budget

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Board President invites members of the public to present any comments to the Board.

Numerous AUL students spoke on the following topics:

- Spring break – Due to the need to make up snow days, students wanted to know why there was not going to be any spring break. Students stated that AUL's school calendar mirrors the calendar of Perth Amboy district and Perth Amboy district was closing for Spring break. It was noted that many students already had travel plans over Spring break and if school was in session, the school may not even have the required attendance numbers. Students offered other options such as Memorial Day weekend, the end of the school year, and school on Saturdays.
Mr. Fink stated that the days required to be made up need to have the least impact on the student's education. By design, our charter school has more school days in the calendar. Mr. Fink advised that this topic is on the agenda for discussion this evening.
- Teachers – A student stated that some teachers are unhappy in this school and may quit. Mr. Fink advised that presently there are negotiations going on with the Union and cannot speak on this matter. Mr. Fink stated that it is important to keep quality teachers at AUL, as it is the fabric of our school and culture.
- Food – Many students stated that they are not satisfied with the food served for school lunches. For some students, it may be the only meal that they have all day. Students also noted that they eat bagels both for breakfast and lunch, there is not enough time to eat after waiting in line for the food, if food is brought from home there is no place to

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heat it up, and at times the lunch ladies are impatient and rude. Students asked why parents cannot bring them food at lunchtime.

Mr. Fink stated that he wants students to enjoy the food served at school. Mr. Fink advised that there is going to be a RFP looking for additional food vendors. Mr. Fink advised that an after school dinner program is in the development stage. Regarding food delivered to the school, Mr. Fink advised that this causes a security issue with many people in and out of the school building. Also, Mr. Fink noted that there are federal food regulations for what may be served at schools. Mr. Fink asked Mr. Rosa to schedule a food service meeting. Mr. Fink would like to have student involvement with choosing the food service vendor.

- Choir attire – A student mentioned that she has been in choir since freshman year and would like the choir to have proper attire. Choir members have to wear black shirts and pants to all of their performances. The student noted that sports get new uniforms and would like to know why the choir cannot get proper choir attire.

Mr. Fink advised that this matter would be further discussed.

- Seventh grade – If students cannot get what they want, a student asked why there is a seventh grade at AUL.

Mr. Fink noted that test scores are behind grade levels. Some ninth grade students are not prepared for ninth grade and the same for eighth and seventh. The sooner that AUL can offer a student an education, the sooner that student will be prepared for college.

Ms. Eloisa Hernandez, parent of an AUL student, stated that the revision to the calendar as noted on the agenda is not clear. As there is a time factor regarding the calendar, Ms. Hernandez stated that the Board needs to be more considerate. Mr. Fink advised that the calendar will be discussed later in the meeting. Ms. Hernandez also spoke of a letter sent home by administration. Ms. Hernandez noted the importance of knowing how to deal with students with mental issues.

Mr. Reinaldo Aviles, one of AUL's founding Board members, spoke about the last OPRA request he had made. For all of the eighth grade staff that had voluntarily resigned, Mr. Aviles stated that he was told there were no exit interviews completed. When students leave, there are no exit interviews. Mr. Aviles questioned why administration is not asking why these people are leaving. Regarding the food issue students spoke of at AUL, Mr. Aviles advised that it is time to make amends and listen to what the students want. Mr. Aviles stated that local businesses should have consideration in the RFP process for a food service.

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At the conclusion of public comment, Mr. Fink noted the wonderful efforts of the students regarding voter registration. Also, Mr. Fink mentioned the powerful manner in which the students of AUL conducted themselves during their participation in the student led walk-out in collaboration with the tragedy of Parkland, Florida.

Mrs. Bishop stated how proud she was of the students that attended and spoke at the meeting tonight. Mrs. Bishop urged the graduating students to remain active in the AUL community by starting an alumni association or by becoming a Board member.

Mr. Galleno reminded students that any changes to the AUL uniform requires a policy change. It is necessary for the students to present the proposed change to the Board of Trustees. Any uniform policy change would require two meetings to complete the process.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee chairperson(s) will provide a brief overview of pertinent items discussed during the last committee meeting.

- **Academic Excellence Team:** Motions in agenda.
- **Human Resources and Recognition Team:** Voting on some positions motioned in the agenda this evening.
- **Finance and Facilities Planning Team:** Motions in agenda.
- **Executive Team:** There is much work forthcoming on policy revisions. Work on the five year strategic plan will also include input from parents, students, community members, and teachers.

X. LEAD PERSON'S REPORT

Lead Person, Nestor Collazo, will give details of his report to the Board.

- Dr. Collazo noted that AUL students were at their best when they took part in the march with respect to safety and security. Dr. Collazo stated that he was impressed with those students in attendance, especially on their organization of the march and how they articulated for the cause. Dr. Collazo advised that Perth Amboy Mayor Diaz echoed these sentiments as well. Dr. Collazo stated that these students are our future leaders and they are living up to the name of AUL.
- Dr. Collazo advised that AUL Charter School is committed to a higher number of instructional days. In order to avoid conflicts, AUL parallels their school calendar to that of the local school district. As it was recently learned that the local school district has extended their school calendar, we can now have that discussion tonight.

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- Dr. Collazo advised that Raritan Valley Community College may be a possible venue for graduation this year.
- Dr. Collazo stated that he had a meeting earlier this month with Mr. Mark Lanzi, the County Supervisor of Child Study. This meeting was an opportunity to discuss curriculum, instruction, assessment, professional development, safety and security.
- Regarding the Class of 2018, the Guidance department advised that seventy-six seniors have applied to a four-year institution, three seniors have applied to a two-year institution, two seniors will be enlisted in the military, and fourteen seniors have not yet applied. Mr. Fink mentioned that Rider University will now accept 100% of the credits earned at Middlesex County College.

XI. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

The student representative, Saidy Cedano, could not be present for the meeting. Ms. Cedano prepared a letter which was read at the Board meeting by Dr. Collazo. This letter is attached at the end of these Board meeting minutes.

XII. PARENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

None

XIII. TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Mr. Ariel Fernandez, Social Studies teacher at AUL, is the teacher representative.

Mr. Fernandez noted that this was the first time he was present at an AUL Board meeting and found it to be interesting and impressive. Mr. Fernandez advised that he had attended the "March for Our Lives" demonstration in New York. Mr. Fernandez stated that the Social Studies department had helped AUL students organize the walk-out and saw their passion for the cause. Mr. Fernandez also mentioned concern with the school calendar and the low morale this issue has caused in the school building. Mr. Fernandez stated that students and staff need to get a breath of air before entering into PARRC testing and AP testing. Mr. Fernandez suggested using a form of teleconferencing as instruction between staff and students for next week.

XIV. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Robert Fink, President of the Board, will give his report.

Mr. Fink noted again that good is not good enough. It is necessary to find what works in order to go from good to better. This step may not be immediately realized. As we want the best for our students, Mr. Fink stated that this sums up our charter.

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XV. OLD BUSINESS

None

The Lead Person recommends the following items for approval:

XVI. MOTIONS – Consent Agenda

Item #4 under Academic Excellence and Item #3 under Human Resources and Recognition to be moved to Other Motions

Motion Items #1-3 under Academic Excellence; Motion #1-2 under Human Resources and Recognition; Motion Items #1-11 under Finance and Facility Planning.

Motion: Edgardo Galleno, Second: Hector Bonilla, Roll Call: Robert Fink Yes, Edgardo Galleno Yes, Claudine Bishop Yes, Hector Bonilla Yes, Michelle Roman Yes, Stephanie Valdiviezo Yes, Jesenia Vargas Yes.

Academic Excellence

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the Professional Development for Shaheda Hall and Luisanny Ortiz to attend the “AP Coordinator Training” on April 12, 2018 and traveling from April 11, 2018 by airfare for an amount not to exceed \$900 (Airfare, Meal, Accommodation and Travel). (11-000-223-500-000-066)
2. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the Professional Development for Kristen Yorkanis, Luisanny Ortiz, and Shaheda Hall to attend the “Annual School Counselor Conference” on April 13, 2018 for an amount not to exceed \$120. (11-000-223-500-000-006)
3. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the High School Scholars Program for 14 students (Introduction to Marketing) for a unit price of \$200 for an amount not to exceed \$2,800. (11-190-100-320-000-045)

Human Resources and Recognition

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the following appointments for the 2017 – 2018 school year:
 - a. William Mugica for a 12 month position as a Custodian with a salary of \$38,000 pro rated to April 3, 2018. (11-000-262-100-000-066) (Replacing Vargas)
 - b. Pedro Bonilla for a 12 month position as a Custodian with a salary of \$38,000 pro rated to April 3, 2018. (11-000-262-100-000-066) (Replacing Marte)

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2. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the stipend position and payment of \$5,000 to the following staff members for the 2017 – 2018 school year:
 - a. Munira Jamali – Data Coordinator
 - b. RoseAnn Berberich – PLC Coordinator

Finance and Facility Planning

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve Fund 10 General Warrants List for March 1, 2018 – March 19, 2018 in the amount of \$39,490.36.
2. Move that the Board of Trustees approve Fund 10 General Warrants List for March 20, 2018 – March 27, 2018 in the amount of \$140,110.15.
3. Move that the Board of Trustees approve Fund 10 General Warrants List for March 28, 2018 in an amount of \$92,212.80.
4. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the Payroll Report for February 28, 2018 for \$253,845.36.
5. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the Payroll Report for March 15, 2018 for \$254,925.45.
6. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the payment to Sodexo for December for an amount of \$15,997.94. (60-910-310-500-000-000)
7. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the Treasurer's Report for February, 2018.
8. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the Monthly certification of Financial Status: Pursuant to NJAC 6:23-2.11(a)4, the members of the Academy for Urban Leadership Board of Trustees certify as of February 28, 2018 after review of the secretary's monthly financial reports (appropriation section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a)3 and that sufficient funds are available for the remainder of the fiscal school year FY 2017-2018.
9. Move that the Board of Trustees reject all bids received on March 13, 2018 for the "Addition and Renovations at 295 Barclay Street – EIA" Project Number ES8167.00 on the basis that the lowest bid substantially exceeds the budgetary projections.
10. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the following amendment to the previous approved motion (#10) under the consent agenda for Finance and Facility Planning on December 20, 2017 as follows:
 - a. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the Corrective Action Plan for the 2016 – 2017 school year.
11. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the attached budget transfer for March.

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Executive Team

Other Motions

Motion amended to read:

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve to amend the calendar for the 2017 – 2018 school year to restore the week for Spring break and to extend the school year until June 28, 2018 with graduation being held on June 28, 2018.
Motion: Edgardo Galleno, Second: Hector Bonilla, Roll Call: Robert Fink Yes, Edgardo Galleno Yes, Claudine Bishop Yes, Hector Bonilla Yes, Michelle Roman Yes, Stephanie Valdiviezo Yes, Jesenia Vargas Yes.
2. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the budget for the 2018 – 2019 school year in the total amount of \$9,992,204 and allocation of \$582,758 from Fund Balance.
Motion: Edgardo Galleno, Second: Jesenia Vargas, Roll Call: Robert Fink Yes, Edgardo Galleno Yes, Claudine Bishop Yes, Hector Bonilla Yes, Michelle Roman Yes, Stephanie Valdiviezo Yes, Jesenia Vargas Yes.
3. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the attached Resolution for participation in coordinated transportation with the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey for the 2018 – 2019 school year.
Motion: Edgardo Galleno, Second: Hector Bonilla, Roll Call: Robert Fink Yes, Edgardo Galleno Yes, Claudine Bishop Yes, Hector Bonilla Yes, Michelle Roman Yes, Stephanie Valdiviezo Yes, Jesenia Vargas Yes.
4. Move that the Board of Trustees appoint Dominic Valentin as the Athletic Trainer at a rate of \$35/hr (\$140/day) to attend all home games for Softball and Baseball for an amount not to exceed \$3,000. (11-402-100-800-000-049)
Motion: Hector Bonilla, Second: Jesenia Vargas, Roll Call: Robert Fink Yes, Edgardo Galleno Yes, Claudine Bishop Yes, Hector Bonilla Yes, Michelle Roman Yes, Stephanie Valdiviezo Yes, Jesenia Vargas Yes.
6. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the additional payment for Novakowski Landscaping for snow removal due to over expected inclement weather in an amount not to exceed \$3,000. (11-000-263-420-000-067)
Motion: Edgardo Galleno, Second: Jesenia Vargas, Roll Call: Robert Fink Yes, Edgardo Galleno Yes, Claudine Bishop Yes, Hector Bonilla Yes, Michelle Roman Yes, Stephanie Valdiviezo Yes, Jesenia Vargas Yes.

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Academic Excellence

4. Move that the Board of Trustees approve ComCares to mentor 100 students on April 17, 2018 (Comcast Cares day) at no cost to the Board of Trustees.

Motion: Michelle Roman, Second: Hector Bonilla, Roll Call: Robert Fink Yes, Edgardo Galleno Yes, Claudine Bishop Yes, Hector Bonilla Yes, Michelle Roman Yes, Stephanie Valdiviezo Yes, Jesenia Vargas Yes.

Human Resources and Recognition

3. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the following staff members to work the Zero and 11th period for the Credit Recovery Initiative at an individual rate of \$40 per hour:
- a. Christine Dorantes
 - b. Delly Franco
 - c. Kyle Manley
 - d. Olesia Parmar

Motion: Edgardo Galleno, Second: Jesenia Vargas, Roll Call: Robert Fink Yes, Edgardo Galleno Yes, Claudine Bishop Yes, Hector Bonilla Yes, Michelle Roman Yes, Stephanie Valdiviezo Yes, Jesenia Vargas Yes.

XVI. NEW BUSINESS

None

XVII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Board President invites members of the public to present any additional comments to the Board.

Mr. Reinaldo Aviles stated that he is glad to see that the Board meeting has moved to a different room, however, Mr. Aviles feels that the meeting should be brought back to the gym. Mr. Aviles suggested administration should contact the Perth Amboy Fire Marshall regarding the meeting room space. Mr. Aviles stated that the items discussed in executive closed session should be listed on the agenda. Mr. Aviles advised that he would like to be included on the May agenda with the Executive Committee to discuss concerns with the charter renewal. Mr. Aviles advised that he will be accompanied to this meeting with Lisa Nanton, Eloisa Hernandez, and Jorge Cruz. Mr. Fink advised Mr. Aviles that he could attend the April meeting of the Executive Committee, however, Mr. Aviles stated that Ms. Nanton would not be available. Mr. Aviles mentioned that Perth Amboy is building a brand new high school on Convereay Boulevard

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which should be completed by 2020. Mr. Aviles advised that AUL will be in competition with this new facility.

Dr. Natasha James-Waldon, JRF Director of Educational Services, suggested that fifteen seventh grade students should each receive a proclamation for being a part of “girl talk” and successfully completing the first community service event by collecting socks. Dr. James-Waldon advised that the Youth Entrepreneur Program has been renewed. Dr. James-Waldon would like AUL to consider the available space for JRF to use next year. When the Step-Up program began at AUL, JRF had their own office. This year JRF shares the office space with others which places limitations on the program.

Ms. Eloisa Hernandez advised that she had been in the audience for the Mayor’s State of the City address when AUL’s choir sang the National Anthem. Ms. Hernandez noted that the choir should have choir attire.

Mr. James Ennis, Social Studies teacher at AUL, offered his assistance with the school’s food service. Mr. Ennis advised that he was a chef, so perhaps he could help with this matter.

XVIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Public bodies may meet in closed session when the matters under discussion are: (1) Matters made confidential by state, federal law or rule by court. (2) Disclosure would result in an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy, unless the person affected consents in writing. (3) Disclosure would impair the body’s right to receive federal or state funds. (4) Collective bargaining. (5) Lease or acquisition of property, setting of banking rates, investment of public funds if disclosure would harm the public interest. (6) Investigations into violations of law. (7) Strategies to protect public security. Pending, ongoing or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation, including attorney-client privilege. The threat of litigation must be more than theoretical for this exemption to apply. (8) Personnel matters affecting employees of the public bodies, unless all parties request or consent to a public hearing. Prior to discussion of personnel, affected employees must be given notice, known as a Rice notice, which gives the employee the right to request a public hearing. (9) Proceedings that could result in a suspension, civil penalty, or loss of a license or permit.

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Close Executive Session: 9:46 PM

Unanimous Vote: Motion: Edgardo Galleno, Second: Hector Bonilla, Roll Call: Robert Fink Yes, Edgardo Galleno Yes, Claudine Bishop Yes, Hector Bonilla Yes, Michelle Roman Yes, Stephanie Valdiviezo Yes, Jesenia Vargas Yes.

Discuss: Attorney-client Privilege – Item #7 (Pending, ongoing litigation)
Finance/Facilities – Item #5 (Potential Lease or Purchase of Property)
Public Security/Safety – Item #7 (Public Security)
Personnel – Item #8 (Renewal of Lead Contract)

Return from Executive Session: 10:50 PM

Unanimous Vote: Motion: Edgardo Galleno, Second: Hector Bonilla, Roll Call: Robert Fink Yes, Edgardo Galleno Yes, Claudine Bishop Yes, Hector Bonilla Yes, Michelle Roman Yes, Stephanie Valdiviezo Yes, Jesenia Vargas Yes.

Other Motions

Motion amended to read:

5. As per Dr. Collazo's notification to the Board of his intention to retire, move that the Board of Trustees approve the posting and creation of a search committee for the Lead Administrator.

Motion: Edgardo Galleno, Second: Michelle Roman, Roll Call: Robert Fink Yes, Edgardo Galleno Yes, Claudine Bishop Yes, Hector Bonilla Yes, Michelle Roman Yes, Stephanie Valdiviezo Yes, Jesenia Vargas Yes.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT 11:15 PM

Motion: Edgardo Galleno, Second: Michelle Roman, Roll Call: Robert Fink Yes, Edgardo Galleno Yes, Claudine Bishop Yes, Hector Bonilla Yes, Michelle Roman Yes, Stephanie Valdiviezo Yes, Jesenia Vargas Yes.

Board of Trustees and Dr. Collazo,

The past month has held great significance for our school's learning and growing environment. To begin, the recent tragedy at Parkland, Florida sparked a nationwide desire for activism and gun reform. It was that the student's of A.U.L.'s eagerness to participate and create change sprung. An overwhelming amount of students collaborated to create a student led walk-out. A helping hand was presented in different arrays. Some created posters and speeches that would be later presented at a demonstration during the walkout, while others learned about about the topic of gun violence and sparked initiative in the minds of those around them. Additionally, dozens of students registered to vote right here at AUL. The demonstration of the walk-out was graced with the presence of Perth Amboy's Mayor, Wilda Diaz, who praised the organized and passionate work of the students. The great work of A.U.L. was broadcasted on the city's television channel and social media pages. Relations with city council has continued to grow as A.U.L.'s choir, lead by Ms.Dorantes, performed at Perth Amboy's Mayor's State of the City Address. In Diaz's ten years in office, our school's choir was the first ever student choir to perform at that event.

The great work at A.U.L. trickles far into the last week of the month where Women's History Month is celebrated. This Thursday there will be a student-led Women's History Month Assembly. Students and staff will read poems, testimonies, sing and dance. The goal of the event is to spread awareness of women rights and inspire the school community. Lastly, a group of students have begun a donation drive of toiletries, canned foods, and other goods to contribute to locate homeless women.

As the student body representative, I wish to vocalize the school's concern that snow days have been omitted from the calendar. The students of A.U.L. have consistently demonstrated leadership, initiative and respect for its school community and as a result have magnified the greatness of our school. It is widely felt that administration and the Board of Trustees should take that admirable behavior and evidence of student growth into consideration when cancelling the well deserved days off from school. It is understood that A.U.L. is to uphold an admirable and unique strategy to the education system, but adding an excessive amount of days to the school year is unnecessary and potentially counterproductive. As recently shown, the school's students and staff already play a role in making us a school full of virtues.

Respectfully,

Saidy Cedano
Class of 2018 Representative