



ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING on ZOOM
Wednesday, January 27, 2021

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:47 pm and presided over by Lisette Vilanova.

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.*, notice of this meeting has been publicized by having the date, time and location of the meeting posted at the school, on the school web site and advertised in the Home News Tribune which has been designated as the Board's official newspaper within the legal time required. Time will be allotted for public comment at this meeting.

II. FLAG SALUTE – Led by Ms. Vilanova

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.

IV. ROLL CALL

Board Members:

Lisette Vilanova (President)	Present
Joshua Bishop (Vice President)	Present
Jorge Cruz (Corporate Secretary)	Present (left 8:00 pm)
Angelo Abreu	Present
Claudine Bishop	Excused
Hector Bonilla	Excused

Elba Ceballo	Present (left 9:32 pm)
Eloisa Hernandez	Present
Reyes Ortega	Absent
Michelle Roman	Present (arrived 7:00 pm)
Stephanie Valdiviezo	Present

Additional Attendees:

Dr. Mario C. Barbieri (Interim Lead Person)	Present
Peter Salek-Nejad (Supervisor of Curriculum)	Present
Gail Long (BA/Board Secretary)	Present
Patricia Bombelyn (Board Attorney)	Present
Douglas Kelly (Vice-Principal)	Present

15 Other Attendees

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None presented

VI. PRESENTATIONS

- Audit – The Audit for sye 6/30/2020 was presented by Nora Galleros from Galleros Robinson LLP. The school had an Unmodified opinion on the CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report). There was a decrease in the General Fund balance of \$537,390, and there were no material weaknesses. Ms. Galleros went on to summarize the findings and to advise the Board that a Corrective Action Plan would need to be done, approved at the next Board meeting and sent to the state.
- Budget – The 2020/2021 Revised 108 Line Budget was presented by Gail Long who started the brief presentation with the audited fund balance from 2020, the revised revenues from the October 15 count and grant funding in excess of \$1M and projected expenses. The school should enroll more students to increase revenue. The new Lead Person is planning to start innovative programs which should increase enrollment through the end of the school year.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board President invites members of the public to present any comments to the Board (limited to 3 minutes)

- 1) Munira Jumali, HS Math Teacher received an email regarding a 4 hour AP test. She said that students want to take the tests in our school. The tests should be given in May in the subjects AP Calculus and AP Biology.
- 2) Susan Spiecker, MS Art Teacher residing in South Amboy does not want to come back to live instruction because of pre-existing conditions which would put her

more at risk with Covid-19. Ms. Vilanova said that a survey would go out to all of the stakeholders.

- 3) Ron Puntiel, Security Guard at the HS who resides in Perth Amboy spoke about the stipend for Head Security. He feels insulted and disrespected and does not want to do anything extra from this point forward since he has not received the stipend this year and the issue has been un-going and not addressed.
- 4) Roseann Berberich, Social Studies HS Teacher who resides in Manchester NJ wanted to thank the Board for the HEDI raises as she noticed they are listed on the agenda.

VIII. LEAD REPORT

Dr. Barbieri gave the Lead Report. A written report will be distributed to the Board.

Dr. Barbieri and the Board of Trustees of AULCS would like to recognize and congratulate the following employees for 10+ years of distinguished service to the school:

Munira Jumali
Rose Ann Berberich
Nabaneeta Mukherjee

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None of the committees gave a report.

X. 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.

Discussion Items:

Attorney Client Privilege

Personnel Actions

Motion: Joshua Bishop; Second: Jorge Cruz

Voice Vote: All In Favor: 8; Any Opposed: 0

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:47 PM

XI. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

**Motion: Joshua Bishop; Second: Michelle Roman
Voice Vote: All In Favor: 7; Any Opposed: 0**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:34 PM

XII. MOTIONS – Consent Agenda

The Interim Lead Person recommends the following items for approval:

Remove from Consent Agenda under Human Resources and Recognition, motion # 1. Motion re-presented with Other Motions.

Motion Items: Human Resources and Recognition motion # 2; Finance and Facilities motions # 1 – 10.

Motion: Joshua Bishop, Second: Angelo Abreu; Roll Call Vote:

Lisette Vilanova: Yes; Joshua Bishop: Yes; Jorge Cruz: Yes; Angelo Abreu: Yes; Eloisa Hernandez: Yes; Michelle Roman: Yes; Stephanie Valdiviezo: Yes.

Motions Passed

a. Academic Excellence & Educational Equity

No AE motions presented at this meeting

b. Human Resource and Recognition

2. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the job description for the Student Recruitment Specialist and Admissions Coordinator.

a. Finance and Facilities

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the following staff members to work on the school year 2021 Title I grant retroactive to 11/2020.

Staff	Title	Title I	Grant Amount	General Fund %	General Fund Amount
Hagan, Robert	MS English Teacher	100%	\$43,460	N/A	N/A

Dover, Danielle	MS Math Teacher	100%	\$42,400	N/A	N/A
El Mejdoub, Sara	HS English Teacher	60%	\$25,821.60	40%	\$17,214.40
Martin, Erica	HS English Teacher	20%	\$8,734.40	80%	\$34,937.60
Zarifyan, Olga	HS Math Teacher	40%	\$17,952	60%	\$26,928

2. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the following staff members to work on the school year 2021 Title I grant retroactive to 9/2020.

Staff	Title	Title I	Grant Amount	General Fund %	General Fund Amount
Genao, Ludys	HS Paraprofessional	100%	\$30,718.80	N/A	N/A
Pak, Meltem	HS Paraprofessional	100%	\$32,757.75	N/A	N/A

3. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the following staff member to work on the 21st Century I grant for school year 2021.

Staff	Title	% Charged to 21 st Century	Grant Amount	% Charged to General Fund	General Fund Amount
Vargas, Luis	Executive Assistant to the Lead Person	29.27%	\$21,000.00	70.73%	\$50,758

4. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the amendment of the 2020/2022 CARES grant to include \$95,000 in teacher salaries from summer 2020.

5. Move that the Board of Trustees accept the 2020 NSLP Equipment Assistance grant from the Division of Agriculture in the amount of \$16,333.

6. Move that the Board of Trustees accept the CustomInk donation for the Student Activity account for the Class of 2021 in the amount of \$229.55.

7. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the contract with MRDA Inc. for the services of the Examiner for the 21st Century grant renewal from 9/1/2020 to 8/31/2021 at a cost of \$22,500 (paid in three payments of \$7,500 each).

8. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the contract with MRDA Inc. for the services of the Examiner for the Papers grant renewal from 9/1/2020 to 8/31/2021 at a cost of \$7,500

9. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the Bill List and payrolls for the period from December 17, 2020 – January 27, 2021:

i. Bill List December 17, 2020 to January 27, 2021	\$159,017.85
ii. Payroll Register December 23, 2020	\$256,049.51
iii. Payroll Register January 15, 2021	<u>\$246,793.94</u>
Total	\$661,861.30

10. Move that the Board of Trustees authorize an increase not to exceed \$10,000 for the architectural firm of EI Associates for the final expenses associated with supervision of the Barclay renovation based on review of documentation.

XIII. OTHER MOTIONS

From Human Resources and Recognition:

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve Peter Salek-Nejad return to his prior position as Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction effective December 22, 2020.

Motion: Joshua Bishop, Second: Michelle Roman; Roll Call Vote:

Lisette Vilanova: Yes; Joshua Bishop: Yes; Jorge Cruz: Yes; Angelo Abreu: Yes; Eloisa Hernandez: Yes; Michelle Roman: Yes; Stephanie Valdiviezo: Yes.

Motion Passed

2. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the submission of the CAFR for the school year ending 6/30/2020.

Motion: Jorge Cruz; Second: Joshua Bishop Roll Call Vote:

Lisette Vilanova: Yes, Joshua Bishop: Yes, Jorge Cruz: Yes, Angelo Abreu: Yes, Eloisa Hernandez: Yes, Michelle Roman: Yes, Stephanie Valdiviezo: Yes.

Motion Passed

3. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the Revised Budget, Narrative, and Cash Flow for the 2020/2021 school year.

Motion: Joshua Bishop; Second: Jorge Cruz Roll Call Vote:

Lisette Vilanova: Yes, Joshua Bishop: Yes, Jorge Cruz: Yes, Angelo Abreu: Yes, Eloisa Hernandez: Yes, Michelle Roman: Yes, Stephanie Valdiviezo: Yes.

Motion Passed

4. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the attached raises based on the HEDI scores for certificated staff from the 2019/2020 school year.

Motion: Joshua Bishop; Second: Eloisa Hernandez Roll Call Vote:

Lisette Vilanova: Yes, Joshua Bishop: Yes, Jorge Cruz: Yes, Angelo Abreu: Yes, Eloisa Hernandez: Yes, Michelle Roman: Yes, Stephanie Valdiviezo: Yes.

Motion Passed

5. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the revised Reopening date of March 5, 2021.

Motion: Joshua Bishop; Second: Angelo Abreu Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 7 Yes: Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Jorge Cruz, Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, Stephanie Valdiviezo; Any Opposed: 0

Motion Passed

Motions included on the ADDENDUM for 1/27/2021 Board Meeting

1. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Person that there were 2 HIB incidents reported to the HIB Coordinator that were investigated and determined to be unfounded.

Tabled

2. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Person approve an unpaid Leave of Absence for Jose Segura Lopez from January 4, 2021 to January 31, 2021.

Motion: Eloisa Hernandez; Second: Angelo Abreu Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 7 Yes: Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Jorge Cruz, Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, Stephanie Valdiviezo; Any Opposed: 0

Motion Passed

3. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS approve an additional Bill List:

Bill List 1/27/2021 check # 8302 to 8307	\$13,729.09
T-Mobile payment (Non-check N0780)	<u>1,200.00</u>
Total	\$14,929.09

Motion: Angelo Abreu; Second: Jorge Cruz Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 7 Yes: Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Jorge Cruz, Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, Stephanie Valdiviezo; Any Opposed: 0

Motion Passed

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Jillian Rise, HS Guidance Counselor from Edison NJ thanked the Board for voting on the raises but said that the SGO's and the Summative Evaluations are not included in the scores for Counselors, Social Workers and Nurses. She was requesting that the Board consider other evaluation methods because there is no separation between Under Performing Counselors and Good Counselors.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The Board President entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Joshua Bishop made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jorge Cruz seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 9:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Gail Long
Board Secretary