



ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING on ZOOM
Wednesday, February 24, 2021

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:16 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)	Excused
Angelo Abreu	Present

Claudine Bishop	Excused
Hector Bonilla	Present
Elba Ceballo	Absent
Eloisa Hernandez	Present
Reyes Ortega	Absent
Michelle Roman	Present
Stephanie Valdiviezo	Absent

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

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Move that the Board of Trustees approve the special meeting minutes from December 9, 2020.

Motion: Angelo Abreu Second: Joshua Bishop Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 6 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Angelo Abreu, Hector Bonilla, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman; Any Opposed: 0

Motion passed

Move that the Board of Trustees approve the regular meeting minutes from December 16, 2020

Motion: Joshua Bishop Second: Michelle Roman Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 6 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Angelo Abreu, Hector Bonilla, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman; Any Opposed: 0

Motion passed

Move that the Board of Trustees approve the special meeting minutes from December 21, 2020

Motion: Joshua Bishop Second: Angelo Abreu Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 5 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman; Any Abstained: 1 Hector Bonilla; Any Opposed: 0

Motion passed

Move that the Board of Trustees approve the regular meeting minutes from January 27, 2021

Motion: Michelle Roman Second: Joshua Bishop Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 5 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman; Any Abstained: 1 Hector Bonilla; Any Opposed: 0

Motion passed

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Bulletin from NJDOE on ESSER II grant allocations – Dr. Barbieri and Ms. Long told the Board about the new grants that the school will be applying for mid-March. It consists of three grants with many flexible spending categories that will help mitigate COVID related issues. It can fund summer school, PPE purchases, cleaning and sanitizing solutions, and help with social emotional issues. The large grant is over \$700,000 and the other two are under \$50,000.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

An Enrollment Proposal was presented by Dr. Barbieri called Pathway to Leadership. This proposal starts with the middle school and goes through high school. It references Danielson and the Charter. It will start September 2021. In the 7th grade the program starts with a Learning Style Assessment and deals with Multiple Intelligences. There will be clubs formed on multiple intelligences. There will be an Interest Inventory to help students figure out what career they may like. Students will be taught to self-regulate with the development of a personalized student learning plan. In the 8th grade, there will be an Intro to Academies. Additionally, the high school will offer a dual language program with Middlesex Community College. The program is very comprehensive and should increase enrollment as the community becomes aware of what AULCS will now be offering.

VIII. LEAD REPORT – not presented

Enrollment: 490 students

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Academic Excellence Committee – Eloisa Hernandez said that she was happy about Dr. Barbieri's proposal. Ms. Vilanova said that we discussed assessments and the curriculum audit, the enrollment plan and APEX. There were discussions with the coaches in which they talked about metrics and student achievement.
- Recruitment and Enrollment Ad Hoc Committee – Angelo Abreu presented this report. The last few weeks the topic of the meetings involved Enrollment. He said that word of mouth is strong and at the same time, we are building up the school to be appetizing. We had Shoprite ads and ads in El Especialito. We need to work on our social presence and dual enrollment with college. We need to hear from students.

- Human Resources and Recognition Committee – Michelle Roman presented – The meeting this month was very productive. We discussed the following vacancies: the Front Office position, the HR Assistant/ Guidance position, PT Custodians, and the Recruitment person. We are hoping that students will speak.
- Finance and Facilities Planning Committee – Joshua Bishop – We are doing a lot in Finance and trying to catch up.
- Executive Committee – Lisette Vilanova presented. We had a stakeholders meeting and a survey was given to parents about reopening. We got over 400 responses, which represents over 80%. We intend to have a Board retreat, which will include discussions about the timing of meetings.
- Ms. Jamali shared her screen to show information that she has been accumulating since renewal. She has been keeping track of AULCS's ranking compared to other schools. Our ranking is 269. She explained that our rating is good because of the SAT and that our progress is good. Our school has been doing better than Perth Amboy public schools. Eighty-one juniors have not met their graduation requirements. She would like to roll out Accuplacer and Writeplacer. The students are moving in a positive direction with an average SAT score of 550.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- 1) Diana Bueno an AULCS senior and a resident of Perth Amboy. Ms. Bueno has been in the school for four years and wants to go back to in-person instruction. She said that staying at home is difficult, and that school should be at least half days. She said that the staff is not good. She understands that students would be required to wear masks, and gloves, and she said that they need new lunches. She wanted to know if students were going back to school next week. She expressed concerns about students smoking in the bathroom, and other students purposely wanting to be in detention.
- 2) Dean Page, Social Studies Teacher from the Middle School resides in Marlboro NJ asked why AULCS was not linking our opening with the public school. He is speaking up because of multi-generational homes and because of people with pre-existing conditions.
- 3) Saad Syed, Science Teacher from the High School resides in Metuchen NJ asked are we ready to reopen? He also stated that seniors need to interact, maybe outside.
- 4) April Gardener, ESL Teacher at the Middle School resides in Monroe NJ spoke about Dr. Barbieri's plan. She is thinking that we should have a meeting because the plan needs buying in from every staff member and that everyone needs to work together.
- 5) Bernadette Gioia, Social Studies Teacher at the high school who resides in Wall NJ expressed concern because her significant other is in a high-risk category for COVID. She cannot return until she is vaccinated.

- 6) Crystal Brito, AULCS senior who resides in Perth Amboy agrees with Mr. Syed. She said that “some of us have mental health issues” and that she is pressured to take care of her niece and cousins since she is home, and it is difficult since she is also trying to focus in on Zoom. She also said that students want a shortened day for school.
- 7) Maryeri Perez, an AULCS senior who resides in Perth Amboy said that no one is addressing students’ mental health, and that many students are falling behind.
- 8) Darleny Rodriguez an AULCS senior who resides in Perth Amboy said that Zoom is a problem, and the mental health issues are no joke. Some students are not logging into Zoom.
- 9) Ronald Puntiel, Security Guard at the high school who resides in Perth Amboy wants to thank the Board as his time at the school is coming to an end. He has submitted his resignation. Mr. Puntiel is also a parent of an AULCS senior. He said that the school does lack communication to parents. He gave an example of a situation earlier in the month when a wellness check was being conducted for a student, and the email was sent to the student but not the parents. It should have been sent to the parents.
- 10) Ahliya Burgos, an AULCS senior who resides in Perth Amboy asked about prom and spring sports as she plays softball. She also asked if the school opening date is definite.
- 11) Julius Rivas, an AULCS senior and class President who resides in Perth Amboy also said that communication is not good. He said that the shortened day is what everyone wants; students don’t want to be all day on Zoom. Before the winter break, students asked for the half day and were under the impression that it was being considered. Since it didn’t happen it caused a lack of trust between students and staff. He also said that the mental health issues are real; students have not been motivated for a while, particularly after many teachers were fired in the past. There has been constant turnover with the Principal, and he expressed frustration that working papers were not allowed for students because of grades.
- 12) Jadeliz Galan, an AULCS senior has many concerns. She wants to come back but sees that some teachers do not want to. She feels teachers should have the same options as the students and should be able to work remotely if they are uncomfortable working in person. She feels students have been neglected. Ms. Galan asked if seniors could do some student activities like Instagram posts, or National Honor Society; they miss their class.

XI. MOTIONS – Consent Agenda

The Interim Lead Person recommends the following items for approval:

Remove from Consent Agenda under Executive Team motion # 3 and tabled until the next meeting.

Motion Items: Academic Excellence motion # 1; Human Resources and Recognition motions # 1 and # 2; Finance and Facilities motions # 1 through # 12; and Executive Team motions #1 and # 2.

Motion: Eloisa Hernandez, Second: Michelle Roman, Roll Call Vote

Lisette Vilanova: Abstain, Joshua Bishop: Yes, Angelo Abreu: Yes, Hector Bonilla: Yes, Eloisa Hernandez: Yes, Michelle Roman: Yes.

a. Academic Excellence & Educational Equity

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the following staff members to attend required job related training (reimbursement to Gail Long if vendor will not accept purchase order):

Staff	Position	Training	Location	Cost
Evelyn Santiago	Lunch Aide	ServSafe Food Handler	Online	\$15.00
Lourdes Lopez Jumelles	Lunch Aide	ServSafe Food Handler	Online	\$15.00

b. Human Resource and Recognition

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve Allison Laffey, Art teacher, to work in the afterschool program funded by the 21st Century grant at the Assumption School site.
2. Move that the Board of Trustees accept the resignation of Security Guard, Ronald Puntiel effective Friday, February 26, 2021.

c. Finance and Facilities

1. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, approve the revised Board Secretary's (A148) Report and Treasurer's (A149) Report, for the month ending July 31, 2020. Be it further resolved, that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, approve the certification of funds, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3, that as of July 31, 2020 no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of 6A:23A16.10(a).
2. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, approve the revised Board Secretary's (A148) Report and Treasurer's (A149) Report, for the month ending August 31, 2020. Be it further resolved, that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, approve the certification of funds, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3, that as of August 31, 2020 no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of 6A:23A16.10(a).

3. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, approve the revised Board Secretary's (A148) Report and Treasurer's (A149) Report, for the month ending September 30, 2020. Be it further resolved, that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, approve the certification of funds, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3, that as of September 30, 2020 no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of 6A:23A16.10(a).

4. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary approve the transfer of funds for July 2020.

5. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary approve the transfer of funds for August 2020.

6. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary approve the transfer of funds for September 2020.

7. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Person approve the Corrective Action Plan for the audit for school year ending 6/30/2020.

8. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary approve the Bill listing from 1/28/2021 – 2/24/2021 in the amount of \$786,255.24

9. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary accept the Digital Divide Grant from NJCSA in the amount of \$6,000.00.

10. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Superintendent approve the renewal of the contract originally awarded in August 2020 to Delta-T Group to provide Substitute Teachers for the 2020/2021 school year.

11. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary approve the cancellation of the following stale dated checks (outstanding more than 1 year) in the Operating Account:

7/25/2018	6440	Gary Giackett	\$ 100.00
7/25/2018	6463	St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic	\$ 7,188.01
8/28/2018	6505	Olesia Parmar	\$ 13.33
9/25/2018	6573	Educational Services Commission	\$ 16,352.50
9/25/2018	6584	Pitney Bowes	\$ 69.00
10/17/2018	6631	NJ Charter Schools Association	\$ 780.00
11/19/2018	6719	Duplitron	\$ 76.03
11/27/2018	6764	Erin Mulligan-Pierre	\$ 142.88
1/29/2019	6891	Home News Tribune	\$ 92.00
2/27/2019	6981	AASA	\$ 460.00
3/26/2019	7027	DAANJ	\$ 500.00
7/24/2019	7296	Kencor Inc	\$ 88.00
7/24/2019	7307	St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic	\$ 19,288.24
9/24/2019	7431	Absolute Protective Systems, Inc	\$ 291.00
9/25/2019	07467	Barnes and Nobles	\$ 943.80
9/25/2019	07476	Eastern Datacom	\$ 1,950.00
10/23/2019	07493	New Jersey Charter Schools Association	\$ 700.00
1/22/2020	07667	Middlesex County Curriculum	\$ 250.00
1/28/2020	07713	Gannett New Jersey Newspapers	\$ 137.25
2/19/2020	07769	William Paterson University	\$ 100.00
Total Outstanding (stale dated) from Operating Account:			\$ 49,522.04

12. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary approve the cancellation of the following stale dated checks (outstanding more than 1 year) in the Payroll Account:

5/30/2019	12941	PAYROLL	1,992.50
08/15/2019	13116	PAYROLL	2,853.46
08/15/2019	13118	PAYROLL	3,105.82
09/15/2019	13128	PAYROLL	1,712.36
09/15/2019	13132	PAYROLL	196.87
09/30/2019	13173	PAYROLL	65.95
09/30/2019	13190	PAYROLL	50.30
09/30/2019	13200	PAYROLL	31.58
10/03/2019	13229	PAYROLL	254.69
10/03/2019	13231	AUL HRA	374.12
11/21/2019	13298	PAYROLL	223.93
11/21/2019	13310	PAYROLL	158.55
11/21/2019	13313	PAYROLL	439.92
11/21/2019	13317	PAYROLL	299.60
11/21/2019	13320	PAYROLL	690.09
11/21/2019	13347	PAYROLL	299.60
11/21/2019	13348	PAYROLL	294.95
11/21/2019	13356	PAYROLL	63.12
11/27/2019	13370	PAYROLL	98.86
06/30/2020	13645	PAYROLL	472.52
		TOTAL OUTSTANDING	13,678.79

d. Executive Team

1. Move that the Board of Trustees adopt the following policies which were first read at the 4/29/2020 Regular Board Meeting; and the second reading was approved at the 7/8/2020 Special Board Meeting:

P1581	Domestic Violence (Revised)
P2422	Health And Physical Education (Revised)
P3421.13	Postnatal accommodations(New)-
P4421.13	Postnatal accommodations (New)
P 5330	Administration of Medication (Revised)
P7243	Supervision of Construction (Revised)
P8210	School year (Revised)
P8220	School day (Revised)
P8462	Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children (Revised)

2. Move that the Board of Trustees adopt the following regulations which were first read at the 4/29/2020 Regular Board Meeting; and the second reading was approved at the 7/8/2020 Special Board Meeting:

R 1581	Domestic Violence (New)
R 5330	Administration of Medication (Revised)
R 8220	School Closings (Revised)

XII. OTHER MOTIONS

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the revised reopening date for Monday, April 12, 2021 for Phase 2 of the existing reopening plan.

Motion: Michelle Roman; Second: Angelo Abreu; Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 6: Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez, Hector Bonilla, Michelle Roman; Any Opposed: 0

Motion Passed

2. Move that the Board of Trustees approve contract with the Children's Financial Network (CFN) for instructional services for students attending the 21st Century Afterschool program. The courses are on "Eco-Effect, Life Inc.", and a Leadership Development series. They will be provided in spring 2021, the cost is \$10,000, and it will be funded by the 21st Century grant.

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

All In Favor: 6: Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez, Hector Bonilla, Michelle Roman; Any Opposed: 0

Motion Passed

MOTIONS FROM ADDENDUM for 2/24/2021 Board Meeting

1. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Person approve the online self-assessment under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights (EVVRS report) for the 2019/2020 school year.

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

All In Favor: 6: Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez, Hector Bonilla, Michelle Roman; Any Opposed: 0

Motion Passed

2. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Person accept the resignation of Erika Charles, Special Education Coordinator, HIB Coordinator, and School Social Worker effective April 19, 2021 or earlier if a replacement is found.

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

All In Favor: 6: Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez, Hector Bonilla, Michelle Roman; Any Opposed: 0

Motion Passed

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

Bill List 2/24/2021 check # 8340 to 8351	\$36,982.76
Anchor Industries LLC	1,995.00
Children's Financial Network	5,577.00
MCASA annual membership	600.00
Student Activity Check # 1170	<u>875.00</u>
Total	\$46,029.76

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

All In Favor: 6: Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez, Hector Bonilla, Michelle Roman; Any Opposed: 0

Motion Passed

4. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS request the Governor and his administration protect the health and safety and educational progress of NJ schools by immediately authorizing vaccinations of NJ educators and mobile vaccination units at our schools.

Motion: Joshua Bishop; Second: Eloisa Hernandez; Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 6: Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez, Hector Bonilla, Michelle Roman; Any Opposed: 0

Motion Passed

5. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS request the Governor and his administration take proactive steps to protect the health and safety and educational progress of NJ school children by submitting a request to the US Department of Education for a waiver of Section 1111(b)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education act of 1965 for the current school year.

Motion: Michelle Roman; Second: Angelo Abreu; Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 6: Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez, Hector Bonilla, Michelle Roman; Any Opposed: 0

Motion Passed

FROM OTHER MOTIONS:

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

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

All In Favor: 5: Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman; Any Abstained: 1: Hector Bonilla; Any Opposed: 0

Motion Passed

XIII. 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

HIB incident

No Executive Session

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment

TABLED MOTION FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

3. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the evaluation tool for the Business Administrator.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The Board President entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Eloisa Hernandez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Joshua Bishop seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Gail Long
Board Secretary