



**ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING on ZOOM**  
**Wednesday, March 17, 2021**

**I. The meeting was called to order at 6:43 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 (left 7:57 pm)
Jorge Cruz (Corporate Secretary)	Present (left 8:00 pm)
Angelo Abreu	Present
Claudine Bishop	Excused
Hector Bonilla	Present (arrived 6:47 pm)
Elba Ceballo	Present
Eloisa Hernandez	Present (arrived 6:53 pm)

Reyes Ortega	Absent
Michelle Roman	Present
Stephanie Valdiviezo	Excused

**Additional Attendees:**

Dr. Mario Barbieri (Interim Lead Person)	Present
Gail Long (Business Administrator/Board Secretary)	Present
Patricia Bombelyn (Board Attorney)	Present
Peter Salek-Nejad (Supervisor of Curriculum)	Present (left 7:08 pm)
Douglas Kelly (Vice-Principal)	Present

**V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. April Gardener, Middle School ESL Teacher who resides in Monroe, NJ wanted to give a shout out to Mr. Williams for the beautiful updates to the website.

**VI. 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:

- A. HR/Personnel matters
- B. Interim Lead Search Committee
- C. RICE notices

**Motion: Joshua Bishop; Second: Angelo Abreu**

**Voice Vote: All In Favor: 7; Any Opposed: 0**

**The Board went into Executive Session at 6:50 PM**

**VII. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION**

**Motion: Michelle Roman; Second: Angelo Abreu  
 Voice Vote: All In Favor: 6; Any Opposed: 0**

**The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:13 PM**

**VIII. DISCUSSION ITEM**

Dr. Barbieri gave an update on the Reopening Plan.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no public comment at this time.

**X. MOTIONS**

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the stipends for the following positions:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position/Activity</b>	<b>Stipend</b>
Edwin Santana	Softball Head Coach	\$7,500
Kyle Fisher	Baseball Head Coach	\$7,500
Justin Torres	Assistant Baseball Coach	\$4,500
Donald Reid	Assistant Softball Coach	\$4,500

**Motion: Elba Ceballo; Second: Angelo Abreu Voice Vote:**

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

**Motion Passed**

2. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the salary increase for the 2020/2021 school year for the following support staff members retroactive to the beginning of the school year as per attached.

**Motion: Elba Ceballo; Second: Angelo Abreu Roll Call Vote:**

**Lisette Vilanova: Yes; Angelo Abreu: Yes; Hector Bonilla: Yes; Elba Ceballo: Yes; Eloisa Hernandez: Yes; Michelle Roman: Yes.**

**Motion Passed**

3. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the BA/Board Secretary evaluation tool.

**Motion: Angelo Abreu; Second: Elba Ceballo Voice Vote:**

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

**Motion Passed**

4. Move that the Board of Trustees extend the Interim Lead Person contract for Dr. Mario C. Barbieri to include the 2021/2022 school year through 6/30/2022 at a salary of \$12,000 per month in accordance with the renewal terms from the 12/23/2020 employment contract.

**Motion: Angelo Abreu; Second: Elba Ceballo Roll Call Vote:**

**Lisette Vilanova: Yes; Angelo Abreu: Yes; Hector Bonilla: Yes; Elba Ceballo: Yes; Eloisa Hernandez: Yes; Michelle Roman: Yes.**

**Motion Passed**

Mr. Abreu said that he was happy that we have Dr. Barbieri. Dr. Barbieri thanked the Board and said that he looked forward to the future. He also thanked the custodians and security for all that they do.

## **XI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Fausto Sosa, Head Custodian for the school who resides in Perth Amboy spoke. He said that he has been working at the school for 5 years; he uses his own car whenever needed but he is frustrated with his salary which he feels is not enough given the fact that other custodians with less years at the school appear to make a salary close to what he is making. He also supported Ms. Lourdes Lopez, Lunch Aid & Custodian stating that her salary should be at least \$15 hourly which would match what other PT support staff are making.

Ms. Vilanova reassured Mr. Sosa that his raise and that of Ms. Lopez has been voted on earlier and that they should see the increases reflected in their next pay.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Angelo Abreu. The motion was seconded by Michelle Roman, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Long  
Board Secretary