



**ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING on ZOOM**  
**Tuesday, March 30, 2021**

**I. The meeting was called to order at 7:13 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**

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
Angelo Abreu	Present
Claudine Bishop	Excused
Hector Bonilla	Absent
Elba Ceballo	Absent

Eloisa Hernandez	Present
Reyes Ortega	Absent
Michelle Roman	Present (arrived 7:23 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 (arrived 7:16 pm)
Douglas Kelly (Vice-Principal)	Present

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Move that the Board of Trustees approve the regular meeting minutes from February 24, 2021.

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

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

**Motion passed**

**VI. PRESENTATIONS**

**The Board recognized the following Honor Roll students from Middle School. Mr. Kelly read out the names:**

**1ST HONORS**

- Alfonzo De La Rosa, Yadilka A.
- Baskerville, Dylan
- Calderon, Gustavo
- Cepeda, Nicole
- Francis, Benjamin
- Gonzalez, Luis
- Grullon Martinez, George
- Jaquez Ventura, Pamela M.
- Louis, Joedy
- Marrero, Lizbeth
- Marshall, Angelina
- Mejia Diaz, Jailyn
- Molina, Noah
- Romero, Mia
- Rosario, Lia Marie
- Ventura Bueno, Jaslen
- Wright, Tiffany

**2ND HONORS**

Abreu Garcia, Gabriela  
Almonte Abreu, Johanny  
Facey, Ricardo  
Feliz, Rachel  
Franco, Sergio  
Gutierrez Suriel, Daryne M.  
Mendez, Michael  
Pena Mejia, Anabel  
Rodriguez, J'Nyahlis  
Sabess German, Stanley R.  
Vinas Duran, Omelvin

**PRINCIPAL'S LIST**

Acevedo Villaman, Joneisha  
Franco, Perla  
Manzuela Grande, Orlando  
Marmolejos Brito, Robeyssy S.  
Munoz, Mariella  
Saldana, Jesika

**The Board recognized the following staff members for their efforts in coordinating the vaccination effort for our teachers. Dr. Barbieri read out the names:**

**School Nurse:** Ada Pineiro  
**School Nurse:** Susan Komosinski  
**Executive Assistant to the Lead Administrator:** Luis Vargas

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

1. April Gardener, Middle School ESL Teacher from Monroe, NJ was very happy that she will get the Cengage program for the high school.
2. Adriel Fernandez, 11<sup>th</sup> grade student from Perth Amboy, NJ asked many questions about reopening such as: have students been confirmed that they will go back; and when will they get their schedules. He asked about the 25-minute morning classes and thought they would be too short and that the school should do block scheduling so students would have more time to learn. Lastly, he was concerned that the school would be opening right after spring break. Dr. Barbieri answered some of his questions.
3. Estefany Matos, 11<sup>th</sup> grade student from Perth Amboy, NJ had questions about classes ending at noon and was concerned that students do not have lunch. She also wanted to know how dismissal would work; do all students leave at the same time?
4. Aracely Abril, an 11<sup>th</sup> grade student from Perth Amboy, NJ asked questions about the uniform. She said that many of the students do not have uniforms, and others no longer

fit in their uniforms. She also wanted to know why the school is opening up so fast and why couldn't we wait until September when more people would be vaccinated.

Dr. Barbieri stated that the government is recommending that schools reopen this school year and that most schools are open by now.

5. Saad Syed, HS Science Teacher from Metuchen, NJ said that the school usually has many professional developments that teachers can attend. He wondered how we could make staff feel comfortable. Lastly, when he looked at his roster, he saw that he had 8 students one day; 7 the next day and he commented that his room may not have windows. Dr. Barbieri assured him that the school was purchasing purifiers for rooms with no windows.
6. Rose Ann Berberich, HS Social Studies Teacher from Manchester, NJ said that at the staff meeting yesterday there were many unanswered questions and that some teachers need accommodations. Dr. Barbieri asked that the requests for accommodations be given to HR and that the unanswered questions should be given to him and that he would respond.
7. Bernadette Gioia, HS Social Studies Teacher from Waldwick, NJ expressed concern that by 4/12, staff would not be fully protected. She asked if the start of school could be delayed two more weeks because many Teachers have not been fully vaccinated. Dr. Barbieri answered that most schools were already open.
8. Adriel Fernandez, 11<sup>th</sup> grade student from Perth Amboy, NJ said that he felt there was no guarantee of safety; there was more of an emphasis on uniforms. He suggested that students not be required to wear uniforms saying that teenagers are growing. He also wanted to know if administration knew the number of students who were coming back.

## VIII. LEAD REPORT

1. Re-Opening Plan – Dr. Barbieri's Lead report was about re-opening. He has talked to teachers, surveys have been sent out to stakeholders, and students can stay remote if they choose to. He shared the schedule which started as a ½ day schedule from 8 am to 12 noon for students in the school; then 1 hour in which students are given bagged lunch to take home and then classes resume at 1 pm until 4 pm remotely. There were many questions from Board members about the reopening plan. Mr. Salek-Nejad answered some of the questions about the number of students who have chosen to come back. He said that according to a recent survey 141 HS & MS students want to come back; however, that number is a moving target because students are constantly changing their minds. Dr. Barbieri suggested that if this reopening is successful, he may be looking to move to live instruction in May, or we go back to remote if needed. There were many questions about lunch, such as why we were not serving lunch, and why students could not eat in the classrooms. Dr. Barbieri said that it was a state recommendation. It would be nearly impossible to enforce social distancing while students are together for lunch. Even though in middle school, it may be possible for students to eat in the classrooms, in high school that is not possible because of students' schedules.

Dr. Barbieri eventually grew frustrated with all of the questions stating that he needs to know there is support for reopening and that many people will always feel there are issues no matter what.

Mr. Cruz expressed support for Dr. Barbieri's plan saying that we will have to adapt on the fly as the plan is rolled out.

## IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Academic Excellence Committee – Mr. Bonilla was out so Ms. Vilanova shared information discussed in this month's Academic Excellence Committee meeting. She said that they talked about the prom, current student achievement, and about the need to see improvement in English and Math.
- Human Resources and Recognition Committee – Ms. Vilanova said that we have open positions that we need to fill.
- Finance and Facilities Planning Committee – Jorge Cruz and Joshua Bishop said that they looked at the draft of the 2022 budget. They also noted that we are making progress with the Board Secretary Reports.
- Executive Committee – Lisette Vilanova gave kudos over the work administration is doing. She then mentioned the areas the administration and the Board will need to focus on for the near future: Evaluations, Board retreat, Disclosures, and planning for next year.

After the Committee Reports, there was a discussion on the Re-organization plan for next year. Dr. Barbieri talked about data driven instruction and support for the Pathways to Leadership Program. To implement the program, he would need a Lead Teacher for the middle school. He planned to go to the middle school one day per week. The school would also need a Data Coach, which would be one of the responsibilities of the Director of Special Programs. The Lead Teacher would teach about two classes. One of the trustees asked about the Org chart, who will Guidance report to, and if this structure is sustainable if we were fully enrolled. Dr. Barbieri said that it may need to be adjusted if the middle school was fully enrolled. It could work for 100 students. Mr. Bishop had concerns that every new Lead changes the administrative structure.

## X. MOTIONS – Consent Agenda

The Interim Lead Person recommends the following items for approval:

Remove from Consent Agenda under Academic Excellence motion # 2, from Human Resource & Recognition motion # 1 and from Finance & Facilities motion # 2, 3, 6, 7, & 8.

**Motion Items: Academic Excellence # 1, Human Resources & Recognition # 2 - 4 and Finance & Facilities # 1, 4 & 5, Executive Team # 1.**

**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.**

**Motions Passed**

**a. Academic Excellence & Educational Equity**

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the field trip funded by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant:
  - Location: Warren Park, Perth Amboy, NJ
  - Date: Friday 4/26/2021
  - Teacher: Saad Syed
  - Cost: \$124 park fee

**b. Human Resource and Recognition**

1. Move that the Board of Trustees accept the resignation of Board Trustee and Finance Committee Chairperson, Jorge Cruz effective 4/30/2021.
2. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the following Security Guards to work in the Afterschool program funded by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant at a rate of \$30 per hour:

Stephanie Rojas  
Reme Barber  
Pablo Puntiel

3. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the stipends for the following school activities for the 2020/2021 school year:

National Honor Society	Saad Syed	\$500
Student Government	Timothy Gigl	\$1,000

**c. Finance and Facilities**

1. Move that the Board of Trustees 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 October 31, 2020. Be it further resolved, that the Board of Trustees 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 October 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 upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary approve the transfer of funds for November 2020.

3. Move that the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary approve the transfer of funds for December 2020.

**d. Executive Team**

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

P0152 Board Officers (Revised)-Option 1

**e. 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

**Motion: Joshua Bishop; Second: Eloisa Hernandez**

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

**The Board went into Executive Session at 9:17 pm.**

**f. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION**

**Motion: Angelo Abreu; Second: Eloisa Hernandez  
Voice Vote: All In Favor: 7; Any Opposed: 0**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:10 pm.

**g. OTHER MOTIONS**

**From Academic Excellence & Educational Equity:**

- 1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the Revised Reopening Plan

**Motion: Eloisa Hernandez, 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.**

**Motion Passed**

**From Human Resource and Recognition:**

- 1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the following job descriptions:

Lead Teacher  
Director of Special Programs

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

**All In Favor: 6 Lisette Vilanova, Jorge Cruz, Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, Stephanie Valdiviezo; Any Abstained: 1 Joshua Bishop; Any Opposed: 0**

**Motion passed**

**From Finance & Facilities:**

- 1. Move that the Board of Trustees 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 November 30, 2020. Be it further resolved, that the Board of Trustees 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 November 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).

**Motion was not Moved**



2. Move that the Board of Trustees 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 December 31, 2020. Be it further resolved, that the Board of Trustees 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 December 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).

**Motion was not Moved**

3. Move that the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Person approve the Budget for the period from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

**Motion: Jorge Cruz; Second: Angelo Abreu; Roll Call Vote:**

**Lisette Vilanova: 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 upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Person approve the Bill listing and payrolls from 2/25/2021 – 3/30/2021 in the amount of \$763,926.90:

i. Warrants Feb. 25, 2021 – Mar. 30, 2021	\$243,900.72
ii. Payroll Register February 26, 2021	\$268,552.07
iii. Payroll Register March 15, 2021	<u>\$251,474.11</u>
Total:	<u>\$763,926.90</u>
iv. Payroll Register March 30, 2021	\$279,784.74
v. Warrants 08407 to 08412 & N1277	<u>\$128,345.73</u>
Total	\$1,172,057.37

***The Finance Committee did not get a chance to review the 3/30/21 Payroll Register or the Warrants so they did not approve line iv. & v. in this motion.***

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

**All In Favor: 6 Lisette Vilanova, Jorge Cruz, Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, Stephanie Valdiviezo; Any Abstained: 0; Any Opposed: 0**

**Motion passed as amended**

5. Move that the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Person approve semi-annual certification of funds for employees whose salaries are funded 100% from federal grants in the IDEA and the Title I grant.

**Motion: Eloisa Hernandez Second: Jorge Cruz Voice Vote:**

**All In Favor: 6 Lisette Vilanova, Jorge Cruz, Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, Stephanie Valdiviezo; Any Abstained: 0; Any Opposed: 0**

**Motion passed**

**h. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments at this time.

**i. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board President entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Abreu made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hernandez seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Gail Long  
Board Secretary