



**ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING on ZOOM**  
**Tuesday, April 13, 2021**

**I. The meeting was called to order at 6:44 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 (arrived 7:30)
Jorge Cruz (Corporate Secretary)	Present
Angelo Abreu	Absent
Claudine Bishop	Excused
Hector Bonilla	Present
Elba Ceballo	Present
Eloisa Hernandez	Present

Reyes Ortega	Absent
Michelle Roman	Present
Stephanie Valdiviezo	Present

**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
Douglas Kelly (Vice-Principal)	Present

**V. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

## 1. Conversation with architect:

Mr. Ruben Garrido of E.I. Associates presented the status of the middle school renovation at 299 Barclay Street, Perth Amboy. The renovation is very close to completion. We were waiting for a building inspection that occurred last Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. However, we did not pass inspection, as there were a couple of issues that the general contractor will take care of this week. The inspector is scheduled to come out this Friday April 16<sup>th</sup>, approve the project and we should be able to get our Certificate of Occupancy. Right now, the building is ready for use.

Next, Mr. Garrido gave us information and advice about ventilation in the Barclay facility and what we might need to do to mitigate risks posed by COVID-19. He gave us a little history on the Barclay project. When the project was started and the city reviewed the plans, they said that the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor renovation for 299 Barclay Street was a change of use for the space and mandated the contractors to include a mechanical ventilation system for all of the rooms. This system allows 100% of fresh air to enter the building; natural ventilation for all rooms. Originally this was thought of as additional unnecessary work, but after the COVID-19 pandemic it turned out to be very fortunate that the city had the General Contractor make these changes. In addition, all of the windows can be opened. The rooms have a mini split unit which provides heating and cooling circulating the air inside of the rooms. In his opinion, this should be sufficient regarding COVID mitigation, but if we wanted more protection, we could have a bipolar ionization unit added into the air ducts – one per floor and possibly a portable bipolar ionization unit for the teacher's lounge. Mr. Garrido shared his screen and showed us where the units in the ducts would be placed in order to kill any virus that may be in the classrooms. The units may cost \$3,000. Mr. Garrido would give us more information.

## 2. Updates on reopening plan

Dr. Barbieri presented information about the reopening plan. He shared a training document that illustrated what staff should do, where they should go, what the school looks like with the partitions on the desks and the arrows on the floor. The projected re-opening day for staff is Monday, April 19 and students would start one week later on Monday, April 26, 2021.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

1. April Gardner, Middle School ESL Teacher residing in Monroe Township, NJ had a question about the 2<sup>nd</sup> staff vaccination scheduled for April 29 now that school will be in session live for some students. Dr. Barbieri said that April 29 would be a remote day.

2. Bernadette Gioia, High School Social Studies Teacher residing in Waldwick, NJ had a question about the half- day schedule. She mentioned that since she lives over 1 hour away, she may not arrive home in time to start the remote schedule for the afternoon. Ms. Long said that teachers shouldn't be going home in the middle of the day. Ms. Vilanova said that question should be answered by Dr. Barbieri.

3. Andrea Allocco, High School Physical Education Teacher residing in Beachwood, NJ had a question about Physical Education classes in the live sessions.

## VII. 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. Attorney/client privilege

ACTION MAY BE TAKEN UPON RETURN TO THE SPECIAL MEETING.

**Motion: Jorge Cruz; Second: Eloisa Hernandez**

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

**The Board went into Executive Session at 7:53 pm.**

## VIII. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

**Motion: Jorge Cruz; Second: Eloisa Hernandez**

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

**The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:14 pm.**

**IX. MOTIONS**

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the reopening day for hybrid instruction with staff to teach from the classroom starting April 19, 2021 from 7:50 am – 4:00 pm and for students to attend in person as per their hybrid schedule from April 26, 2021. In the event renovations have not been ratified with the CO (certificate of occupancy) and fire inspection, those at the Barclay Satellite Campus will remain remote until CO is obtained. The Board should receive updates on the requests discussed prior to reopening, including: modifications to the reopening plan, updates on surveys, training plan and substitute requirements.

**Motion: Hector Bonilla, Second: Jorge Cruz; Roll Call Vote:**

**Lisette Vilanova: Yes; Joshua Bishop: Yes; Jorge Cruz: Yes; Eloisa Hernandez: Yes; Elba Ceballo: Yes; Hector Bonilla: Yes.**

**Motion Passed**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board President entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Long  
Board Secretary