



ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING on ZOOM
Wednesday, April 28, 2021

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:37 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 (left 10:45 pm)
Jorge Cruz (Corporate Secretary)	Present
Angelo Abreu	Present
Claudine Bishop	Excused
Hector Bonilla	Excused

Elba Ceballo	Present (arrived 6:42 pm)
Eloisa Hernandez	Present
Reyes Ortega	Present (arrived 7:40 pm)
Michelle Roman	Present
Stephanie Valdiviezo	Absent

Additional Attendees:

Dr. Mario C. Barbieri (Interim Lead Person)	Present
Peter Salek-Nejad (Supervisor of Curriculum)	Present (left 8:58 pm)
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 March 17, 2021.

Motion: Michelle Roman Second: Angelo Abreu Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 5 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Jorge Cruz, Angelo Abreu, Michelle Roman; Any Abstained: 2 Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez; Any Opposed: 0

Motion passed

Move that the Board of Trustees approve the regular meeting minutes from March 30, 2021.

Motion: Jorge Cruz Second: Joshua Bishop Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 5 Joshua Bishop, Jorge Cruz, Angelo Abreu, Elba Ceballo, Michelle Roman; Any Abstained: 2 Lisette Vilanova, Eloisa Hernandez; Any Opposed: 0

Motion passed

Move that the Board of Trustees approve the special meeting minutes from April 13, 2021

Motion: Joshua Bishop Second: Jorge Cruz Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 5 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Jorge Cruz, Elba Ceballo, Michelle Roman; Any Abstained: 2 Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez; Any Opposed: 0

Motion passed

VI. PRESENTATIONS

- Student Presentation – None given
- Staff Presentation – None given

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

1. April Gardner, Middle School ESL Teacher who resides in Monroe, NJ is happy to be back at work in the school and appreciates getting the second vaccine, but said that if only one ESL Teacher can go to the NJTESOL conference she would like Ms. Irudhayasammy to go in her place as she has attended the conference previously. She also said that she is glad that we got Cengage.
2. Dr. Natasha James Waldon, from the Jewish Renaissance Foundation introduced Elba Arias, the new JRF person working in the school. Ms. Arias has been in the position at the school since March 5th and wants an email account so that she can communicate better with the students.
3. Aracely Abriel, an 11th grade student who lives in Perth Amboy was concerned about the uniforms. She didn't want the school to insist that students' wear uniforms. She also said that students' ideas were not being addressed and mentioned scheduling as an example. At a previous meeting, one of the students suggested that the school should do block scheduling.
4. Adriel Fernandez, 11th grade student from Perth Amboy had the same concerns as Aracely with the lack of block scheduling and uniforms but he also mentioned attendance. He felt there was too much stress on the uniforms and attendance. He explained that some students have to work (while attending classes) and so they don't want to have their cameras on. Others may feel uncomfortable with the cameras on showing the inside of their houses.
5. Anasthasia Irudhayasammy, ESL teacher from the High School who resides in Edison, NJ requested that the school allow her to attend the 3 day NJTESOL conference that April Gardner was board approved to attend.
6. Rose Ann Berberich, High School Social Studies Teacher and President of AULEA who resides in Manchester, NJ informed the Board that she is about to step down from the leadership position and that Syed Saad would be relieving her. She mentioned that five union presidents from districts in Middlesex County have ½ days where they work at the school until 12 noon; others had staff sign a waiver.
7. Saad Syed, HS Science Teacher residing in Metuchen, NJ is concerned about learning loss. He wonders how we bridge the gap. He talked of a need to create an SLT Team and he talked about the charter renewal.
8. Audrick Franco, a 10th grader from Perth Amboy said that the problem with the schedule is that the afternoon schedule is a waste.
9. Tim Gigl, HS Social Studies Teacher from Roselle Park, NJ wants to try to expedite the Brotherhood and Student Government, and he wants a Leadership Team.
10. Ian Askins, HS Math Teacher from Hillsdale, NJ agrees with staff and students. He wonders if it is safe to be in the building. He mentioned that students not in the building are not wearing uniforms so maybe that shouldn't be the focus. The priority should be health and safety, and is the technology working, and teaching and learning in the shortened periods.

11. Adriel Fernandez, 11th grade student from Perth Amboy spoke of the schedule and the leadership team. Ms. Vilanova said that Dr. Barbieri would work on it and that the Committee should have students in it. Adriel expressed concerns with the schedule saying instructional time in the morning, break, then the 15 minute periods –is very chopped up and students cannot learn effectively.
12. Nicole Cannella, HS Art Teacher has friends in their districts whose schedules alternated by days. Period 1 – 5 would be on day one. Periods 6 – 9 would be on day two. For an Art class, the 24 minute class in the morning is very difficult. Ms. Cannella was requesting that this type of schedule should be considered.
13. Aracely Abril, 11th grade student said that the school has poor communication, that there should be more transparency, and that there should not be last minute information.

VIII. LEAD REPORT – Dr. Mario Barbieri

- Dr. Barbieri was pleased with the communication that he received from Mr. Kelly and Mr. Salek-Nejad concerning the school reopening. There were a few glitches regarding how staff entered the building at Door 2, and there was a classroom that shouldn't have been used which ended up on the schedule, room 103, but all issues were resolved quickly. Teachers reported that the students were happy to be back. There were about 3 – 4 students per classroom.
- There has been talk about the formation of a School Leadership Committee (SLC) from Mr. Syed. Dr. Barbieri is very familiar with them and he supported SLC's when he worked with the RAC (Regional Advisory Centers). He met with Mr. Syed about the SLC being formed. They will need to include Data Coaches.
- Dr. Barbieri reported a recent visit to Fertig with Ms. Long. Though the former uniform store is under new management. The owner is willing to sell the school all of the inventory of uniforms they have for the school to sell them. In September, the owner would be willing to sell the uniforms direct to families. In the meantime, Ms. Valentin identified a parent who can create an iron on patch parents can affix to a dress white or polo shirt that may suffice for a uniform (in the short term).
- The school has 77 new applicants to the school for next year.
- The report included information on the 107 seniors and how many of them applied to college. Mr. Bishop had questions saying that 25% of the students were not planning on going to college. He asked what we are doing to get them to apply. Dr. Barbieri said that there are college fairs, but that he did not get a chance to talk to Guidance about it. Mr. Bishop is looking for an update.
- Other information was included on an extensive written report.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Academic Excellence Committee - Hector Bonilla was not at the meeting, but Dr. Barbieri reported what was discussed at the committee meeting from his notes: there was a discussion about internships, test score waivers, assessments, and a PowerPoint on testing data.
- Human Resources and Recognition Committee – Michelle Roman – spoke about the items on the agenda and about interviews that are planned and renewals.
- Finance and Facilities Planning Committee – Jorge Cruz – spoke about Board Disclosures due by the end of the month, and Mandated training asking Board members who have not completed to do so by the deadlines.
- Executive Committee – Lisette Vilanova

April Gardener spoke briefly about PLC Reports. She said that she is trying to implement Pathways with Ms. Spiecker and Mr. O'Keefe at the Middle School. She talked about test design and content; and how teachers can master skills. She also likes the SLT and PBSIS. Ms. Dover and Ms. Vide are testing coordinators. We need growth on the SAT testing for state rating and school growth.

Peter Salek-Nejad said that 46 students took the SAT – this test was only for 11th graders. On 4/29, 10th graders will be taking the motor vehicle written test at the school. We are developing testing for Accuplacer.

X. MOTIONS – Consent Agenda

The Interim Lead Person recommends the following items for approval:

Remove from Consent Agenda under Finance and Facilities motion # 1 & 2.

Ms. Roman had questions about why the Board Secretary's Reports were so late. Ms. Long and Mr. Cruz explained that November and December reports were presented last month where there was an immaterial difference but the Board held the reports to find the difference instead of approving them. Additionally, with the reopening, and the research and facilities issues – trying to obtain a CO, procuring the proper filters for the air handlers, and all involved with these many issues things were delayed. Ms. Hernandez asked how soon after a month just ended should the Board Secretary's report be presented? Ms. Long and Mr. Cruz said that it would be ideal to present the prior month reports at the next month's regular meeting; however, it can take longer and not be considered late. Mr. Cruz said that 6 weeks behind is not unreasonable. It was agreed that at the next regularly scheduled meeting January – March would be presented.

Motion Items: Academic Excellence motion # 1 & 2, Human Resources & Recognition motion # 1, Finance & Facilities motion # 3.

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

Lisette Vilanova: Yes; Joshua Bishop: Yes; Jorge Cruz: Yes; Angelo Abreu: Yes; Elba Ceballo: Yes; Eloisa Hernandez: Yes; Reyes Ortega: Yes; Michelle Roman: Yes.

Motions Passed

a. Academic Excellence & Educational Equity

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the following virtual teacher professional development on Creating Affirming and Inclusive Educational Environments. The workshops are offered by The College of NJ School of Education:

Staff	Workshop Title	Date	Cost
Morgan, Brittany	Creating Equitable Classrooms and Lesson Plans	5/5/21	\$105.09
Morgan, Brittany	Customized Infusion of LGBTQ	5/12/21	\$105.09

2. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the senior prom to be held at the Lake Chateau on June 10, 2021

b. Human Resource and Recognition

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve Guidance Counselor Kelly Howlett as the HIB Coordinator effective 4/28/2021.

c. Finance and Facilities

1. Move that the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary approve the Bill listing and payrolls from 3/31/2021 – 4/28/2021

i. Warrants March.31, 2021 – April 28, 2021	\$248,485.20
ii. Payroll Register March 30, 2021	\$279,784.74
iii. Payroll Register April 15, 2021	\$254,643.27
iv. Warrants – ck # 8448 – 8454	<u>\$74,525.34</u>
Total	\$857,438.55

XI. MOTIONS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

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: Joshua Bishop

Second: Jorge Cruz

Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 7 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Jorge Cruz, Angelo Abreu, Elba Ceballo, Reyes Ortega, Michelle Roman; Any Abstained: 1 Eloisa Hernandez; Any Opposed: 0

Motion passed

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: Joshua Bishop Second: Angelo Abreu Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 8 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Jorge Cruz, Angelo Abreu, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Reyes Ortega Michelle Roman; Any Abstained: 0; Any Opposed: 0

Motion passed

3. Move that the Board of Trustees approves the solicitation of requests for quotes for the audit for school year ending 6/30/2021.

Motion: Joshua Bishop Second: Angelo Abreu Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 8 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Jorge Cruz, Angelo Abreu, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Reyes Ortega Michelle Roman; Any Abstained: 0; Any Opposed: 0

Motion passed

XII. 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: Angelo Abreu; Second: Joshua Bishop

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

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:56 pm.

Motion: Michelle Roman; Second: Angelo Abreu

Voice Vote: All In Favor: 6; Any Opposed: 0

The Board came out of Executive Session at 11:51 pm.

XIII. OTHER MOTIONS

- 1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the Interim Lead Person Evaluation Tool.

Motion: Angelo Abreu Second: Jorge Cruz Voice Vote:

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

Motion passed

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

No comments at this time.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The Board President entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Abreu made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Roman seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Long
Board Secretary