



**ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING on ZOOM**  
**Wednesday, May 26, 2021**

**I. The meeting was called to order at 6:47 pm and presided over by Ms. 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**

<b><u>Board Members:</u></b>		
Lisette Vilanova, President	Present	
Joshua Bishop, Vice President	Present	
Angelo Abreu, Corporate Secretary	Present	
Claudine Bishop	Excused	

Hector Bonilla	Present	
Elba Ceballo	Present	
Eloisa Hernandez	Present	
Reyes Ortega	Absent	
Michelle Roman	Present	(arrived 7:44 pm)
Stephanie Valdiviezo	Present	
<b><u>Additional Attendees:</u></b>		
Dr. Mario Barbieri (Interim Lead Person)	Present	
Gail Long (Business Admin/Board Secretary)	Present	
Patricia Bombelyn (Board Attorney)	Present	
Peter Salek-Nejad (Supervisor of Curriculum)	Present	
Douglas Kelly (Vice-Principal)	Present	

## V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Move that the Board of Trustees approve the regular meeting minutes from April 28, 2021.

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

**All In Favor: 7 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Angelo Abreu, Hector Bonilla, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Stephanie Valdiviezo Any Abstained: 0; Any Opposed: 0**

**Motion passed**

Move that the Board of Trustees approve the special meeting minutes from May 11, 2021

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

**All In Favor: 6 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Angelo Abreu, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Stephanie Valdiviezo; Any Abstained: 1; Hector Bonilla; Any Opposed: 0**

**Motion passed**

## VI. PRESENTATIONS

- **Dr. Barbieri read off the names and the Board congratulated the following Top 20 Seniors:**

**Valedictorian:              Fanely Caba  
Salutatorian:                Vitaly Vargas**

**Jadeliz Galan  
Mary Rosario  
Stephano Rivera  
Jennifer Acevedo Cardenas**

**Naroly Jerez  
Angelus Watkins  
Briana Underwood  
Camila Vargas Valerio**

**Tatyani Gabourel  
Crismeily Nunez Paez  
Robertico Valdez Valdez  
Oswaldo Ramos  
Romina Abraham Rojas**

**Nicolle Perez Mandoza  
Idelyz Lopez Rodriguez  
Aaron Llanas  
Crystal Brito  
Cristofer Polanco Noesi**

- Dr. Barbieri congratulated the students and thanked the Counselors for all of their hard work.
- Dr. Jack Perna gave a presentation on the CRRSA Consolidated grant, which included 3 grants – ESSER II, Learning Acceleration and Mental Health. The funding was approximately \$709,000 for ESSER II, \$46,000 for Learning Acceleration, and \$45,000 for Mental Health. Dr. Perna went over the budget and the needs assessment done by the school. The ESSER II grant would be used to hire Bilingual Interventionists, to hire a Community Worker for student attendance, to fund a portion of the summer school, to fund curriculum writing and to purchase Link It and APEX. The ESSER II grant can also be used for ventilation and air quality issues so the school will be looking to provide ventilation units and operable windows for the areas in the school buildings that had the greatest need. The Learning Acceleration grant will be used to fund specific summer courses in STEM subjects. And the Mental Health grant will be used to fund a contractor to provide Social Emotional support.
- Reopening Update – Dr. Barbieri gave a reopening update. He wanted to change the school day to 100% live instruction. A survey was done - 52% of the parents and students who responded wanted a longer school day starting June 7<sup>th</sup>. However, after one student tested positive for COVID-19, the decision was made not to change the instructional program until next school year. Student and staff absenteeism were also discussed. Board members also had questions about the number of graduating students not attending college.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

1. Saad Syed, HS Science Teacher residing in Metuchen, NJ said that he was encouraged to hear the HS morning updates that Mr. Kelly had given. He also mentioned that teachers had not been evaluated.
2. Tim Gigl, HS Social Studies Teacher residing in Roselle Park, NJ had seen an article which contained a quote written by Trustee Joshua Bishop when he was a student. The quote said that AUL treats students as young adults. Mr. Gigl said that we should emphasize that it's a community.

**Enrollment: 486 students**

## VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Academic Excellence Committee - Hector Bonilla – said that the 2 items that are on the agenda were discussed.
- Human Resources and Recognition Committee – Michelle Roman – Interviews were conducted for a school Social Worker, HR Assistant, and HS Principal
- Finance and Facilities Planning Committee – Joshua Bishop – mentioned that the Business Administrator has been working hard to get Board Secretary reports up to date; that all trustees should ensure their training is up to date, and facilities are almost finished.
- Executive Committee – Lisette Vilanova – said that she is putting together priorities with Dr. Barbieri. She also wants a strategy meeting with staff and a Board retreat without an agenda; Board elections are coming up and we should have all nominees by this Friday.

## IX. MOTIONS – Consent Agenda

The Interim Lead Person recommends the following items for approval:

**Remove from Consent Agenda under Human Resources and Recognition, motion #1.**

**Motion Items: Academic Excellence & Educational Equity # 1-3; Human Resources and Recognition # 2; Finance and Facilities # 1-9.**

**Motion: Joshua Bishop, Second: Angelo Abreu; Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Motions Passed**

### a. Academic Excellence & Educational Equity

1. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the curriculum listed in the curriculum audit as per attached spreadsheet
2. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the attach curriculum template for all curriculum writing.
3. Move that the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the professional development for David Sweatte, Computer Science Teacher 6/28 – 7/12/21 or 7/12 – 7/16/21:

<b>Training</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Beauty & Joy of Computing	Online	\$75.00

**b. Human Resource and Recognition**

2. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the appointment of Spanish Teacher Maria Vide to provide 6 sessions of ESL for Adults to be funded by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant at a cost of \$40 per hour.

**c. Finance and Facilities**

1. Move that the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator, approve the revised Board Secretary's (A148) Report and Treasurer's (A149) Report, for the month ending January 31, 2021. 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 January 31, 2021 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 Interim Lead Administrator, approve the revised Board Secretary's (A148) Report and Treasurer's (A149) Report, for the month ending February 28, 2021. 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 February 28, 2021 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 upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator, approve the revised Board Secretary's (A148) Report and Treasurer's (A149) Report, for the month ending March 31, 2021. 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 March 31, 2021 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 upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the transfer of funds for January 2021.
5. Move that the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the reduction of funds totaling (\$793,159.00) in accordance with the revised budget for 2020/2021 submitted to the state in January 2021.
6. Move that the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the Bill listing and payrolls from 4/29/2021 – 5/26/2021

i. Warrants April 29, 2021 – May 26, 2021

\$124,953.94

ii. Payroll Register April 30, 2021	\$271,194.14
iii. Payroll Register May 14, 2021	<u>\$248,161.94</u>
Total	\$644,310.02

7. Move that the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator sign a Resolution for Participation in Coordinated Transportation with Educational Services Commission of NJ for the period from 7/1/2021 – 6/30/2022.

8. Move that the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator sign a Master Collaborative Educational Services Agreement with Educational Services Commission of NJ for the period from 7/1/2021 – 6/30/2022.

9. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the additional Bill Listing through May 26, 2021:

Warrants for checks 8500 to 8506	\$11,870.49
Warrants for Food Service checks 1101 to 1102	<u>\$12,109.00</u>
Total:	\$23,979.49

## X. 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:

Personnel Items & RICE Notices

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

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

**The Board went into Executive Session at 9:03 PM.**

**XI. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION**

**Motion: Joshua Bishop; Second: Eloisa Hernandez  
Voice Vote: All in Favor: 8; Any Opposed: 0**

**The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:32 PM**

**XII. MOTIONS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

**From Human Resource and Recognition:**

1. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the appointment of Malan Lampley as FT Head Security at a salary of \$49,000 prorated from the beginning of school year. This is a 12-month position.

**Motion: Hector Bonilla, Second: Eloisa Hernandez; Roll Call Vote:**

**Yes: Lisette Vilanova: Yes; Hector Bonilla: Yes; Eloisa Hernandez: Yes; Michelle Roman: Yes; Stephanie Valdiviezo: Abstained; Joshua Bishop; Abstained; Angelo Abreu, Abstained; Elba Ceballo.**

**Motion Passed**

**XIII. OTHER MOTIONS**

1. Move that the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the submission of the CRRSA consolidated grants 3/13/2020 – 9/30/2023:

ESSER II	\$706,897
Learning Acceleration	\$45,366
Mental Health	\$45,000

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

**All in Favor: 7 Yes: Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Angelo Abreu, Hector Bonilla, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, Any Abstained: 0; Any Opposed: 0**

**Motion Passed**

2. Move that the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the submission of the NJSIG Safety Grant from 6/1/21 to 11/30/21 in the amount of \$2,433.

**Motion: Joshua Bishop; Second: Elba Ceballo Voice Vote:**

**All in Favor: 8 Yes: Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Angelo Abreu, Hector Bonilla, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, Stephanie Valdiviezo**

**Motion Passed**

3. Move that the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve AULCS to cover the cost for caps and gowns for all 2021 seniors and 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates.

**Motion: Joshua Bishop      Second: Elba Ceballo**

**All in Favor: 8 Yes: Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Angelo Abreu, Hector Bonilla, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, Stephanie Valdiviezo**

**Motion Passed**

Ms. Vilanova said that the Corporate Secretary position on the Board should be replaced as it was left vacant when Jorge Cruz resigned April 30, 2021. The Board accepted nominations for one of the Board members to be Corporate Secretary to finish out Mr. Cruz's term.

Elba Ceballo nominated Angelo Abreu as Corporate Secretary

Angelo Abreu accepted the nomination

4. Move that the Board of Trustees accept Angelo Abreu to be Corporate Secretary to finish out Jorge Cruz's term from 5/26/2021 – 6/30/2021.

**Motion: Joshua Bishop      Second: Eloisa Hernandez      Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Motion Passed**

#### **XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No Public Comment

#### **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board President entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Joshua Bishop made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Michelle Roman seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Gail Long  
Board Secretary