



ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING on ZOOM
Wednesday, September 2, 2020

I. The meeting was called to order 6:47 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 – Lead by Lisette 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
Jorge Cruz (Corporate Secretary)	Present; left at 8:15 pm
Angelo Abreu	Present
Claudine Bishop	Excused
Hector Bonilla	Present; left during 2 nd closed session
Elba Ceballo	Absent

Eloisa Hernandez	Present
Reyes Ortega	Absent
Michelle Roman	Present
Stephanie Valdiviezo	Present

Additional Attendees:

Margaret Morales (Lead Person)	Excused
Gail Long (Board Secretary)	Present
Patricia Bombelyn (Board Attorney)	Present
Douglas Kelly (Vice-Principal)	Present
Peter Salek Nejad (Supervisor – Curriculum/Instruction)	Present

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments from public.

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. Personnel matters
- B. Attorney Client Privilege

Motion: Jorge Cruz; Second: Joshua Bishop

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

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:02 PM

Nick Repici came in at 7:45 pm. He entered the Breakout Room with the Board.

VII. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: Joshua Bishop; Second: Michelle Roman

Voice Vote: All In Favor: 7; Any opposed: 0

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:43 PM

1. Motion to accept the letter of resignation of Margaret Morales and approve separation agreement dated 9/2/2020.

Motion: Joshua Bishop; Second: Michelle Roman; Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Passed

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments from public.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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- (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:

- C. Personnel matters
- D. Attorney Client Privilege

Motion: Joshua Bishop; Second: Angelo Abreu

Voice Vote: All In Favor: 7; Any opposed: 0

The Board went back into Executive Session at 8:50 PM

X. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: Joshua Bishop; Second: Eloisa Hernandez

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

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:17 PM

2. Motion to appoint Peter Salek-Nejad as Acting Lead effective immediately.

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

Lisette Vilanova: Yes; Joshua Bishop: Yes; Angelo Abreu: Yes; Eloisa Hernandez: Yes; Michelle Roman: Yes; Stephanie Valdieviezo: Yes.

Motion Passed

The Board established a search committee to find an Interim Lead comprised of the following members: Lisette Vilanova who is the Chair, Jorge Cruz, Joshua Bishop, and Michelle Roman.

A second ad hoc committee was created – the Recruitment and Retention Committee is comprised of Angelo Abreu who is the Chair, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman and Stephanie Valdieviezo.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments from public.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Bishop to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Abreu and the meeting was closed at 10:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Long
Board Secretary