



ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING on ZOOM
Tuesday, September 15, 2020

I. The meeting was called to order and presided over by Joshua Bishop at 7:02 PM.

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 – Led by Mr. Bishop

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)	Excused
Joshua Bishop (Vice President)	Present
Jorge Cruz (Corporate Secretary)	Present
Angelo Abreu	Present
Claudine Bishop	Excused

Hector Bonilla	Present
Elba Ceballo	Present
Eloisa Hernandez	Present
Reyes Ortega	Absent
Michelle Roman	Excused
Stephanie Valdiviezo	Excused

Additional Attendees:

Peter Salek-Nejad (Acting Lead Administrator)	Present
Gail Long (Business Administrator/Board Secretary)	Present
Patricia Bombelyn (Board Attorney)	Present
Douglas Kelly (Vice-Principal)	Present

Other attendees: Luis Vargas, April Gardner, and Miriam Rodriguez.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

April Gardner, Middle School Teacher from Monroe, NJ inquired about how teachers could help with enrollment. Mr. Bishop informed her that administration would reach out to her.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Acting Lead Mr. Salek-Nejad told the Board about the first week of school. They set up Google classrooms and they set up Zoom and were working through the issues. They were also working on the protocol for using the cameras as well as troubleshooting problems with some students.

Regarding enrollment, students transferring to AULCS from Assumption school were being delayed by Perth Amboy’s BOE enrollment/transfer process. To assist the students AULCS created paper schedules and began providing instruction. This way when the transfers were finally completed, the students wouldn’t be too far behind, would become familiar with the teachers and would become acclimated to the school. The Board was pleased with this innovative approach to attract new students. Enrollment is presently 479 in Realtime with 93 students in MS and 386 in HS.

The Board and Mr. Salek discussed different enrollment strategies such as creating a video with students, or reaching out to youth organizations such as the YMCA, and/or putting flyers in doors.

VII. MOTIONS

The Lead Administrator recommends the following items for approval:

a. Academic Excellence & Educational Equity

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve mandatory 21st Century training:

Faculty	Date(s)	Event	Location	Amount Not to Exceed
Vargas, Luis	Sept. 22, 24, 29 & Oct. 1, 2020	21 st Century Grantee Orientation	Webinar	No Cost
Long, Gail	Sept. 22, 2020	21 st Century Grantee Orientation	Webinar	No Cost
Gioia, Bernadette	Sept. 22, 24, 2020	21 st Century Grantee Orientation	Webinar	No Cost

**Motion: Eloisa Hernandez, Second: Jorge Cruz
 Voice Vote: All In Favor: 6; Any Opposed: 0**

Motion Passed

2. Move that the Board of Trustees approve NJ Smart training for Report Specialist:

Faculty	Date(s)	Event	Location	Amount Not to Exceed
Blanco, Blanca	Sept. 16, 17, 22, 23, 29, 2020	NJ Smart Report Submission Trng.	Webinar	No Cost

**Motion: Eloisa Hernandez, Second: Elba Ceballo
 Voice Vote: All In Favor: 6; Any Opposed: 0**

Motion Passed

b. Human Resource and Recognition

1. Move that the Board of Trustees promotes Blanca Blanco to the Report Specialist vacancy September 16, 2020 to June 30, 2021 at a salary of \$50,000.00 prorated from 7/1/2020.

**Motion: Elba Ceballo, Second: Jorge Cruz
 Voice Vote: All In Favor: 6; Any Opposed: 0**

Motion Passed

2. Move that the Board of Trustees appoint Susan Komosinski as a Certified School Nurse effective November 9, 2020 to June 30, 2021 as a salary of \$65,000.00 prorated from 9/1/2020.

**Motion: Elba Ceballo, Second: Eloisa Hernandez
 Voice Vote: All In Favor: 6; Any Opposed: 0**

Motion Passed

3. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the following staff members to work on the IDEA Basic grant for the 2020/2021 school year:

Staff	Title	IDEA Basic %	IDEA Basic Amount	General Fund %	General Fund Amount
Dehinz, Jess	Special Education Teacher	100%	\$55,000	N/A	N/A
Neal, Patricia	Special Education Paraprofessional	83.32%	\$23,330	16.68%	\$4,670

**Motion: Jorge Cruz, Second: Eloisa Hernandez
 Voice Vote: All In Favor: 6; Any Opposed: 0**

Motion Passed

4. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the following Assumption staff members for additional hours worked on the 21st Century Grant for the summer 2020 at an hourly rate of \$40:

Samantha Shumney	7/27 – 8/3/2020	\$1,160
Danielle Drayton	7/27 – 8/3/2020	\$640

**Motion: Elba Ceballo, Second: Eloisa Hernandez
 Voice Vote: All In Favor: 6; Any Opposed: 0**

Motion Passed

5. Move that the Board of Trustees appoint the following staff members to work on the 21st Century Grant for the program period from 9/1/2020 to 8/31/2021 at a rate of \$40 per hour:

**Motion: Eloisa Hernandez, Second: Elba Ceballo
 Voice Vote: All In Favor: 6; Any Opposed: 0**

Motion Passed

Activity staff for 21st Century (Main Campus)

	Staff	Role
1	Johnson, Sherrell	Site Coordinator - Main Campus
2	Lissette Shumny	Site Coordinator - Assumption Catholic School
3	Leonardo, Mabel	Counselor, Girl Talk
4	Padilla, Aknaris	Counselor
5	Ho, Susan	Counselor (sub)
6	Jamali, Munira	SAT Prep Math Teacher
7	Collazo, Diana	SAT Prep ELA Teacher
8	Saad, Syed	Microbiology Enrichment
9	Mukherjee, Nabaneeta	STEM Science Enrichment
10	Abraham Williams	Technology club (Drones/Robotics)
11	Gigl, Tim	Strength Training, The Brotherhood
12	Sena, Maria	American Sign Language
13	Spiecker, Susan	Art Club

14	Fernandez, Ariel	Model UN/Debate
15	Yard, Matthew	Audio Visual club
16	Berberich, Rose Ann	Cooking
17	Shirin, Momtaz	Substitute teacher
18	Genao, Ludys	ELL Paraprofessional
19	Irudhayasamy, Anasthasia	ESL Teacher
20	Pak, Meltem	Dance
21	Rodriguez, Raquel	Fashion Design Teacher
22	Hutchinson, Odane	Gaming Teacher
23	Morgan, Brittany	Gaming Teacher
24	Heller, Joshua	Guitar & keyboard
25	Sweatte, David	Recreation/ Computer Coding
26	Dino, Jim	Recreation (Sub)

Assumption CS Campus Staff

	Staff	Role
1	Cooper, Patricia	Math Survivors
2	Cuff, Michelle	Culinary Arts
3	Derevenska, Mariya	STEM
4	Drayton, Danielle	Journalism / Bulldog News Coordinator
5	Garcia, Roxana	Coding
6	Lawrence, Anna	PSAT Coordinator
7	Lawrence, Melanie	Fitness
8	Lombardi, Dara	Sewing
9	Martinez, Briana	Service/
10	Mieczkowski, Daniela	Dance
11	Pickering, Mary	Drama Club
12	Shummy, Samantha	Sewing

**Motion: Jorge Cruz, Second: Elba Ceballo
 Voice Vote: All In Favor: 6; Any Opposed: 0**

Motion Passed

C. Finance and Facilities

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve payment to JG Drywall LLC for renovation on Barclay Street facility in the amount of \$133,691.60 and Wright Specialty Insurance Agency in the amount of \$24,092.13 for a total of \$157,783.73.

**Motion: Jorge Cruz, Second: Hector Bonilla
 Voice Vote: All In Favor: 6; Any Opposed: 0**

**Motion Passed
Motion Later Rescinded**

2. Move that the Board of Trustees accept the Digital Divide Grant in the amount of \$15,557 for the period from 7/16/2020 to 10/31/2020.

**Motion: Eloisa Hernandez, Second: Angelo Abreu
Voice Vote: All In Favor: 6; Any Opposed: 0**

Motion Passed

3. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the one year extension of EPA Papers grant project # 96256819 through 8/31/2021. This extension will allow the school another year to spend the balance of approximately \$69,000.

**Motion: Eloisa Hernandez, Second: Angelo Abreu
Voice Vote: All In Favor: 6; Any Opposed: 0**

Motion Passed

4. Move that the Board of Trustees approve proposal for Child Study Team Services from the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey for the fiscal 2021 school year. Under the terms of this agreement, the school is required to pay a retainer fee in advance in the amount of \$37,000. Any unused balance would be refunded to the school at the end of the year.

CST Consultation	
2 x weekly @ \$420 per day for 39 weeks	\$32,760
Re-evaluation/Initial Evaluation	
18 students @ \$816 each	\$14,688
Speech Services	
6 Speech Students @ \$105 per session	<u>\$25,200</u>
Total	<u>\$72,648</u>

Motion: Hector Bonilla, Second: Jorge Cruz

After a brief discussion, the motion was amended to include that the initial purchase order would cover the cost of the retainer fee. If additional services are required they will be funded by another purchase order.

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

Motion Passed

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Luis Vargas, Assistant to the Lead Administrator spoke about 21st Century afterschool program at both sites - the Assumption School and the AULCS HS. At the Assumption School students attend classes and the afterschool program in person. Students enrolled in the afterschool program at the AULCS site are participating remotely. Mr. Vargas discussed this situation briefly with the Board and has reached out to the program office

to determine if this is allowable. It would be desirable for both sites to be run the same way.

IX. 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: Eloisa Hernandez

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

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:44 PM

X. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: Eloisa Hernandez; Second: Hector Bonilla

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

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:22 PM

The Board decided that the payment approved for construction earlier this evening as part of Resolution # 1 under Finance and Facilities should be rescinded, and that the payment should correspond with the work that was done. The payment was being made after obtaining a certification on the invoice from the Architect but after inspection of the site, the Architect admitted to some concerns with the progress of the work. The payment would be made after consultation with the General Contractor and Architect and after the work was done that would correspond with the progress billing. The Architect would need to re-certify the invoice.

XI. ADDITIONAL MOTIONS

Motion was made to rescind resolution #1 under Finance and Facilities which approved a payment to JG Drywall LLC for renovation on the Barclay Street facility in the amount of \$133,691.60 and Wright Specialty Insurance Agency in the amount of \$24,092.13 for a total of \$157,783.73.

Motion: Jorge Cruz; Second: Eloisa Hernandez; Roll Call Vote:

Joshua Bishop: Yes; Jorge Cruz: Yes; Angelo Abreu: Yes; Hector Bonilla: Yes; Elba Ceballo: Yes; Eloisa Hernandez: Yes

Motion Passed

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Jorge Cruz to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Elba Ceballo and the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Long
Board Secretary