



ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING on ZOOM
Friday, October 16, 2020

I. The meeting was called to order 5:47 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 – Led by Ms. 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)	Absent
Angelo Abreu	Present
Claudine Bishop	Excused
Hector Bonilla	Present

Elba Ceballo	Present (left 7:13 pm)
Eloisa Hernandez	Absent
Reyes Ortega	Present (arrived 8:06 pm)
Michelle Roman	Present
Stephanie Valdiviezo	Present

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

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Move that the Board of Trustees approve the Regular meeting minutes dated May 27, 2020.

Motion: Hector Bonilla; Second: Michelle Roman; Roll Call Vote

Lisette Vilanova: Yes, Jorge Bishop: Yes, Hector Bonilla: Yes, Elba Ceballo: Yes, Michelle Roman: Yes, Stephanie Valdiviezo: Yes.

Motion Passed

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Curriculum purchase

VIII. MOTIONS

The Acting Lead Administrator recommends the following items for approval:

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve a contract with Mary Dickens as the PT Food Service Director for the 2020-2021 school year at an hourly rate of \$28 and a total cost not to exceed \$15,120 for 9 months effective retroactively from October 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Ms. Dickens will provide contracted services and receive a 1099 at the end of the year.

Motion: Michelle Roman; Second: Elba Ceballo; Roll Call Vote

Lisette Vilanova: Yes, Joshua Bishop: Yes, Angelo Abreu: Yes, Hector Bonilla: Yes, Elba Ceballo: Yes, Michelle Roman: Yes, Stephanie Valdiviezo: Yes

Motion Passed

2. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the purchase of Apex Learning Management System, specifically the comprehensive course offerings, tutorials, and professional development and support services for 12 months at \$61,000.

Motion: Hector Bonilla; Second: Michelle Roman; Voice Vote:

There was a lengthy discussion about the Apex Learning Management System. Issues raised included questioning the cost, whether it had been quoted at a lower amount; sufficiency of training; the urgency with which the matter was being presented; would reliance shift to the system across the entire curriculum or only where needed; would there be sufficient differentiation for individual student needs; whether the use of the program should be limited to only where needed; whether limiting use would be disadvantageous to administration that needs flexibility as circumstances arise and that the board should trust the judgment of the administration in this regard.

Mr. Salek-Nejad addressed concerns and issues raised, he indicated that resignations prompted the need as well as some challenges with the master schedule. He addressed concerns about blanket use by indicating the use would be judicious and subject to his oversight and that the appropriate Board committee would be kept abreast with full transparency of implementation. Mr. Salek-Nejad indicated he identified staff members with experience with the program and they would play a role in assisting staff members new to the program.

All In Favor: 7; Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Angelo Abreu, Hector Bonilla, Elba Ceballo, Michelle Roman, Stephanie Valdiviezo; Any Opposed: 0

Motion Passed

3. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the adjustment of the HEDI calculation by converting the weight of the teachers' Student Growth Objectives for sy 2019/2020 within their summative performance evaluation to a weight of zero. Teachers will be solely evaluated and scored based on their classroom evaluation and portfolio submissions.

Motion was not moved

4. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the following Staff Development:

Staff	Dates	Event/Held By	Location	Cost
Long, Gail	10/20 – 10/22/20	NJSBA's Virtual Workshop 2020	Online	\$199

Motion: Joshua Bishop; Second: Angelo Abreu; Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 6 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Angelo Abreu, Hector Bonilla, Michelle Roman, Stephanie Valdiviezo; Any Opposed: 0

Motion Passed

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 – Carvan versus AUL

**Motion: Hector Bonilla; Second: Joshua Bishop
Voice Vote: All In Favor: 6; Any Opposed: 0**

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:16 PM

X. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

**Motion: Hector Bonilla; Second: Joshua Bishop
Voice Vote: All In Favor: 8; Any Opposed: 0**

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:40 PM

XI. OTHER MOTIONS

Move that the Board of Trustees approve the settlement agreement and general release, presented and reviewed with attorney Christopher Turano, Esq., attorney for AUL in the matter, Carvan v. AUL, et at, case number 2:19-cv-17190-MCA-MAH.

**Motion: Joshua Bishop; Second: Michelle Roman; Voice Vote
All In Favor: 6: Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Angelo Abreu, Hector Bonilla, Michelle Roman, Stephanie Valdiviezo; Any Opposed: 0**

Motion Passed

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No one commented.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Joshua Bishop. The motion was seconded by Angelo Abreu and the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Long
Board Secretary