



ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING on ZOOM
Tuesday, November 10, 2020

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm and presided over by Ms. 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)	Present
Angelo Abreu	Excused
Claudine Bishop	Excused
Hector Bonilla	Present
Elba Ceballo	Excused

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

Additional Attendees:

Peter Salek-Nejad (Acting Lead Person)	Present
Gail Long (BA/Board Secretary)	Present
Patricia Bombelyn (Board Attorney)	Present
Douglas Kelly (Vice-Principal)	Present (left 7:40 pm)

Other Staff Attendees: April Gardner, Susan Spiecker, and Maria Vide.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Salek-Nejad reviewed the changes and additions on the re-opening plan and the letter that would go out to parents. The main revision to the plan was to push back the date for the start of Phase II from 11/16/2020 to 2/8/2021. Phase II introduced a hybrid model for instruction instead of the 100% virtual model which the school was using. The change was necessary because of the spike in the number of COVID-19 cases nationwide. The Board provided feedback on the letter and the plan.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Vilanova invited members of the public to present any comments:

1. April Gardener, ESL Teacher at the Middle School said that we need to include continuity information on the website. Students ask her daily when they can go back to in-person instruction. She also said that the website should be updated, it should include Achieve 3000 under the section for Web Based Programs, and that letters should be in different languages, including Spanish and French.
2. Oswaldo Ramos, HS Senior and son of Board member was asking about senior pictures, yearbooks, and other senior activities stating that his friends in other schools already had pictures taken. Mr. Salek-Nejad assured him that pictures would be taken and that there would be a yearbook and that Ms. Vlastaras was the advisor last year. Administration would follow up on last year's yearbooks.

VII. 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: Michelle Roman; Second: Joshua Bishop
Voice Vote: All In Favor: 6; Any Opposed: 0**

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:02 pm.

VIII. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

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

The Board came back from Executive Session at 8:25 pm.

IX. OTHER MOTIONS

Approve the re-opening plan with the edits recommended by the Board, including an update to the letter to include what has been done, what has been considered to extend the date of remote learning, considerations of what we are working on, including survey and having acknowledgement from parents and the Department of Education, on receiving the updated letter and plan with the new re-opening plan.

**Motion: Jorge Cruz; Second: Joshua Bishop; Roll Call Vote:
Lisette Vilanova: Yes, Joshua Bishop: Yes, Jorge Cruz: Yes, Hector Bonilla: Yes, Eloisa Hernandez: Yes, Michelle Roman: Yes.**

Motion Passed

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Vilanova asked if anyone in the public wanted to comment.

No public comments

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Long
Board Secretary