



**ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING on ZOOM**  
**Wednesday, December 16, 2020**

**I. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 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 – 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 (left 8:30 pm)
Angelo Abreu	Present

Claudine Bishop	Excused
Hector Bonilla	Present
Elba Ceballo	Excused
Eloisa Hernandez	Present
Reyes Ortega	Present
Michelle Roman	Present (arrived 7:13 pm)
Stephanie Valdiviezo	Present (arrived 7:02 pm)

**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

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Move that the Board of Trustees approve the regular meeting minutes from November 18, 2020.

**Motion:** Hector Bonilla      **Second:** Jorge Cruz      **Voice Vote:**

**All In Favor:** 7 **Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Jorge Cruz, Angelo Abreu, Hector Bonilla, Eloisa Hernandez, Reyes Ortega; Any Opposed:** 0

**Motion passed**

**VI. PRESENTATIONS**

The PLC/Data Report was presented for the Middle School by ESL Teacher April Gardener. It was reviewed by the Academic Excellence Committee. Ms. Gardener started discussing the formal assessment from the State with regards to Science and about the need for growth models. She commented that it's hard to be a 12 years old student and learn remotely all day.

The PLC High School report was provided by High School Social Studies Teacher Rose Ann Berberich. She was also at the Academic Excellence Committee meeting. She noted there was a disconnect between students and teachers and said they are working on it but that it is tricky over Zoom. When asked by a trustee about her students' attendance Ms. Berberich stated that her students' attendance is stable.

The Data Report for High School was provided by High School Math Teacher Munira Jamali. She stated that 11 out of the 19 students got a score of more than 1000 in the SAT taken last month. The school hosted another SAT test in December. Twenty eight AULCS students took the test. They should get their results in 2 weeks. Students are getting high results in Advanced Math, but not so much in Algebra.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Jillian Rise, High School Counselor from Edison NJ, expressed her concern with raises. She represents non-certificated, nurses, social worker, security, custodians and feels that the raises are not equitable for this category. She asked for a timeline.

2. Rose Ann Berberich, High School Social Studies Teacher from Manchester NJ, also spoke about raises. She knows Peter Salek-Nejad gave scores to the Board. She feels that it's insulting and is frustrated, not feeling valued.
3. April Gardner, Middle School ELL Teacher from Monroe NJ, wants to work on initiative to boost enrollment.
4. Munira Jamali, High School Teacher from North Brunswick NJ, has been reviewing the data and sees that 75 students cannot graduate. She feels Accuplacer can help; it can be done online. She said this needs to start now.
5. Adriel Fernandez is an AUL High School junior, living in Perth Amboy. He stated that students need less Zoom. They are experiencing burnout from staring at the computer screen. He proposed 2-3 days of Zoom instead. He spoke extensively and gave recommendations about what he thought could improve the instructional program.

The school will hold a Stakeholders meeting. Lisette Vilanova stated that students are needed on the Board.

6. Tim Gigl, High School Teacher from Roselle Park, came to support the student. He does not want to get rid of asynchronous learning. Needs to have rigor.
7. Aknaris Padilla, Counselor from Hopatcong, NJ, raised over \$500,000 in scholarships.

**VIII. LEAD REPORT** – No report provided.

**IX. MOTIONS – Consent Agenda**

The Lead Person recommends the following items:

Remove from Consent Agenda under Human Resources motions #1 and # 4 and under Finance and Facilities motion #4. The 3 items removed from the Consent Agenda were tabled.

**Motion Items: Academic Excellence motion 1; Human Resources and Recognition motions 2 and 3; Finance and Facilities motions 1, 2 and 3.**

**Motion: Hector Bonilla, Second: Eloisa Hernandez;**

**Voice Vote: All In Favor: 9; Any Opposed: 0**

**Motions Passed**

**a. Academic Excellence & Educational Equity**

<u>Faculty</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Amount Not to Exceed</u>
April Gardner	May 25 – 27, 2021	NJTESOL 2021 Virtual Spring Conf	Online	\$299
Erika Charles	Jan. 6, 2021	Enhancing SEL with a Focus on Special Education	Online	\$75

## b. Human Resource and Recognition

2. **Move** that the Board of Trustees approve the FMLA leave for Timothy Gigl from Jan. 4, 2021 – Feb. 14, 2021. Mr. Gigl will use his 15 sick days; after that the leave will be unpaid.
3. **Move** that the Board of Trustees approve the following staff members to work on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century afterschool program at the Assumption School for the 2020/2021 school year:

Staff Member	Position	Rate
Puntiel, Pablo	Security Guard	\$30
Puntiel, Ronald	Security Guard	\$30

## c. Finance and Facilities

1. **Move** that the Board of Trustees approve the Bill List and payrolls for the period from October 29, 2020 – November 18, 2020:
  - i. Bill List November 19, 2020 to December 16, 2020 \$174,330.39
  - ii. Bill List 12/16/2020 checks 8252-8256 \$5,928.35
  - iii. Payroll Register November 30, 2020 \$258,112.89
  - iv. Payroll Register December 15, 2020 \$242,572.52
  - Total \$680,944.15

2. **Move** that the Board of Trustees approve the transfer of funds among the ESEA programs for the 2020/2021 school year:

Grant	Original Allocation	Funds to be Transferred	Amended Totals
Title I-A	\$217,004	\$68,994	\$285,998
Title IIA	\$54,989	(\$45,000)	\$9,989
Title IV	\$23,994	(\$23,994)	-0-

3. **Move** that the Board of Trustees approve the Annual Charter/Renaissance School Fiscal Questionnaire for the 2020/2021 school year.

### TABLED AT THIS MEETING:

#### From Human Resource and Recognition:

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the following appointment subject to successful criminal history review:

Staff	Position	Salary	Effective Date
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Turner, Kali	MS English Teacher	\$53,000 prorated from 9/1/2020	12/17/2020
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4. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the following staff members to work on the Title I grant for 2020/2021 from November 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Staff	Title	Title I	Grant Amount	General Fund %	General Fund Amount
Hagan, Robert	MS English Teacher	100%	\$43,460	N/A	N/A
Dover, Danielle	MS Math Teacher	100%	\$42,400	N/A	N/A
EIMejdoub, S.	HS English Teacher	60%	\$25,821.60	40%	\$17,214.40
Martin, E	HS English Teacher	20%	\$8,734.40	80%	\$34,937.60
Zarifyan, Olga	HS Math Teacher	40%	\$17,952	60%	\$26,928

#### From Finance and Facilities:

4. Move that the Board of Trustees approve an amendment of the CARES grant for the 2020/2021 school year.

## 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:

Attorney Client Privilege

Personnel Actions

**Motion: Angelo Abreu; Second: Joshua Bishop  
Voice Vote: All In Favor: 9; Any Opposed: 0**

**The Board went into Executive Session at 7:43 PM**

**XI. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION**

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

**The Board came out of Executive Session at 11:24 PM**

**XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No Public comments.

**XIII. CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL MOTIONS**

A Special Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Monday December 21, 2020 at 6:30 PM.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Joshua Bishop. The motion was seconded by Hector Bonilla, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Long  
Board Secretary