



ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING on ZOOM
Wednesday, January 26, 2022

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:50 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 website 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-Mbachu, Vice President	Present	Left at 10:13 pm
Angelo Abreu, Corporate Secretary	Absent	
Elba Ceballo, Trustee	Present	

Eloisa Hernandez, Trustee	Present	
Joshua Lisojo, Trustee	Excused	
Stephanie Pabon, Trustee	Present	Arrived 8:05 pm
Michelle Roman, Trustee	Present	
Additional Attendees:		
Dr. Mario Barbieri, Interim Lead Person	Present	
Gail Long, Business Admin/Board Secretary	Present	
Peter Salek-Nejad, Director of Special Programs	Present	Arrived 7:14 pm
Dr. Elizabeth Duran Swinford, Principal	Present	
April Gardner, Dean of Academics	Present	
Patricia Bombelyn, Board Attorney	Present	

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Move that the Board of Trustees approve the regular meeting minutes from October 27, 2021.

Motion: Elba Ceballo **Second:** Joshua Bishop-Mbachu **Voice Vote:**

All In Favor: 4, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman;
Any Abstained: 1 Lisette Vilanova; **Any Opposed:** 0

Motion passed

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence

VII. PRESENTATIONS

- Nora Galleros of Galleros Robinson LLP will give an audit presentation for sye 6/30/21
- Dr. Swinford & Ms. Gardner will present Start Strong (approximately 15 minutes)
- Dr. Barbieri will present overview of Road to Recovery

VIII. RECOGNITION -

Dr. Swinford will recognize staff

IX. REPRESENTATIVES (5 minutes each)

- Parent Not in attendance
- Student: Aldrick Franco
- Teacher: Saad Syed

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

XI. LEAD REPORT

Dr. Mario Barbieri to present
Enrollment as of 1/25/2022: 418

XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Academic Excellence – Eloisa Hernandez
- Human Resources and Recognition – Michelle Roman
- Finance and Facilities – Joshua Bishop-Mbachu
- Executive – Lisette Vilanova

XIII. 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.

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu; Second: Elba Ceballo
Voice Vote: All In Favor: 6; Any Opposed: 0

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:06 pm.

Topics discussed were:

Attorney Client Privilege – Discussion with Board attorney about investigation
Personnel matters affecting employees of the public body
Confidential matters – Student Disciplinary Hearing

Motion: Michelle Roman; Second: Elba Ceballo
Voice Vote: All In Favor: 5; Any Opposed: 0

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:44 pm.

XIV. MOTIONS – Consent Agenda

Remove from Consent Agenda under Human Resources and Recognition, motion # 1.

Motion Items: Academic Excellence motions # 1 - 3, and Finance and Facilities motions # 1 – 6, and Executive Committee motions # 1.

Motion: Michelle Roman, Second: Eloisa Hernandez;

Roll Call Vote:

Lisette Vilanova Yes, Elba Ceballo Yes, Eloisa Hernandez Yes, Michelle Roman Yes, Stephanie Pabon Yes.

5 Yes; 0 Opposed; 0 Abstained

Motions Passed

Academic Excellence

1. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the Start Strong presentation sharing testing data.
2. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the Pathway Program.
3. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the updated Road to Recovery Plan.

Human Resources and Recognition

Motion removed from Consent Agenda – Tabled and presented later in the meeting

Finance and Facilities

1. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the following transfer of funds for October 2021:

From: 11-190-100-610-000-047	General Supplies	(\$11,666)
To: 11-000-252-100-001-053	Salaries of Interns & Extra Comp	<u>\$11,666</u>
Total		-0-

Transfer funds to cover salaries of student interns through 6/30/2022.

2. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the Board Secretary's (A148) Report and Treasurer's (A149) Report, for the month ending October 31, 2021. Be it further resolved, that the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, approve the certification of funds, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3, that as of October 31, 2021 no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of 6A:23A16.10(a).

3. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the Bill List from 1/13/2022 to 1/26/2022 in the amount of:

Warrants from 1/13/2022 – 1/26/2022	\$87,810.11
Payroll Register 12/23/2021	\$260,816.35
Payroll Register 1/14/2022	<u>\$240,709.68</u>
Total:	\$589,336.14

4. **Whereas**, the Academy for Urban Leadership Charter School in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:23-1 must have a certified External Audit of the district's accounts and financial transactions; and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees received the audit performed by Galleros Robinson LLP and discussed said audit at its finance committee meeting held January 19, 2022 and its public meeting held January 26, 2022; now

Be It Resolved, that the Academy For Urban Leadership Charter School accepts the audit for the 2020/2021 school year, FY ended June 30, 2021, and approves the Corrective Action Plan (CAP).

5. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the following staff members to be charged to the Title I grant for the 2021/2022 school year.

Staff	Position	Title I	Title III	General Fund
Raquel Rodriguez	Bilingual Paraprofessional	83.15%	16.85%	
Lanny Morales	Bilingual Paraprofessional	100%		
Melthem Pak	Paraprofessional	100%		
Ludys Genao	Paraprofessional	100%		
Danielle Dover	Math Teacher	65%		35%
Robert Hagan	English Teacher	65%		35%

6. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the additional warrants in the amount of:

Check # 8923 - 8943 dated 1/26/22	\$105,262.33
Check # 8888 - Void 1/25/22	(391.76)
Non-checks (online payments) 1/14 - 1/18/22	7,731.74
Student Activity Check # 1174 1/26/22	<u>2,275.00</u>
Total	\$114,877.31

Executive Committee Motions

1. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the Lead evaluation tool

XV. OTHER MOTIONS

Move that the Board of Trustees adopts the recommended findings of the Disciplinary Committee and hereby finds that the during the hearing conducted on January 18, 2022, the testimony presented established by the preponderance of the evidence that the student, J.S. on December 16, 2021, did assault at least two staff members by kicking, spitting and physical resistance to them while in the main office on the main campus; and did use profane language and threaten to blow up the school to another staff member, in the hallway of the main campus. The student shall comply with a psychological evaluation, by a psychologist designated by the school, to determine whether his presence in the school presents a threat to other members of the school community and, pending said evaluation, the student shall comply with the following conditions: refrain from disrupting conduct, attend his classes remotely in a timely fashion, complete his school work, participate remotely in the 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm hour for extra help and support; participate remotely in two activities between 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm weekly, the Brotherhood and Passion Care. The student's progress shall be closely monitored by students and administration, there shall be a weekly conference between Dr. Swinford and the student's mother to review the student's progress, any disruptions or non-appearance for class shall be reported to the student's mother and Dr. Swinford the same day by email by staff. For as long as the student remains suspended, attending his classes remotely, his status and progress shall be reported monthly to the Board at its regular meeting in closed session.

Motion: Eloisa Hernandez

Second: Elba Ceballo

Roll Call Vote:

All In Favor: 5 Lisette Vilanova, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, Stephanie Pabon; **Any Abstained:** 0; **Any Opposed:** 0

5 Yes; 0 Opposed; 0 Abstained

Motion Passed

XVI. MOTION REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

1. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator accept the resignation of Ludys Genao effective 2/11/2022.

Motion: Michelle Roman

Second: Elba Ceballo

The Board had a discussion about the above resignation. The staff member gave a two week notice when the language in the contract required a 60 day notice. Ms. Genao would be moving out of state and had informed some staff members of her future plans, however, she did not put it in writing timely only giving the school two weeks of official notice. HR had posted for an “anticipated opening” for her position, Paraprofessional, prior to receiving the documentation.

After the discussion, the Board members withdrew the motion and second, and did not vote on the motion.

XVII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board President entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Roman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hernandez seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Gail Long

Board Secretary