



ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING on ZOOM
Wednesday, February 9, 2022

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-Mbachu, Vice President	Present	
Angelo Abreu, Corporate Secretary	Absent	
Elba Ceballo, Trustee	Present	
Eloisa Hernandez, Trustee	Present	

Joshua Lisojo, Trustee	Present	Left at 7:02 pm
Stephanie Pabon, Trustee	Present	Left at 7:30 pm
Michelle Roman, Trustee	Present	
Additional Attendees:		
Dr. Mario Barbiere, Interim Lead Person	Present	
Gail Long, Business Admin/Board Secretary	Present	
Peter Salek-Nejad, Director of Special Programs	Present	
Dr. Elizabeth Duran Swinford, Principal	Present	
April Gardner, Dean of Academics	Absent	
Patricia Bombelyn, Board Attorney	Present	

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board President invites members of the public to present any comments to the Board (limited to 3 minutes)

VI. MOTIONS

1. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator award the contract for a Lead Search firm to NJSBA at a cost of \$12,500 through 6/30/22.

Motion: Michelle Roman, **Second:** Elba Ceballo;

Roll Call Vote:

Lisette Vilanova Yes, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu Yes, Joshua Lisojo Yes, Elba Ceballo Yes, Michelle Roman Yes, Stephanie Pabon Yes, Eloisa Hernandez Abstained.

6 Yes; 0 Opposed; 1 Abstained

Motion Passed

2. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the amendment of the ESEA grants for the 2021/2022 school year to include carryover funds of:

Grant	Program #	Carrover
Title I	231	\$ 17,907
Title II	270	\$ 1,345
Title III	241	\$ 2,525
Title III Immigrant	242	\$ 7,659
Totals:		\$ 29,436

Motion: Elba Ceballo**Second: Eloisa Hernandez****Voice Vote:**

All In Favor: 7, Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Joshua Lisojo, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, Stephanie Pabon; Any Abstained: 0; Any Opposed: 0

Motion passed

3. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the following Teacher to be funded by the Title I grant for the 2021/2022 school year:

Staff	Position	% Title I	% General Fund
Zarifyan, Olga	Math Teacher	35%	65%

Motion: Elba Ceballo**Second: Eloisa Hernandez****Voice Vote:**

All In Favor: 7, Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Joshua Lisojo, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, Stephanie Pabon; Any Abstained: 0; Any Opposed: 0

Motion passed

4. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve Patricia Neal, Paraprofessional to be funded 100% by the IDEA Basic grant for the 2021/2022 school year.

Motion: Eloisa Hernandez**Second: Michelle Roman****Voice Vote:**

All In Favor: 7, Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Joshua Lisojo, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, Stephanie Pabon; Any Abstained: 0; Any Opposed: 0

Motion passed

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:

Personnel Items

Attorney Client Privilege

Motion: Elba Ceballo; Second: Eloisa Hernandez

Voice Vote: All in Favor: 7; Any Opposed: 0

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:00 pm.

Topics discussed were:

Attorney Client Privilege – Discussion with Board attorney about investigation

Personnel matters affecting employees of the public body

Motion: Michelle Roman; Second: Elba Ceballo

Voice Vote: All In Favor: 5; Any Opposed: 0

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:51 pm.

MOTIONS (continued)

5. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator accept the following resignation:

Name	Position	Resignation Date
Gardner, April	Dean of Academics	3/31/2022

Motion: Eloisa Hernandez Second: Michelle Roman

Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 5, Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman; Any Abstained: 0; Any Opposed: 0

Motion passed

6. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator accept the following resignation:

Name	Position	Resignation Date
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Genao, Ludys	Paraprofessional	3/29/2022 or earlier with admin. approval
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Motion: Michelle Roman Second: Eloisa Hernandez Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 5, Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman; Any Abstained: 0; Any Opposed: 0

Motion passed

7. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the following teachers for home instruction at a rate of \$40 per hour:

Staff	FT Position
Dehnz, Jess	Special Education Teacher
Enny, Kelly	World Language Teacher (French)
Mukherjee, Nabaneeta	Science Teacher

Motion: Eloisa Hernandez Second: Elba Ceballo Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 5, Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman; Any Abstained: 0; Any Opposed: 0

Motion passed

8. Move that the Board of Trustees of AULCS, upon the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve Traci Bethea, Assumption Fitness Coordinator at \$40 per hour for the 21st Century grant program through 6/30/22.

Motion: Eloisa Hernandez Second: Elba Ceballo Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 5, Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman; Any Abstained: 0; Any Opposed: 0

Motion passed

9. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the Revised Budget for the 2021/2022 school year.

Motion: Eloisa Hernandez, Second: Elba Ceballo;

Roll Call Vote:

Lisette Vilanova Yes, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu Yes, Elba Ceballo Yes, Michelle Roman Yes, Eloisa Hernandez Yes.

5 Yes; 0 Opposed; 0 Abstained

Motion Passed

VIII. OTHER MOTIONS

1. **Whereas** on November 16, 2021, the Board hired the law firm of Nirenberg and Varano to conduct an internal investigation regarding an administrative level personnel matter; and

Whereas during the investigation the scope was enlarged based upon additional issues that arose on or about December 17, 2021; and

Whereas the investigation report was completed on January 11, 2022, and reviewed by the Board with Mr. Nirenberg in closed session on January 26, 2022 and February 9, 2022;

The Board hereby resolves to adopt and implement the recommendations contained in the investigative report; and refers the report to the Executive Committee for the identification of an educational consultant to be retained to implement the recommendations of the report.

Motion: Eloisa Hernandez, **Second:** Michelle Roman;

Roll Call Vote:

Lisette Vilanova Yes, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu Yes, Elba Ceballo Yes, Michelle Roman Yes, Eloisa Hernandez Yes.

5 Yes; 0 Opposed; 0 Abstained

Motion Passed

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board President invites members of the public to present any additional comments to the Board.

No public comments.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Board President entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Ceballo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hernandez seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Gail Long
Board Secretary