



ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
612 AMBOY AVE., PERTH AMBOY, NJ
Wednesday, June 15, 2022
6:30 PM

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:11 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.

I. FLAG SALUTE

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.

II. 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.

III. 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	Absent	
Michelle Roman, Trustee	Present	
Stephanie Pabon, Trustee	Absent	
Additional Attendees:		
Dr. Mario C. Barbiere, Interim Lead Person	Present	
Dr. Elizabeth Duran Swinford, Principal	Present	
Peter Salek-Nejad, Director of Special Programs	Absent	
Gail Long, Business Admin/ Board Secretary	Present	
Patricia Bombelyn (Board Attorney)	Present	

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

VI. MOTIONS

1. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the following appointment for the 2022/2023 school year:

Candidate name	Position Title	Campus	Salary	Start Date
Manuela Jimenez	English Teacher	High School	\$62,000.00	09/01/2022

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu

Second: Elba Ceballo

Roll Call Vote:

**Lisette Vilanova: Yes; Joshua Bishop-Mbachu: Yes; Eloisa Hernandez: Yes;
Elba Ceballo: Yes; Michelle Roman: Yes.**

5 Yes; 0 Opposed; 0 Abstained.

Motion Passed

2. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the following appointment for the 2022/2023 school year:

Candidate name	Position Title	Campus	Salary	Start Date
Nicholas Ratigan	Health & PE	Middle School	\$58,500.00	09/01/2022

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu

Second: Michelle Roman

Roll Call Vote:

**Lisette Vilanova: Yes; Joshua Bishop-Mbachu: Yes; Eloisa Hernandez: Yes;
Elba Ceballo: Yes; Michelle Roman: Yes.**

5 Yes; 0 Opposed; 0 Abstained.

Motion Passed

3. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the following appointment for the 2022/2023 school year:

Candidate name	Position Title	Campus	Salary	Start Date
Nizeeh Cotton	10 Month Security Officer	Both Campuses	\$37,000.00	09/01/2022

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu

Second: Elba Ceballo

Roll Call Vote:

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

5 Yes; 0 Opposed; 0 Abstained.

Motion Passed

4. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the following staff separations subject to contractual obligation:

Staff	Position	Effective
Hanna, Casey	Social Studies Teacher Middle Sch	Resignation 6/30/22
Lampley, Malan	Head Security Officer	Abandonment of Post 6/3/2022
Mugica, William	Custodian	Resignation 6/30/22

Motion: Michelle Roman

Second: Eloisa Hernandez

The Board had questions about the contractual obligations and effective dates of resignations given that staff members were given a renewal letter. The motion was tabled at this time.

TABLED

5. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the elimination of the position of Assistant to the Disciplinarian.

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu Second: Michelle Roman Voice Vote:

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

Motion Passed

6. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the following job descriptions to be funded by the Title III grant:

Bi-Lingual Title III Parent Outreach Assistant (bilingual Paraprofessional)

Part-Time Title III Parent Outreach Assistant

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu

Second: Elba Ceballo

The Board had questions about the position titles. Motion was tabled at this time.

TABLED

7. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the following staff to work on the 21st Century program at the Assumption school for summer 2022.

Name	Position	Score
Melanie Lawrence	Language Arts & Math	17/20
Mary Pickering	STEM/Culinary/LA/Mathn	17/20
Annamaria Kukuruzza	Arts & Crafts	20/20
Samantha Shumny	LA/Arts & Crafts/Culinary/Rec/STEM	20/20
Dara Lombardi	Math/Arts & Crafts	14/20
Dena Florez	Culinary	17/20
Carol Fiore	Teacher	17/20
Kelly Troche	Arts & Crafts	19/20
James Luiacono	Recreation	20/20
Cassandra Shumny	Youth Helper	17/20
Anali Rodriguez	Youth Helper	20/20
Caeleb Chendorain	Youth Helper	17/20
Apryl Coffman	Youth Helper	20/20

Motion: Michelle Roman

Second: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu

The Board had questions about the position titles. The Board attorney advised this motion be further discussed. This motion was tabled at this time.

TABLED

8. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator retroactively approve Susan Komosinski, School Nurse, who worked on Saturday School April – May 2022 at a rate of \$40 per hour.

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu

Second: Elba Ceballo

Roll Call Vote:

**Lisette Vilanova: Yes; Joshua Bishop-Mbachu: Yes; Eloisa Hernandez: Yes;
Elba Ceballo: Yes; Michelle Roman: Yes.**

5 Yes; 0 Opposed; 0 Abstained.

Motion Passed

9. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the rollover of 10 vacation days for the following administrative staff from the 2021/2022 contract to the 2022/2023 school year contract as an exception for this year only:

Employee Name	21-22 # Current Vacation Days	21-22 Contract Rollover Days Allowed	Additional Rollover Days to 7/1/22	Total vacation days 7/1/22	Total Loss days
Blanca Blanco	9.5	5	4.5	9.5	0
Gail Long	13.5	5	5	10	3.5
Miriam Rodriguez	7.5	5	2.5	7.5	0
Lou Vargas	25	5	5	10	15
Abraham Williams	7.5	5	2.5	7.5	0

MOTION WAS NOT MOVED

10. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve an unpaid non-FMLA medical leave of absence for Remee Barber for the period from 5/20/22 – 8/19/22.

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu Second: Michelle Roman Voice Vote:

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

Motion Passed

11. Move that any unvaccinated staff working the 2022 summer program provide adequate proof of COVID-19 PCR test results to the HR department before every Monday of each week. This will be incorporated in the reorganizational plan.

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu Second: Michelle Roman Voice Vote:

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

Motion Passed

12. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the Semi-Annual certification of funds for the following 100% grant funded staff working on federal grants in the 2021/2022 school year:

Staff Member	Position	Grant
Durmo, Abes	Project Director	21 st Century
Neal, Patricia	Paraprofessional	IDEA Basic
Morales, Lanny	Paraprofessional	Title I
Pak, Meltem	Paraprofessional	Title I

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu Second: Eloisa Hernandez

This motion was tabled at this time.

TABLED

13. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the Bill List for the period from 5/26/2022 – 6/15/2022:

Payroll:5/26/2022	\$257,435.36
Payroll 6/15/2022	\$220,526.72
Warrants from 5/26/2022 – 6/15/2022	<u>\$ 49,463.28</u>
Total:	\$527,425.36

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu Second: Michelle Roman Voice Vote:

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

Motion Passed

14. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator rescind the Refusal of Funds for the ARP Homeless II grant in the amount of \$3,891.00. The school will join a consortium with the (MOESC) Monmouth Ocean Educational Service Commission contingent on approval of the MOA.

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu Second: Eloisa Hernandez

This motion was tabled at this time.

TABLED

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:

Lead Search

Personnel

Attorney Client Privilege – legal updates

Motion: Mr. Bishop-Mbachu; Second: Ms. Hernandez

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

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:00 pm.

Motion: Ms. Hernandez; Second: Mr. Bishop-Mbachu

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

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:18 pm.

VIII. MOTIONS PREVIOUSLY TABLED

- 4. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the following staff separations subject to contractual obligation:

Staff	Position	Effective
Hanna, Casey	Social Studies Teacher Middle Sch	Resignation 6/30/22
Lampley, Malan	Head Security Officer	Abandonment of Post 6/3/2022
Mugica, William	Custodian	Resignation 6/30/22

Motion: Michelle Roman

Second: Elba Ceballo

Voice Vote:

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

Motion Passed

IX. OTHER MOTIONS

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Dr. Jeff White as Chief Lead Administrator effective 8/15/2022 at an annual rate of \$155,000. Dr. White will have a three year contract.

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu

Second: Eloisa Hernandez

Roll Call Vote:

**Lisette Vilanova: Yes; Joshua Bishop-Mbachu: Yes; Eloisa Hernandez: Yes;
Elba Ceballo: Yes; Michelle Roman: Yes.**

5 Yes; 0 Opposed; 0 Abstained.

Motion Passed

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 9:27 pm when Ms. Ceballo left and there was no longer a quorum.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Long
Board Secretary