



ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING on ZOOM
Wednesday, September 29, 2021

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:38 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

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	Present	Arrived at 8:12 pm
Elba Ceballo, Trustee	Present	
Eloisa Hernandez, Trustee	Present	

Joshua Lisojo, Trustee	Excused	
Stephanie Pabon, Trustee	Excused	
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	
Patricia Bombelyn, Board Attorney	Present	

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Move that the Board of Trustees approve the special meeting minutes from August 11, 2021

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu **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

Move that the Board of Trustees approve the regular meeting minutes from August 25, 2021

Motion: Michelle Roman **Second:** Joshua Bishop-Mbachu **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

Move that the Board of Trustees approve the special meeting minutes from September 2, 2021

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu **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

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from State of NJ accepting Corrective Action Plan (CAP)

VII. RECOGNITION

- Teacher and Staff Recognition – presented by Dr. Barbiere
 - RoseAnn Berberich
 - Syed Saad
- Student Recognition – presented by Dr. Swinford

- Adriel Fernandez
- Steven Oliva

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Academic Excellence – Eloisa Hernandez – There are motions in this meeting for much of what was discussed at the committee meeting earlier this month with the exception of school testing.. There is an MOU with Middlesex College that will need to be approved by the next meeting.
- Human Resources and Recognition – Michelle Roman – The committee discussed motions that are in the agenda. Administration is working on raises which should be voted on by the next Board meeting.
- Finance and Facilities – Joshua Bishop-Mbachu – The Business office is finishing last school year working with the auditors; next month we will have Board Secretary Reports and in the near future the Business office will be working on the budget to bring it in line with the enrollment. We are also working on Food Service now that we have the proper number of staff members.
- Executive – Lisette Vilanova

IX. LEAD REPORT

Dr. Barbieri gave his report. A written report was given to the Board members. Enrollment is 421

Peter Salek-Nejad gave a brief report on Summer School. The number of students who were credit deficient was cut in half after summer school. We will be working throughout the year to get those students caught up. Five students are getting appeals.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

1. Mr. Syed, HS Science Teacher from Metuchen NJ commented about the good start to the school year. Things are going well. Ms. Berberich is doing great writing curriculum. The students were quiet at the very beginning of the year.
2. Elba Arias, Project Manager for Step Up is glad to be back. She was thanking people for making everything possible. She distributed 132 applications. Twenty students applied for internships.

XI. MOTIONS – Consent Agenda

The Interim Lead Person recommends the following items for approval:

Remove from Consent Agenda under Human Resources and Recognition, motion # 5 and #10 – 13, and under Finance and Facilities, motions # 7, and 10.

Motion Items: Academic Excellence motions # 1 – 4, Human Resources and Recognition motions # 1 – 4, # 6 – 9 and motion # 14; and Finance and Facilities motions # 1 – 6, # 8 & 9.

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Second: Eloisa Hernandez;

Roll Call Vote:

Lisette Vilanova Yes, Joshua Bishop Yes, Eloisa Hernandez Yes, Michelle Roman Yes, Elba Ceballo Abstained

4 Yes; 0 Opposed; 1 Abstained

Motions Did Not Pass

Academic Excellence

1. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the Biannual Statement of Assurances for Paraprofessionals
2. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the following field trip:

Location	Date	# of Students/Staff	Responsible Person	Cost
NJ Statehouse and NJ State Museum	12/10/2021	40 students/ 4 staff members	Rose Ann Berberich	Event cost Free; bus cost \$475

3. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the School Testing Schedule.
4. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the revised bell schedule to incorporate the Pathways Program.

Human Resources and Recognition

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve Alex De Los Santos as Sports Director for the 2021-22 School year for a stipend of \$10,000.00
2. Move that the Board of Trustee hire Carmen Vega as Food Handler for the 2021-22 School year at a rate of \$18.00/hour effective 10/1/2021
3. Move that the Board of Trustee hire Victoria Suarez Mendez as Food Handler for the 2021-22 School year at a rate of \$18.00/hour effective 10/1/2021

4. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the reactivation of Irys Cardona as a substitute Lunch Aide for the 2021-22 School year at a rate of \$15.00/hour

6. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator accept the following staff resignations:

Staff	Position	Effective Date
Amy Carrino	English Teacher	10/25/2021
Jose Lopez-Segarra	PT Custodian	8/27/2021
Jilian Rise	Guidance Counselor	60 days from 9/24/21

7. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve Lissette Shumny as 21st Century program Assumption Catholic School site coordinator through June 30, 2022 at a stipend amount of \$18,000.

8. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the following Certified Teachers for the 21st Century program, Assumption School site at a rate of \$40.00/hour through June 30, 2022:

Mary E Pickering
 Melnaie Lawrence
 Dara Lombardi
 Patricia Cooper
 Danielle Drayton
 Michelle Cuff
 Roxana Garcia
 Luz Espaillat
 Anna Maria Kukuza
 Anna Lawrence

9. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve Dena Florez as 21st Century program Assumption Catholic School Youth Coordinator through June 30, 2022 @ a rate of \$15.00/ Hour

14. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve Felix Alexander Peguero and Adriel Fernandez as IT student Interns (under the supervision of Mr. Williams) for the 2021-22 School year for a maximum of 10 hours/week at a rate of \$15/hour

Finance and Facilities

1. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the contract with Andrew Street LLC for the 2021/2022 school year for the provision of PD for the 21st Century Grant program at a cost of \$9,600 for the grant period 10/1/2021 – 8/31/2022.
2. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the independent contract agreement with Victoria Suarez Mendez as Food Handler through 9/30/2021 for \$20 per hour to be funded from fund 60 – Food Service Enterprise Fund.
3. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the MOA with the Jewish Renaissance Foundation regarding Step Up for the period from 7/1/2021 – 6/30/2022 at no cost to the school pending attorney review.
4. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the contract with MRDA Inc. for 21st Century Community Learning Centers Evaluation at a cost of \$22,500 for the period from 9/1/2021 – 8/31/2022 to be funded by the 21st Century grant.
5. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the bill list from 8/26/21 to 9/29/21

Warrants	\$173,694.25
Payroll 8/30/2021	\$143,349.36
Payroll 9/15/2021	<u>\$240,024.10</u>
Total	\$557,067.71

Warrants	\$17,150.98
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6. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the amendment of the ESEA grant for the 2021/2022 school year to allocate carryover funds in the amount of \$17,907.
8. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the submission of the ARP IDEA Basic grant in the amount of \$28,816 for the period from 7/1/2021 - 9/30/2022.
9. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the submission of the ARP ESSER grant in the amount of \$1,587,591 for the period from 3/11/2021 - 9/30/2024.

XII. 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:

HIB investigation

Attorney Client Review

RICE Notices

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu; Second: Michelle Roman

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

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:08 pm.

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu; Second: Elba Ceballo

Voice Vote: All In Favor: 6; Any Opposed: 0

The Board came out of Executive Session at 11:04 pm.

XIII. CONSENT AGENDA:

Remove from Consent Agenda under Academic Excellence, motion #3 & 4, Human Resources and Recognition, motion # 5 and #10 – 13, and under Finance and Facilities, motions # 7, and 10.

Motion Items: Academic Excellence motions # 1 & 2, Human Resources and Recognition motions # 1 – 4, # 6 – 9 and motion # 14; and Finance and Facilities motions # 1 – 6, # 8 & 9.

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Second: Michelle Roman;

Roll Call Vote:

Lisette Vilanova Yes, Joshua Bishop Yes, Angelo Abreu Yes, Elba Ceballo Yes, Eloisa Hernandez Yes, Michelle Roman Yes.

6 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 Biannual Statement of Assurances for Paraprofessionals

Location	Date	# of Students/Staff	Responsible Person	Cost
NJ Statehouse and NJ State Museum	12/10/2021	40 students/ 4 staff members	Rose Ann Berberich	Event cost Free; bus cost \$475

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8. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the submission of the ARP IDEA Basic grant in the amount of \$28,816 for the period from 7/1/2021 - 9/30/2022.

9. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the submission of the ARP ESSER grant in the amount of \$1,587,591 for the period from 3/11/2021 - 9/30/2024.

XIV. MOTIONS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

From Academic Excellence:

3. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the School Testing Schedule.

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

Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 6 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Angelo Abreu, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, ; **Any Abstained:** 0; **Any Opposed:** 0

Motion passed

4. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the revised bell schedule to incorporate the Pathways Program.

Motion: Eloisa Hernandez Second: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 6 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Angelo Abreu, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, ; Any Abstained: 0; Any Opposed: 0

Motion passed

From Human Resources:

5. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the job description for the Dean of Academics amended to include that the position should be 12 month, would be responsible for staff evaluations, and _____.

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

All In Favor: 6 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Angelo Abreu, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, ; Any Abstained: 0; Any Opposed: 0

Motion passed

10. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve Abes Durmos as 21st Century program Project Director through June 30, 2022 at \$41,000.

Motion: Michelle Roman; Second: Elba Ceballo Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 6 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Angelo Abreu, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, ; Any Abstained: 0; Any Opposed: 0

Motion passed

11. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve Sherrell Johnson as 21st Century program AUL site coordinator through June 30, 2022 at \$18,000.

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

All In Favor: 6 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Angelo Abreu, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, ; Any Abstained: 0; Any Opposed: 0

Motion passed

12. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve Mabel Leonardo, as 21st Century program Administrative Assistant to act as Data Clerk through June 30, 2022 at \$12,000.

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

All In Favor: 6 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Angelo Abreu, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, ; **Any Abstained:** 0; **Any Opposed:** 0

Motion passed

13. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the \$850 cost of registration for Dr. Elizabeth Duran Swinford to be registered in the NJL2L program sponsored by FEA to obtain her Principal's certification.

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

All In Favor: 6 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Angelo Abreu, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, ; **Any Abstained:** 0; **Any Opposed:** 0

Motion passed

From Finance and Facilities:

7. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the following cost containment procedures pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2(a)(3) necessitated because AULCS' actual cost per pupil Legal Services in sye 6/30/2020 exceeded the audited statewide average:

- a) Limit the number of contact persons with the authority to request services or advice from contracted legal counsel
- b) Criteria or guidance to prevent the use of legal counsel unnecessarily such as utilizing the services of the no cost attorney at the NJSBA where possible.
- c) A provision to maintain a log of all legal counsel contact, including name of legal counsel contacted, date of contact, issue discussed, and length of contact. Legal bills shall be compared to the contact log and any variances shall be investigated and resolved.
- d)

Motion was not Moved

10. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the contract with MRDA Inc. for grant writing for the period from 9/1/2021 to 8/31/2022 at a total cost of \$54,000 which includes a \$10,800 increase from last school year.

Motion was not Moved

XV. OTHER MOTIONS

1. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the HIB investigation which was unfounded.

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

All In Favor: 6 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Angelo Abreu, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, ; **Any Abstained:** 0; **Any Opposed:** 0

Motion passed

2. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the Organization Chart for the 2021/2022 school year.

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu **Second:** Eloisa Hernandez **Voice Vote:**

All In Favor: 6 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Angelo Abreu, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, ; **Any Abstained:** 0; **Any Opposed:** 0

Motion passed

Ms. Vilanova spoke of the need to form a committee to review legal. The committee would comprise of the following trustees: Michelle Roman, Elba Ceballo, Angelo Abreu, and Lisette Vilanova.

3. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the TPAF/FICA to State of NJ in the amount of \$82,935.53

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu **Second:** Eloisa Hernandez **Voice Vote:**

All In Favor: 6 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Angelo Abreu, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, ; **Any Abstained:** 0; **Any Opposed:** 0

Motion passed

4. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve HEDI raises

Motion was not moved

5. Move that the Board of Trustees authorize the participation in mediation of AULs defense counsel in the matter of Lopac v. AUL.

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu **Second:** Eloisa Hernandez **Voice Vote:**

All In Favor: 6 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Angelo Abreu, Elba Ceballo, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman, ; **Any Abstained:** 0; **Any Opposed:** 0

Motion passed

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

The Board President entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bishop- Mbachu made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hernandez seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Gail Long

Board Secretary