



ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING on ZOOM
Wednesday, October 27, 2021

I. This 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- 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	Arrived 6:44 pm
Angelo Abreu, Corporate Secretary	Present	
Elba Ceballo, Trustee	Absent	
Eloisa Hernandez, Trustee	Present	

Joshua Lisojo, Trustee	Present	Left 9:00 pm
Stephanie Pabon, Trustee	Absent	
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 regular meeting minutes from August 25, 2021 revised to include 6/2021 Transfer of Funds.

Motion: Angelo Abreu

Second: Joshua Lisojo

Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 4 Joshua Lisojo, Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman; **Any Abstain:** 2 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop; **Any Opposed:** 0

Motion Passed

Move that the Board of Trustees approve the regular meeting minutes from September 29, 2021

Motion: Joshua Bishop

Second: Angelo Abreu

Voice Vote:

All In Favor: 6 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop, Joshua Lisojo, Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez, Michelle Roman; **Any Opposed:** 0

Motion Passed

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from State of NJ on State Assessments: District Participation in the Spring 2022 ELA Field Test – AULCS has been randomly selected to participate.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Perna, President of MRDA, first talked about the 2 EPA grants – PAPERS and REPAIRS. The school is implementing both grants presently. We will need to finish with PAPERS first which has an extended project period that ends 8/31/22. We would be able to extend REPAIRS through 2023.

He also gave a presentation about the new competitive grant the school wishes to apply for called the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) grant. The purpose of this grant is to set up a program to mitigate the effects of climate change and flooding. Dr. Perna explained it would be very impressive if the school were to receive this grant and added AUL's chances may be good because we have received 2 EPA grants in the past which deal with environmental issues. This is a \$500,000 grant with a 4 - year project period. If the Board approves, Dr. Perna would write a letter of interest with an outline about what the school would

do. NOAA is looking to fund about 45 applicants. We would be notified in January if we can apply with the full application due in March 2022.

VIII. RECOGNITION

- Dr. Barbieri wanted to recognize teachers and guidance counselors stating that everyone worked hard on the SAT.
- Dr. Swinford wanted to recognize the following 5 students for Founders Day 10/12/21: Julissa Henry, Steven O Jeda, Jada Puntiel, Annette Sanchez, and Tiffany Caba. Another 4 students are being recognized for seating staff during the event. They are: Dustin Vega, Audrick Franco, Damaris Lopez, and Sachelle de los Angeles. Founders Day was completely organized by students.
- Dr. Swinford also recognized 15 staff members for Perfect Attendance in September. They are: Lisa Alston, Pedro Bonilla, Nicholas Bushey, Luisa Chabala, Claudia DeJesus, Cornelius O'Keefe, Ada Pineiro, Fermin Ramirez Rojas, Raquel Rodriguez, Abraham Williams, Olga Zarifyan, Dr. Mario Barbieri, Peter Salek Nejad, Antonio Lombardo, and David Sweatte

IX. REPRESENTATIVES

- Parent Representative – No one presented
- Student Representative – No one presented
- Teacher Representative – Mr. Saad Syed talked about field trips. He was excited with the prospect that by the end of the school year, all students would be able to attend field trips to the Meadowlands as an activity funded by the PAPERS grant. Mr. Syed also suggested establishing safety protocols after reflecting on updates about the storm this past week

X. LEAD REPORT – Dr. Mario Barbieri

Enrollment: 415 on 10/15/2021 Count

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

April Gardner, Dean of Academics residing in Monroe Twp., NJ said that PBIS is being utilized in the Barclay campus. There is mandatory use of Go Guardian. She is recognizing Mr. O'Keefe who completed Start Strong ahead of time. The evaluations, and fire drills are up to date, and, she is interested in Dr. Perna's report as her brother is an environmentalist who may be able to assist.

XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Excellence – Eloisa Hernandez – Items discussed in the committee meeting are listed on the agenda

Human Resources and Recognition – Michelle Roman – most of what was discussed is on the agenda

Finance and Facilities – Joshua Bishop-Mbachu – the audit is still ongoing, we are awaiting the updated budget based on the 10/15 enrollment from Ms. Long & Dr. Barbieri

Executive – Lisette Vilanova – mentioned the Lead Search, the need for a revised budget, and a follow up on a Board Retreat

XIII. MOTIONS – Consent Agenda

The Interim Lead Person recommends the following items for approval:

Remove from Consent Agenda under Academic Excellence motion # 3, Human Resources and Recognition, motions # 1, 2, 5, & 7, and under Finance and Facilities, motions # 1 – 6, 8 and 10.

Motion Items: Academic Excellence motions # 1, 2, 4 & 5, Human Resources and Recognition motions # 3 – 4, and # 6; and Finance and Facilities motions # 7 & 9.

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Second: Angelo Abreu;

Roll Call Vote:

Lisette Vilanova Yes, Joshua Bishop Yes, Joshua Lisojo Yes, Angelo Abreu 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 a field trip to TopGolf at 1013 Route 1 Edison NJ for 50 students (grades 7 – 12) and 5 chaperones on November 11, 2021 for a cost not to exceed \$1,958.00 for admission and bus transportation payable through the 21st Century grant funds.

2. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the following field trips to be funded from the PAPERS grant:

Location	Date	# of Students/Staff	Responsible Person	Cost
Meadowlands Environmental Center, Lyndhurst, NJ	10/29/2021	80 7 th & 8 th grade students; 8 chaperones	Saad Syed	Bus Transportation not to exceed \$1,275.00
Meadowlands Environmental Center, Lyndhurst, NJ	11/12/2021	68 9 th grade students; 7 chaperones	Saad Syed	Bus Transportation not to exceed \$1,275.00

Meadowlands Environmental Center, Lyndhurst, NJ	11/19/2021	75 10 th grade students; 8 chaperones	Saad Syed	Bus Transportation not to exceed \$1,275.00
Meadowlands Environmental Center, Lyndhurst, NJ	12/3/2021	111 11 th grade students; 11 chaperones	Saad Syed	Bus Transportation not to exceed \$1,275.00
Meadowlands Environmental Center, Lyndhurst, NJ	12/10/2021	68 12 th grade students; 7 chaperones	Saad Syed	Bus Transportation not to exceed \$1,275.00

4. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the PD Request for Diana Collazo to attend the following workshop: 50 Best Strategies: ELA 6-12 12/15/2021 at a cost of \$279.00

5. 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
Live Kidney Transplant – Virtually through Liberty Science Center	12/14/2021	25 seniors	Andrea Allocco	\$462.50

6. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the Professional Development Plan for the school year 2021-2022.

Human Resources and Recognition

3. Move that the Board of Trustees appoint April Gardner as Dean of Academics for 7th and 8th grade for the 2021/2022 school year at an annual salary of \$90,000 prorated from 10/28/2021. This is a 12- month position.
4. Move that the Board of Trustees approve Irys Cardona as Lunch Aide to serve dinner for students as part of the 21st Century grant.at a rate of \$15.00/hour.
6. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator appoint Isabel DeLeon as Part Time Custodian for the 2021/2022 school year at a rate of \$15 per hour.

Finance and Facilities

7. Move that the Board of Trustees; under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve Novakowski Landscaping Inc. to provide snow removal for the period from Nov. 15, 2021 to April 15, 2022 as per proposal # 202139 not to exceed \$15,000.

9. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the revision of HR&R resolution # 10 from 9/29/21 for Abes Durmos as 21st Century Project Director at an annual salary of \$45,000 prorated from 10/1/21 to 6/30/22 (for a grant period from 9/1/21 to 8/31/22).

XIV. OTHER MOTIONS:

1. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve HEDI raises for the 2021/2022 school year.

TABLED

2. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the contract for SOS Multi-Media Group for the period from 11/1/2021 to 10/31/2022 to perform recruitment services for the school at a cost of \$2,000 per month to be paid in monthly installments.

TABLED

3. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the following employees for Stipend positions contingent upon a process being followed and amended to remove athletic coaches:

Club	Staff Member	Stipend
Class Advisor 7th	Patricia Neal	\$500
Class Advisor 9th	Bernadette Gioia	\$500
Class Advisor 10th	Erica Martin	\$500
Class Advisor 11th	Saad Syed	\$500
Audio Visual Club	Douglas Frost	\$500
Senior Fundraiser & Prom	Munira Jamali	\$1,000
Senior Trip & Graduation	Penelope Vlasteras	\$1,000
Technology	Abraham Williams	\$500
National Honor Society	Saad Syed	\$500
Student Government	Timothy Gigl	\$1,000

Fashion Show	Maria Sena	\$500
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Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu

Second: Eloisa Hernandez

Voice Vote:

**All in Favor: 6 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Angelo Abreu, Joshua Lisojo, Eloisa Hernandez, and 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 stipends for basketball for the 2021/2022 school year:

Club	Staff Member	Stipend
Head Girls Basketball	David Sweatte	\$7,500
Head Boys Basketball	Justin Torrez	\$7,500
Assistant Boys Basketball	Victor Verdecia	\$4,500

Motion: Angelo Abreu

Second: Eloisa Hernandez

Voice Vote:

**All in Favor: 6 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Angelo Abreu, Joshua Lisojo, Eloisa Hernandez, and Michelle Roman; Any Abstained: 0
Any Opposed: 0**

MOTION PASSED

5. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the Final payments to JG Drywall on the Barclay renovation project in the amount of \$71,701.47

Motion: Angelo Abreu

Second: Eloisa Hernandez

The Board had a discussion about the Barclay renovation asking whether all things on the punch list had been completed. The architect was not present at this meeting so there was no additional person, other than the BA to give the Board assurances about the project so the payment was tabled at this time.

TABLED

6. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the additional bill listing through 10/27/21 in the amount of \$63,474.77

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu

Second: Michelle Roman

Voice Vote:

**All in Favor: 6 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Angelo Abreu, Joshua Lisojo, Eloisa Hernandez, and Michelle Roman; Any Abstained: 0
Any Opposed: 0**

MOTION PASSED

XV. 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:

RICE Notices

Attorney Client Privilege

Motion: Angela Abreu; Second: Eloisa Hernandez

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

The Board went into Executive Session at 9:42 pm.

Motion: Michelle Roman; Second: Eloisa Hernandez

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

The Board came out of Executive Session at 11:55 pm.

XVI. MOTIONS LATER APPROVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**APPROVED - FROM ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:**

1. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the MOU with Middlesex College for the Dual Enrollment program for the 2021/2022 school year. AUL will pay tuition at a cost of \$125 per course.

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

The Board wanted to know the total cost for Middlesex. Peter Salek said that he thought about 55 students would attend which would make the total cost \$6,875

Voice Vote:

All in Favor: 4 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Eloisa Hernandez, and Michelle Roman; **Any Abstained:** 1 Angelo Abreu; **Any Opposed:** 0

MOTION PASSED**APPROVED - FROM HUMAN RESOURCES:**

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

Staff	Position	Effective Date
Maria Chavkin	Assistant to the Business Administrator	12/3/2021
Kyle Manley	Health & PE Teacher	12/24/2021

Motion: Angelo Abreu

Second: Michelle Roman

There was a brief discussion about the effective resignation date of 11/5/21 for Maria Chavkin. The contract stipulated a 60 day notice, but the notice given was about 30 days. As the position is not certificated, the school had little recourse and accepted the resignation.

Voice Vote:

All in Favor: 5 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez, and Michelle Roman; **Any Abstained:** 0 **Any Opposed:** 0

APPROVED - FROM FINANCE AND FACILITIES:

6. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the Bill List from 9/30/2021 to 10/27/2021 in the amount of:

Warrants from 9/30 – 10/14/2021	\$229,488.09
Payroll Register 9/30/21	\$235,487.18
Payroll Register 10/15/21	<u>\$227,878.54</u>
Total:	\$692,853.81

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu Second: Angelo Abreu

Voice Vote:

All in Favor: 5 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez, and 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 Dr. Perna's letter of intent to apply for the NOAA Grant (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant). The focus of the proposal must include the effects of climate change. The project period would be from September 2022 until August 2027

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu Second: Michelle Roman

Voice Vote:

All in Favor: 5 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez, and Michelle Roman; 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 contract with MRDA Inc. for grant writing for the period from 9/1/2021 to 8/31/2022 at a total cost of \$43,200 which includes no increase from the prior year.

Motion: Joshua Bishop-Mbachu Second: Eloisa Hernandez

Voice Vote:

All in Favor: 5 Lisette Vilanova, Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, Angelo Abreu, Eloisa Hernandez, and Michelle Roman; Any Abstained: 0; Any Opposed: 0

MOTION PASSED

XVII. MOTIONS TABLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

TABLED - From HR&R:

2. Move that the Board of Trustees appoint Saad Syed as Project Manager for the PAPERS EPA grant at a cost of \$40 per hour not to exceed \$9,000 for the 2021-2022 school year.
3. Move that the Board of Trustees appoint Saad Syed as Project Manager for the REPAIR EPA grant at a cost of \$40 per hour not to exceed \$10,000 for the 2021-2022 school year.
7. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the attached list of activity facilitators for the 2021/2022 21st Century grant program through 6/30/2022 at a cost of \$40 per hour:

Last name	First name	Activity
Barber	Remee	The Brotherhood
Bushey	Nicholas	Chorus
Cannella	Nicole	Arts and Crafts
Critelli	Nick	Business Club
Dehnz	Jess	Haunted Hallway
Dino	Jim	Athletics
Frost	Doug	Audio-Visual Club
Genao	Ludys	Math ESL support
Gigl	Timothy	Strength Training
Hutchinson	Odane	Gaming
Jamali	Munira	S.A.T. Math Prep
Leonardo	Mabel	Girl Talk
Pak	Meltem	Dance
Padilla	Arkinis	Counseling Support
Rodriguez	Raquel	Fashion Design/Dance
Sweatte	David	Athletics
Syed	Saad	STEM

Williams	Abraham	Robotics
Puntiel	Pablo	Security
Rojas	Jeril	Security
Collazo	Diane	S.A.T. English Prep
Vide	Maria	Parent ESL Classes

TABLED - From Finance & Facilities:

1. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the transfer of funds for July and August 2021.
4. 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 July 30, 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 July 30, 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).
- 5.. 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 August 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 August 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).
8. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve Echelon Services LLC's, HVAC proposal to provide ventilation in the Nurse's Office at 612 Amboy Ave. campus in the amount of \$28,940. Contracting work will be funded by the ESSER II grant.
10. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the contract with MRDA for curriculum writing supervision in the amount of \$10,000 to be charged to the ESSER II grant for the 2021/2022 school year.

XVIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

XIX. 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 12:10 am.

Respectfully submitted

Gail Long

Board Secretary