



ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING on ZOOM
Wednesday, December 15, 2021

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:43 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	
Elba Ceballo, Trustee	Present	Arrived 6:48 pm
Eloisa Hernandez, Trustee	Present	

Joshua Lisojo, Trustee	Absent	
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

Minutes will be presented at the next meeting.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

10/15/21 Funding Statement were posted in NJ Homeroom. According to the BA, the revenue was better than projected.

PNC Grant for Children's Financial Literacy

VII. PRESENTATIONS (Title - Presenter - Time)

- Ruben Garrido, architect with EI Associates was the 1st to present. He spoke about the Barclay Street renovation which should have lasted 6 – 9 months, but instead lasted 2 years. The project is now complete as far as the contractor goes. The school received a \$14,000 credit for the work the school has left to do which would cover the cost. The nurse's office HVAC project should take no more than 2 weeks.
- April Gardner and Dr. Swinford presented on the Start Strong test results. Ms. Gardner called Start Strong a benchmark assessment. Dr. Swinford said that we need to align the curriculum from middle school to high school and that we need to implement our own benchmark assessment. She wants to use Link It.
- Ms. Berberich presented the Pathway program which contains Career, clubs, social emotional learning, and advisory. The 21st Century afterschool program is the logical extension after Pathways.
- Dr. Swinford talked about the Peer Mediation program. It would have a reflection room and a program of self-regulation for students. The program was planned for grades 7th – 12. Students would be trained to be peer mediators.
- Mr. Del Los Santos, the Athletic Director spoke about plans to add another fall sport. He was looking at having cross country next year.

VIII. RECOGNITION - Dr. Swinford

- Dr. Swinford recognized the following 5 students who have received almost \$4 million in scholarships. They are: Liz Altagarcia Collado, Gianna Santiago, Daisy Morales, Estefany Matos who were accepted with a full ride to Caldwell University, and Adriel Fernandez who was accepted with a full ride to Brown University.
- Staff was recognized for Perfect Attendance. They are: Ian Askins, Irys Cardona, Claudia DeJesus, Jim Dino, Joshua Heller, Antonio Lombardo, Lourdes

Lopez Jumelles, Patricia Neal, Fermin Ramirez Rojas, Raquel Rodriguez, Victoria Suarez Mendez, Olga Zarifyan, and Munira Jamali.

IX. REPRESENTATIVES (3-5 min)

- Parent representative Carolina Bermudez is the parent of an 8th grade student and also a graduate of AULCS. Trustees asked Ms. Bermudez questions about the PTO meetings such as: how many parents attend (8-10), and how long was she in the PTO (2 years). They thanked her for coming and asked her to come again.
- Student representative Audrick Franco is a junior in AUL. He wants the focus to be more on education. Problems with wearing uniforms and vandalizing the bathrooms are expressions of low morale which is the root of the problem. We need to improve the moral of students and staff.
- Teacher representative Saad Syed left for the evening

X. LEAD REPORT (10 min)

Dr. Mario Barbiere presented the Lead Report. A written report was distributed to the Board. Enrollment as of 12/15/2021: 419

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dominic Hilario, a junior at AUL who resides in Perth Amboy wants to get a cheerleading group. She gathered 121 signatures from students and 25 staff members. Students would raise money with fundraisers for uniforms. Two staff members have come forward as sponsors – Nikki Cannella and Mabel Leonardo.

XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS (10 min)

- Academic Excellence – Eloisa Hernandez – she was aware of the 3 items on the agenda
- Human Resources and Recognition – Michelle Roman – she was also aware of the agenda items, and would be part of interviews tomorrow
- Finance and Facilities – Joshua Bishop-Mbachu was also aware of all items on the agenda and was excited that AUL received increased revenues in the funding statements.
- Executive – Lisette Vilanova spoke of a Lead Search RFP for a firm hopefully to be chosen at the 1/27/22 meeting

XIII. MOTIONS – Consent Agenda

Remove from Consent Agenda under Academic Excellence motion # 2.

Motion Items: Academic Excellence motions # 1 and 3, Human Resources and Recognition motions # 1 – 3, and Finance and Facilities motions # 1 - 6.

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

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 Peer mediation program with training provided by the NJ Bar Association at no cost to the school.
3. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve a change to the calendar to include Report Card night - 4/28/22 for the 3rd marking period

Human Resources and Recognition

1. Move that the Board of Trustees appoint Casey Hanna, Social Studies Teacher start date 1/3/22 at an annual salary of \$55,000 prorated through 6/30/2022.
2. Move that the Board of Trustees appoint the following Assistant Basketball Coaches:

Derek Dubois	Assistant Boys Basketball	\$4,500
Bernadette Gioia	Assistant Girls Basketball	\$4,500

3. Move that the Board of Trustees appoint Emma Stark as Guidance Counselor start date 2/1/22 at an annual salary of \$58,000 prorated through 6/30/22.

Finance and Facilities

1. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the Grant Acceptance Certificate (GAC) for the 21st Century grant for FY 2022 in the amount of \$500,000.
2. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the transfer of funds for September 2021 as per the attachment.
3. 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 September 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 September 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).

4. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the Bill List from 11/18/2021 to 12/15/2021 in the amount of:

Warrants from 11/18/2021 – 12/15/2021	\$298,807.11
Payroll Register 11/30/2021	\$304,611.90
Payroll Register 12/15/2021	<u>\$239,446.00</u>
Total:	\$842,865.01

5. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator accept the PNC grant in the amount of \$8,000.00

6. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator accept the FEMA funds for COVID related overtime salary expenses

XIV. 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:

Attorney Client Privilege

Motion: Joshua Bishop; Second: Michelle Roman

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

The Board went into Executive Session at 9:18 pm.

Motion: Joshua Bishop; Second: Angela Abreu

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

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

XV. MOTION REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve the curriculum to be used for the Pathway to Leadership Program.

Motion: Eloisa Hernandez; Second: Michelle Roman

After a discussion among the Board members and the Lead, the Board decided not to vote on this motion until more documentation is provided.

XVI. OTHER MOTIONS

1. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve a 2nd bill list in the amount of \$79,201.47:

JG Drywall on the Barclay renovation project:	\$71,701.47
Progress billing for 2021 audit	~~\$7,500.00~~ to \$2,500
Total	\$79,201.47

Motion: Joshua Bishop; Second: Elba Ceballo

Mr. Bishop asked the BA about the total amount of money to be paid for the audit. After he learned that with the \$7,500 payment, the auditors would have received 90% of the total fee, he suggested revising the invoice to \$2,500. The other trustees agreed.

The motion was amended to change the amount of the check for the audit from \$7,500 to \$2,500 changing the total of the bill list from \$79,201.47 to \$74,201.47 and the trustees voted on the amended motion.

Voice Vote:

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

6 Yes; 0 Opposed; 0 Abstained

MOTION PASSED

2. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Lead Administrator approve a draft contract with Baje Consulting Group LLC from 12/15/21 to 2/1/22 to provide business office support at a cost not to exceed \$15,000 until the hiring of an Administrative Assistant to the Business Administrator.

Motion: Joshua Bishop; Second: Michelle Roman

Voice Vote:

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

6 Yes; 0 Opposed; 0 Abstained

MOTION PASSED

XVII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board President entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Abreu made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Ceballo seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:46 pm.
Respectfully submitted

Gail Long
Board Secretary