



ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP
EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
612 AMBOY AVE. PERTH AMBOY, NJ
Thursday, January 26, 2023

I. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 am and presided over by Mr. Bishop-Mbachu

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 advertised in the Home News Tribune which has been designated as the Board's official newspaper within the legal time required.

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		
Joshua Bishop-Mbachu, President	Present	
Lisette Vilanova, Vice President	Present	
Stephanie Pabon, Corporate Secretary	Present	
Elba Ceballo, Trustee	Present	

Eloisa Hernandez, Trustee	Present	
Saad Syed, Trustee	Present	
Michelle Roman, Trustee	Present	
Additional Attendees:		
Dr. Jeff White, Chief Lead Administrator	Present	
Gail Long, Business Admin/Board Secretary	Present	Left 12:02 am
Tobi Knehr, Interim Administrator	Present	
Patricia Bombelyn, Board Attorney	Present	

V. 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:

1. Due Process Hearing

Motion: Ms. Vilanova; **Second:** Mr. Syed

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

The Board went into Executive Session at 12:02 am.

Motion: Ms. Ceballo; **Second:** Ms. Roman

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

The Board came out of Executive Session at 1:40 am.

VI. OTHER MOTIONS

1. Move that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

The Board of Trustees hereby finds that during the disciplinary hearing conducted on January 25th and 26th of 2023, the testimony presented by staff members was credible and it established by the preponderance of the evidence that the student, J.S., on January 10, 2023, did engage in defiant and disrespectful conduct that included the use of foul language, a level 2 infraction, that was the student's third level 2 infraction since November 21, 2022, in addition to several level 1 infractions since said date. The Board finds the student is receptive and the parents want to be partners with the school in maximizing the student's opportunities for educational success, accordingly the student's long term suspension shall continue until February 6, 2023 when the student shall return to school in person; until then, the home schooling with 2 hours of instruction provided to the student in her home, which started on January 24, 2023 shall continue; prior to the student's return a behavior plan will be prepared by Dr. White and Ms. Knehr, which will require that the student leaves her phone with an administrator at the beginning of the day and retrieves it at the end of the day and that the student not walk out of class unless she has permission and a pass from her teacher; the behavior plan shall be reviewed with the parents prior to the student's re-entry on February 6, 2023. Upon the student's return the student shall attend the 3:00 to 4:00 pm hour for tutoring four days per week (Tuesday to Friday) and the 21Century program (from 4:00 to 6:00 pm) at least two times per week; the student shall participate internal in weekly counseling with the school social worker and externally in counseling through Passioncare.

Motion: Ms. Roman

Second: Ms. Vilanova

Roll Call Vote:

Joshua Bishop-Mbachu: Yes, Lisette Vilanova: Yes, Stephanie Pabon: Yes, Elba Ceballo: Yes, Eloisa Hernandez: Yes, Michelle Roman: Yes, Saad Syed: Yes.

Yes: 7, Abstained: 0, Opposed: 0

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board President entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Roman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Syed seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:46 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Long
Board Secretary

