



ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
612 AMBOY AVE. PERTH AMBOY, NJ
Wednesday, February 22, 2023
6:30 PM

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm 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 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. Board Members:

Mr. Joshua Bishop-Mbachu - President - Present

Ms. Lisette Vilanova – Vice President - Present

Vacancy – Corporate Secretary

Ms. Elba Ceballo - Excused

Ms. Eloisa Hernandez - Excused

Ms. Michelle Roman - Present

Mr. Saad Syed - Present

Additional

Attendees:

Dr. Jeff White – Chief Lead Administrator - Present

Ms. Bernadette Pinto – Interim BA/Board Secretary - Present

Ms. Tobi Knehr- Interim School Administrator - Excused

Mr. Nathaniel Higgins - Dean of Culture of Climate - Excused

Ms. Cathleen Stone-Joseph - Dean of Academic - Excused

Ms. Patricia Bombelyn - Board Attorney - Present

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the regular meeting minutes from December 12, 2022

Motion: Ms. Roman **Second:** Mr. Syed **Roll Call Vote:**

Joshua Bishop-Mbachu: Yes, **Lisette Vilanova:** Yes, **Michelle Roman:** Yes, **Saad Syed:** Yes

Yes: 4, Abstained: 0, Opposed: 0

Motion Passed

2. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the regular meeting minutes from December 21, 2022.

- Tabled

3. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the regular meeting minutes from January 25, 2023.

- Tabled

4. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the special meeting minutes from February 3, 2023.

- Tabled

5. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the special meeting minutes from February 10, 2023.

- Tabled

V. CORRESPONDENCE

Letters (2) from EPA Grants Office regarding NGGS: EPA Award NE-96251320 and NGGS: Post-Award for 96256819.

Dr. White discussed the letters received to close out EPA Grants Office regarding NGGS: EPA Award NE-96251320 and NGGS: Post-Award for 96256819. Additional information was requested by the Board and will be forthcoming.

VI. REPRESENTATIVES (Approximately 3-5 Minutes Each)

a. Parent Representative -

b. Teacher Representative –

c. Student Representative – Mr. Audrick, 8th grade student, provided an update on the Flag Folding Team and Boy's Bathroom radiator issue. In addition, he discussed the Uniform Survey and morale.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

IX. PRESENTATIONS (Approximately 10 Minutes)

- a. 21st Century Presentation - presented by Ms. Blanca Blanco (see attached).

X. RECOGNITION

A. AUL Flag Team

B. January 2023 Staff Perfect Attendance

Last Name	First Name	Position Title	Campus
Alston	Lisa	HR Assistant	Main
Bonilla	Pedro	Custodian	Barclay
Cartagena	Luis	Security Officer	Main
Cotton	Nizeeh	Security Officer	Barclay
DeJesus	Claudia	Admin. Assistant	Barclay
DeLeon	Ysabel	Custodian	Main
Dino	Jim	Business Teacher	Main
Florez	Santiago	Custodian	Main
Frost	Douglas	Mathematics Teacher	Main
Hannan	David	Health & PE Teacher	Main
Jimenez	Manuela	English Teacher	Main
Leonardo	Edgar	Bookkeeper	Main
Leonardo	Mabel	Social Worker	Main
Lombardo	Antonio	Science Teacher	Barclay
Lopez Jumelles	Lourdes	Lunch Aide	Main
Maloney	James	Science Teacher	Main
Punitel	Pablo	Security Officer	Main
Puntiel	Rafael	Custodian	Main
Roy	Pratima	Science Teacher	Main
Suarez Mendez	Victoria	Food Handler	Main
Valentin	Lucila	Parent Outreach Coordinator	Barclay

B. January 2023 Staff Perfect Attendance

Last Name	First Name	Position Title	Campus
Alston	Lisa	HR Assistant	Main
Vargas	Luis	Exec. Admin. Assistant	Main
Velez	Aileen	Admin. Assistant	Main
Williams	Abraham	IT Technology Coordinator	Main

XI. CHIEF LEAD ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Dr. White presented the Lead Report for February 2023 (see attached).

XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Academic Excellence – Eloisa Hernandez - Presented the motions in the Agenda under Academic Excellence.
- Human Resources and Recognition – Michelle Roman - Presented the motions in the Agenda under Human Resources and Recognition and the Board recognized the employees celebrated under the January 2023 Staff Perfect Attendance.
- Finance and Facilities – Lisette Vilanova - Presented the Finance and Facilities Committee report and motion discussed at the meeting held on 2/15/23 the updates included the Board Secretary Reports and Treasurer's Report.
- Executive – Joshua Bishop-Mbachu

XIII. MOTIONS – Consent Agenda

The Chief Lead Administrator recommends the following items for approval:

Academic Excellence

1. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Chief Lead Administrator approve the following field trip:

Location	Date	# of Students/Staff	Responsible Person	Cost
Kean University	March 7, 2023	Trip for 30 students and 3 chaperones to attend a college fair at Kean University	Kelly Howlet	\$475.00 funded by General fund

Motion: Ms. Roman **Second:** Mr. Syed **Roll Call Vote:**
Joshua Bishop-Mbachu: Yes, **Lisette Vilanova:** Yes, **Michelle Roman:** Yes, **Saad Syed:** Yes
Yes: 4, Abstained: 0, Opposed: 0 **Motion Passed**

2. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Chief Lead Administrator approve the following SY 2022-2023 Senior Class Trip:

Location	Date	# of Students/Staff	Responsible Person	Cost
2022-2023 Senior Class Trip - The Great Wolf Lodge located in Scrotrun, PA.	June 14-15, 2023	70 Students and 7 chaperones	Nathaniel Higgins / Maria Sena	\$4,000.00 Bus Transportation, \$10,000.00 for meals and lodging to be split funded from General Funds \$5,000 and Student Activity \$5,000.

Motion: Ms. Roman Second: Mr. Syed Roll Call Vote:
Joshua Bishop-Mbachu: Yes, Lisette Vilanova: Yes, Michelle Roman: Yes, Saad Syed: Yes
Yes: 4, Abstained: 0, Opposed: 0 Motion Passed

3. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Chief Lead Administrator approve the following Professional Development:

Professional Development	Staff Member(s)	Date	Cost
Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition:	Diane Collazo	July 3rd-July 7th, 2023	\$2,230.00 (Title 2 Funds)
Advanced Placement History	Rose Ann Beberich	July 34rd -7th, 2023	\$2,194.00 (Title 2 Funds)
Advanced Placement English Language and Composition	Diane Collazo	July 10-13th, 2023	\$2,250.00 (Title 2 Funds)
Middlesex College EOF Informational Session	Kelly Howlett	March 8, 2023	No Cost
FLENJ Annual Conference 2023	Maria Vide and Kelly Enny	March 17-18, 2023	\$580.00 (Title 2 Funds)

Human Resources and Recognition

1. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Lead Administrator approve the following appointment - Tabled

Candidate Name	Position Title	Stipend	Start Date
Donald Reid	Assistant Softball Coach	\$4,500.00 / General Funds	March 13, 2023

2. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Lead Administrator approve the following appointment:

Candidate Name	Position Title	Salary	Start Date
----------------	----------------	--------	------------

Joyel Furges	Principal	\$125,000.00 (Prorated) / General Funds	Anticipated Start Date - April 24, 2023
--------------	-----------	--	--

Motion: Ms. Roman **Second:** Mr. Syed **Roll Call Vote:**
Joshua Bishop-Mbachu: Yes, **Lisette Vilanova:** Yes, **Michelle Roman:** Yes, **Saad Syed:** Yes
Yes: 4, Abstained: 0, Opposed: 0 **Motion Passed**

3. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Lead Administrator approve the following appointment:

Candidate Name	Position Title	Salary	Start Date
April Gardner	ESL Teacher	\$75,000.00 (Prorated) / Title III Funds	Anticipated Start Date - April 24, 2023

Motion: Ms. Roman **Second:** Mr. Syed **Roll Call Vote:**
Joshua Bishop-Mbachu: Yes, **Lisette Vilanova:** Yes, **Michelle Roman:** Yes, **Saad Syed:** Yes
Yes: 4, Abstained: 0, Opposed: 0 **Motion Passed**

Finance and Facilities

1. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Chief Lead Administrator approve the Bill List for the period from 1/25/23 - 2/22/23

Payroll 1/30/2023	\$265,754.46
Payroll 2/15/2023	\$216,907.60
Warrants	\$517,139.03

2. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Chief Lead Administrator, approve the Board Secretary's (A148) Report and Treasurer's (A149) Report, for the month ending November 2022. 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 January 31, 2023 no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of 6A:23A16.10(a).
3. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Chief Lead Administrator, approve the Board Secretary's (A148) Report and Treasurer's (A149) Report, for the month ending December 2022. 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 January 31, 2023 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 Chief Lead Administrator, approve the Board Secretary's (A148) Report and Treasurer's (A149) Report, for the month ending January

2023. 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 January 31, 2023 no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of 6A:23A16.10(a).

Motion: Ms. Roman Second: Mr. Syed Roll Call Vote:
Joshua Bishop-Mbachu: Yes, Lisette Vilanova: Yes, Michelle Roman: Yes, Saad Syed: Yes
Yes: 4, Abstained: 0, Opposed: 0 Motion Passed

XIV. EXECUTIVE TEAM

- a. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Chief Lead Administrator approve the second reading of the following policy:

Policy 5511: Dressing and Grooming

- b. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendations of the Chief Lead Administrator approve the first reading of the following policy:

Policy 2425: Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program.

XVI. 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. Attorney-Client Privilege
2. Personnel
3. School Business Administrator Search
4. Kelly vs. AUL

XVII. OTHER MOTIONS

1. Move That The Board Of Trustees Approved Emergency Action Plan For Responding To A Serious Or Potentially Life-Threatening Sport-Related Injury As Per 18a :40-41.11.

Motion: Ms. Vilanova **Second:** Mr. Syed **Roll Call Vote:**
Joshua Bishop-Mbachu: Yes, **Lisette Vilanova:** Yes, **Michelle Roman:** Yes, **Saad Syed:** Yes
Yes: 4, Abstained: 0, Opposed: 0 **Motion Passed**

2. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Chief Lead Administrator approve SY 2023-2024 School Calendar (see attached). - Tabled
3. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Lead Administrator accept the following resignation:

Candidate Name	Position Title	Stipend	Effective Date
Grant Neary	Sports Director	\$10,000.00 / Prorated to February 17, 2023	February 17, 2023

4. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Lead Administrator approve the following appointment: - Tabled

Candidate Name	Position Title	Stipend	Start Date
David Hannan	Assistant Baseball Coach	\$4,500.00 / General Funds	March 13, 2023

5. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Lead Administrator approve the following appointment: - Tabled

Candidate Name	Position Title	Salary	Start Date
Joel Bueno	IT Support (Part-Time)	\$44,000.00 / General Funds	March 13, 2023

6. Motion to approve vacation payout for Ms. Gail Long, retired School Business Administrator in the amount of \$3,596.64.

Motion: Ms. Roman **Second:** Ms. Vilanova **Roll Call Vote:**
Joshua Bishop-Mbachu: Yes, **Lisette Vilanova:** Yes, **Michelle Roman:** Yes, **Saad Syed:** Yes

Yes: 4, Abstained: 0, Opposed: 0

Motion Passed

7. Motion to approve Empire Charter Consultants contingent on Executive Final edits made by and approved by the Executive Committee.

Motion: Ms. Roman

Second: Ms. Vilanova

Roll Call Vote:

Joshua Bishop-Mbachu: Yes, Lisette Vilanova: Yes, Michelle Roman: Yes, Saad Syed: Yes

Yes: 4, Abstained: 0, Opposed: 0

Motion Passed

8. Motion to approve School Business Services, LLC to assist with the Collaborative Federal Monitoring not to exceed a total of \$61,550 for a total contract.

Motion: Ms. Roman

Second: Mr. Syed

Roll Call Vote:

Joshua Bishop-Mbachu: Yes, Lisette Vilanova: Yes, Michelle Roman: Yes, Saad Syed: Yes

Yes: 4, Abstained: 0, Opposed: 0

Motion Passed

XIX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

XX. ADJOURNMENT