



ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
612 AMBOY AVE. PERTH AMBOY, NJ
Wednesday, May 24, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 pm and presided over by Mr. Bishop-Mbachu.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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:

Mr. Joshua Bishop-Mbachu - President - Present
Ms. Lisette Vilanova – Vice President - Excused
Vacancy – Corporate Secretary
Ms. Elba Ceballo - Present
Ms. Eloisa Hernandez -Present
Ms. Yadira Puntiel - Present
Ms. Michelle Roman - Excused
Mr. Saad Syed - Present

Additional Attendees:

Dr. Jeff White – Chief Lead Administrator - Present
Ms. Joyel Furges - Principal - Present
Ms. Tobi Knehr- Interim Middle School Administrator - Present
Mr. Nathaniel Higgins - Dean of Culture of Climate - Present
Ms. Bernadette Pinto – Interim BA/Board Secretary - Present
Ms. Patricia Bombelyn - Board Attorney - Excused

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the regular meeting minutes from April 26, 2023.

Motion: Ms. Ceballo **Second:** Ms. Hernandez
All in Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Ceballo, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Syed;
Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0 **Motion Passed**

2. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the regular meeting minutes from May 10, 2023.

Motion: Ms. Ceballo **Second:** Ms. Syed
All in Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Ceballo, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Syed;
Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0 **Motion Passed**

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Local Public Contracts Law - Current Index Rate

VII. REPRESENTATIVES (Approximately 3-5 Minutes Each)

- a. Parent Representative
- b. Teacher Representative - Samuel Kalnell, social studies teacher at the Middle School spoke about the student government followed by student presentations regarding the

school lunch which provided glows and grows from the following students: Genesis M (7), Bryan T (7), Madalyn S (7), Nazir W (7), Nazira W (8).

- c. Student Representative - Audrick Franco, senior at the High School spoke about the Gold Tie event, multiple trips and students desire to continue future field trips, spoke about the students loving the new carpeting in the lobby area.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Board President invites members of the public to present any comments to the Board (limited to 3 minutes). - No public comment.

IX. PRESENTATIONS (Approximately 10 Minutes)

- a. Benchmark Data Presentation - Rose Ann Berberich and Munira Jamali
- b. Student Recruitment Presentation - Solanyi Pena

X. RECOGNITION

a. Staff

April 2023 Staff Perfect Attendance			
Last Name	First Name	Position Title	Campus
Bueno	Joel	IT Support	Main
Bongart	Brandon	Social Studies Teacher	Main
Dehnz	Jess	Special Ed Teacher	Main
DeLeon	Ysabel	Custodian	Main
Enny	Kelly	French Teacher	Main
Fernandez	Ariel	Social Studies Teacher	Main
Hannan	David	Physical Education Teacher	Main
Jimenez	Manuela	English Teacher	Main
Lopez Jumelles	Lourdes	Lunch Aide	Main
Maloney	James	Science Teacher	Main
Pak	Meltem	Paraprofessional (April 2023 - HERO Award Recipient)	Main
Quesada	Lesly	Building Substitute	Main
Reese	Kyle	Social Studies Teacher	Main
Rodriguez	Raquel	Paraprofessional	Main
Zarifyan	Olga	Math Teacher	Main
Florez	Santiago	Custodian	Main
Gardner	April	ESL Teacher	Barclay
Sena	Ariana	Building Substitute	Main

b. Students

Middle School Student Council

XI. CHIEF LEAD ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Academic Excellence – Eloisa Hernandez
- Human Resources and Recognition – Michelle Roman
- Finance and Facilities – Lisette Vilanova
- 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 trips:

Location	Date	# of Students/Staff	Responsible Person	Cost
NHS Walking trip to Mentor MS students	June 1, 2023	17 Students of which: 10th Grade - 2 11th Grade - 7 12th Grade - 8 2 Chaperones	Ms. Berberich	No cost.
Historical PA walking trip Ferry Slip, PA Library, St. Peter's Church, Kearny Cottage	June 11, 2023	30 Students of which: 7th Grade - 15 8th Grade - 15 3 Chaperones	S. Kalnell	No cost.
Historical PA walking trip 2 Proprietary House, City Hall, PA Library, AULCS Main Campus.	June 1, 2023	30 Students of which: 7th Grade - 15 8th Grade - 15 3 chaperones	S. Kalnell	\$5 x 33 participants Proprietary House Tour = \$165.00 (Entrance Fees)
8 th Grade Walking trip for students "Moving-Up"	June 2, 2023	37 8th Grade Students 4 Chaperones	E. Stark	No cost.
7 th /8 th Barclay Campus Field Day Washington Park, Perth Amboy, NJ	June 9, 2023	95 Students of which: 7th Grade - 58 8th Grade - 37 10 Chaperones	E. Stark	No cost.
9 th - 12 th Main Campus Field Day Washington Park Perth Amboy, NJ	June 16, 2023	273 Students of which: 9th Grade - 63 10th Grade - 68 11th Grade - 56	N. Critelli J. Farges	No cost.

		12th Grade - 86 30 staff Chaperones		
The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 rd St. New York, NY 10019	June 13, 2023	30 students of which: 7th Grade - 15 8th Grade - 15 3 chaperones	T. Knehr, S. Spiecker	\$200 MoMA tour fee \$1,150.00 Bus cost TOTAL = \$1,350.00 (General Funds)
Dorney Park, Allentown, PA	June 13, 2023	200 students of which: 7th Grade - 25 8th Grade - 25 9th Grade - 50 10th Grade - 50 11th Grade - 50 20 Chaperones	N. Higgins	Fees - \$10, 329.00 Buses \$5,250.00 Total \$15, 579.00 (General Funds)

2. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Chief Lead Administrator, approve the following **grant funded** field trips:

Location	Date	# of Students/Staff	Responsible Person	Cost
GlassRoots 10 Bleeker St. Newark, NJ 07102	May 31, 2023 June 1, 2023	70 Students of which: 7th Grade - 20 8th Grade - 20 9th Grade - 8 10th Grade - 8 11th Grade - 7 12th Grade - 7 7 chaperones	B. Gioia B. Blanco	\$15 x 70 students = \$1,050.00 (chaperones free) Buses 2 x \$675 = \$1350 TOTAL = \$2,400.00 from 21st CCLC Grant funds
Meadowlands Environmental Center, 1 De Korte Park Plaza, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071	June 3, 2023	100 Students of which: 7th Grade - 30 8th Grade - 30 9th Grade - 20 10th Grade - 10 11th Grade - 10 10 chaperones (Parent Chaperones Invited)	J. Maloney, A. Lombardo T. Knehr	Transportation Costs \$1,400.00 / Event fee: \$2,700.00 Total Costs: \$4,100.00 (Climate Change Grant Funds)
Liberty Science Center 222 Jersey City Blvd. Jersey City, NJ 07305	June 30, 2023	85 students from grades 3rd to 8th at ACS 21st CCLC site 12 chaperones	B. Blanco Lissette Shumny	Admission/planetarium = \$2,170.00 + 3 buses x \$625 = \$1,875.00 TOTAL = \$4,045.00 from 21st CCLC Grant funds
NJ State Museum and Planetarium, Trenton, NJ	July 7, 2023	85 students from grades 3rd to 8th at ACS 21st CCLC site 12 chaperones	B. Blanco Lissette Shumny	Admission = \$475.00 + 3 buses x \$625 = \$1,875.00 TOTAL = \$2,350.00 from 21st CCLC Grant funds

NJ Sea Grant, Sandy Hook, Gateway National Recreation Area, 22 Magruder Rd. Highlands, NJ 07732	July 13, 2023	60 students of which: 7th Grade - 10 8th Grade - 10 9th Grade - 10 10th Grade -10 11th Grade - 10 12th Grade - 10 6 Chaperones	B. Gioia B. Blanco	Program cost= \$650.00 Bus 2 x \$1000 = \$2000 TOTAL = \$2,650.00 from 21st CCLC Grant funds
Liberty Science Center 222 Jersey City Blvd. Jersey City, NJ 07305	July 20, 2023	40 students of which: 7th Grade - 10 8th Grade - 10 9th Grade - 10 10th Grade -5 11th Grade - 5 4 chaperones	B. Gioia B. Blanco	Admission/planetarium = \$990.00 + \$625 bus TOTAL = \$1,615.00 from 21st CCLC Grant funds
Battleship New Jersey, 62 Battleship Place, Camden, NJ 08103	July 27, 2023	40 students of which: 7th Grade - 10 8th Grade - 10 9th Grade - 10 10th Grade -5 11th Grade - 5 4 chaperones	B. Gioia B. Blanco	Admission 40 x \$12 = \$480.00 + \$675 bus TOTAL = \$1,155.00 from 21st CCLC Grant funds
Roller-skating @ Woodbridge Community Center, 600 Main St, Woodbridge, NJ 07095	Aug. 2, 2023	40 students of which: 7th Grade - 10 8th Grade - 10 9th Grade - 10 10th Grade -5 11th Grade - 5 4 chaperones	B. Gioia B. Blanco	Admission 44 x \$12 = \$528.00 + \$450 bus TOTAL = \$978.00 from 21st CCLC Grant funds

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
Soaring Beyond Expectations Statewide Afterschool programs NJPSA Center 12 Centre Drive, Monroe Township, NJ	B. Gioia B. Blanco	June 9, 2023	\$90.00 registration fees (21st CCLC Grant funds)

Human Resources and Recognition

1. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Chief Lead Administrator, approve the rescinding of the following sy 2023-2024 contract:

Candidate Name	Position Title	Effective Date	Reason
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Aishah Sabur	Building-Based Substitute Teacher	Effective May 24, 2023	Rescindment
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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 4/26/23 to 5/23/23.
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 April 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 April 30, 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 Revised FY24 Budget (see attached).
4. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Chief Lead Administrator, approve the RFP for substitute and temporary staffing for the school year 2023 - 2024.
5. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Chief Lead Administrator, accept the funds under the Preschool and Security Charter Grant 7/1/21 – 9/30/23 in the amount of \$34,105.
6. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Chief Lead Administrator, approve the School Year 2023-2024 Food Service Contract with NuWay (see attached).
7. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Chief Lead Administrator, approve the submission of the Academy for Urban Leadership Charter School's application to apply for the Nita M. Lowey 2024 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant in the amount of \$500,000.00 for SY 2023-2024 with the project timeline of September 1, 2023-August 31, 2024.

EXECUTIVE TEAM

1. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Chief Lead Administrator, approve the second readings of the following policies and regulations:

Policy 0131: Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations

Policy 3134: Assignment of Extra Duties

Policy 3221: Evaluation of Teachers

Policy 3222: Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members, Excluding Teachers and Administrators

Policy 3223: Evaluation of Administrators, Excluding Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals

Policy 3224: Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals

Regulation 3432: Sick Leave: Teaching Staff Members

Regulation 4432: Sick Leave: Support Staff Members

Policy 4433: Support Staff Vacation

Policy 4439: Support Staff Bereavement

Policy 3450: Teaching Staff Members Bereavement

2. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Chief Lead Administrator, approve the first readings of the following policies:

Policy 0145: Board Member Resignation and Removal

Policy 0164.6: Remote Public Board Meetings During A Declared Emergency

Policy 5330.01: Administration of Medical Cannabis

Policy 7425: Lead Testing of Water in Schools

Policy 2415: Every Student Succeeds Act

Policy 2415.02: Title I – Fiscal Responsibilities

Policy 2415.20: Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints

Policy 4125: Employment of Support Staff Members

Policy 6360: Political Contributions

Policy 8030: Student Records

Policy 9713: Recruitment by Special Interest Groups

Motion: Mr. Syed

Second: Ms. Hernandez

All in Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Ceballo, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Syed;

Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0

Motion Passed

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

The Board went into Executive Session at 9:10 pm.

Motion: Ms. Hernandez; Second: Mr. Syed

Voice Vote: All In Favor: 4; Opposed: 0

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:48 pm

XIV. OTHER MOTIONS

1. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Chief Lead Administrator, approve the RFP for auditor services for the school year 2023 - 2024.

Motion: Ms. Hernandez

Second: Mr. Syed

All in Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Ceballo, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Syed;

Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0

Motion Passed

2. 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
LinkIt's 2023 Data Forward Summer Institute, West Caldwell, New Jersey	Abraham Williams, Lauren Gonzalez, Nathaniel Higgins, Tobi Knehr, Joyel Furges, Jeff White	August 2-3, 2023	\$750.00 (General Funds)

Motion: Ms. Hernandez

Second: Mr. Syed

All in Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Ceballo, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Syed;

Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0

Motion Passed

3. Move that the Board of Trustees, on the recommendation of the Chief Lead Administrators, approve the appointment of Bernadette Pinto as Interim School Business Administrator for the Academy for Urban Leadership Charter School effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 at a rate of \$110.00 per hour not to exceed \$125,000.

Motion: Mr. Syed

Second: Ms. Hernandez

All in Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Ceballo, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Syed;

Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0

Motion Passed

4. Move that the Board of Trustees, on the recommendation of the Chief Lead Administrators, approve the contract with Atlantic Tomorrow's Office - Digitized Document Management Solutions at cost not to exceed \$19,800.00 for SY 2023 - 2024.

Motion: Mr. Syed

Second: Ms. Ceballo

All in Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Ceballo, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Syed;

Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0

Motion Passed

5. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Chief Lead Administrator, adopt the following policies:

Policy 1643: Family Leave

Policy 6115.01: Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Allowability of Costs

Policy 6115.02: Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Mandatory Disclosures

Policy 6115.03: Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Conflict of Interest

Policy 6311: Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants

Motion: Mr. Syed Second: Ms. Ceballo

All in Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Ceballo, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Syed;

Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0 Motion Passed

6. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Chief Lead Administrator, approve the MOU for Empire Charter Consultants to begin June 1st 2023.

Motion: Ms. Hernandez Second: Ms. Ceballo

All in Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Ceballo, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Syed;

Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0 Motion Passed

7. Move that the Board of Trustees, approve the hiring of investigator Howard Nirenberg, at a rate of \$175.00 per hour, not to exceed \$10,000.00, to conduct an internal investigation into the internal complaint that was received by counsel on Friday May 19th, and to provide a full report to the Board not later than June 10, 2023.

Motion: Ms. Hernandez Second: Mr. Syed

All in Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Ceballo, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Syed;

Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0 Motion Passed

XV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Jayna Stracensky, parent at Barclay Middle School, spoke about the condition of the gym, gym classes, students in need of math help, recruitment flyers being received after the dates, ELA books, food selection, class trip and silent lunches.

XVI. The next meeting will be held on Jun 21, 2023 at 6:30 PM.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board President entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 pm.

Motion: Ms. Hernandez; Second: Ms. Ceballo

Voice Vote: All In Favor: 4; Opposed: 0