



**ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**612 AMBOY AVE. PERTH AMBOY, NJ**  
**Wednesday, July 12, 2023**  
**6:30 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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.

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## IV. ROLL CALL

### **Board Members:**

Mr. Joshua Bishop-Mbachu - President - Present  
Ms. Michelle Roman – Vice President - Present  
Mr. Saad Syed – Corporate Secretary - Present  
Ms. Eloisa Hernandez - Present  
Ms. Yadira Puntiel - Present  
Ms. Karina Lascano- Absent  
Mr. Ambiorix Ramirez, non voting member - Present

### **Additional Attendees:**

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

### **Mr. Bishop, Board President presented Committee Meeting Assignments as follows:**

Executive Committee - Mr. Joshua Bishop, Ms. Michelle Roman, and Mr. Saad Syed  
Finance & Facilities - Mr. Joshua Bishop and Ms. Eloisa Hernandez  
Human Resources and Recognition - Ms. Michelle Roman and Ms. Yadira Puntiel  
Academic Excellence - Mr. Saad Syed, Mr. Ambiorix Ramirez and Ms. Karina Lascano

## V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board President invites members of the public to present any comments to the Board (limited to 3 minutes) - No Public Comments

## VI. Presentations

1. ESEA Grant Presentation by Ms. Tobi Knehr and Ms. Bernadette Pinto

## 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

**Motion to Close Public Session: Ms. Roman; Second: Mr. Syed**  
**All in Favor: 5; Opposed: 0**

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:10 pm.

**Motion to Close Public Session: Ms. Roman; Second: Mr. Syed**  
**All in Favor: 5; Opposed: 0**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:54 pm.

## **VI. Personnel Discussion**

1. Move that the Board of Trustees accept the resignation of Dr. Jeff White as the Chief Lead Administrator dated June 4th, 2023.

**Motion: Ms. Roman                      Second: Mr. Syed**  
**All in Favor: 5: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Puntiel Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed;**  
**Abstained: 0; Opposed:              Motion Passed**

2. Move that the Board of Trustees appoint Natasha Howard as the Interim Chief Lead Administrator beginning July 13th, 2023 to June 30th, 2024 at a salary at salary of \$160,000.00

**Motion: Ms. Roman                      Second: Mr. Syed**  
**All in Favor: 5: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Puntiel Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed;**  
**Abstained: 0; Opposed:              Motion Passed**

## **VII. Academic Excellence Discussion**

1. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Chief Lead Administrator, approve the submission of the following grants and accept grant funding in the amounts listed below,

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| ESEA Title I            | \$175,350 |
| ESEA Title I SIA Part A | \$99,900  |
| ESEA Title IIA          | \$13,755  |
| ESEA Title III          | \$12,694  |
| ESEA Title IV Part A    | \$14,732  |

Action may be taken.

**Motion: Ms. Roman**

**Second: Mr. Syed**

**All in Favor: 5: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Puntiel Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed;**

**Abstained: 0; Opposed: Motion Passed**

## **V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Board President invites members of the public to present any comments to the Board (limited to 3 minutes) - No Public Comments

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board President entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 pm.

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

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