



ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
612 AMBOY AVE. PERTH AMBOY, NJ
Wednesday, AUGUST 23, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:49 PM.

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. Michelle Roman – Vice President - Present
Mr. Saad Syed – Corporate Secretary - Excused
Ms. Eloisa Hernandez - Present
Ms. Karina Lascano - Excused
Ms. Yadira Puntiel - Absent
Mr. Ambiorix Ramirez - - Present

Additional Attendees:

Dr. Natasha Howard - Interim Lead Administrator - Present
Ms. Bernadette Pinto – Interim BA/Board Secretary - Present
Ms. Tobi Knehr - Interim Middle School Administrator - Present
Mr. Nathaniel Higgins - Dean of Culture of Climate - Absent
Ms. Joyel Furges - Principal - Present
Ms. Lauren Gonzalez - Dean of Academics - Present
Ms. Patricia Bombelyn - Board Attorney - Present

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the regular and closed session meeting minutes from July 26, 2023.

Motion: Ms. Roman Second: Ms. Hernandez

All in Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Ramirez, Ms. Roman;

Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0 Motion Passed

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Farm to Table Grant
2. MLK Grant

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

VIII. PRESENTATIONS (Approximately 10 Minutes)

- a. PD Report
- b. Renewal Process Overview

IX. INTERIM CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Academic Excellence
- Human Resources and Recognition
- Finance and Facilities
- Executive

XI. MOTIONS

The Interim Chief Administrator recommends the following items for approval:

Academic Excellence

Human Resources and Recognition

1. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator approve the following appointment:

Candidate Name	Position Title	Prorated Salary	Start Date
Maxine Esteves	Guidance Counselor	\$62,500	8/25/23

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

Candidate Name	Position Title	Prorated Salary	Start Date
Maribel Fonte	Security Officer/FT	\$42,000.00	8/28/2023

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

Candidate Name	Position Title	Certification	Stipend	Start Date
Blanca Blanco	21 st Century Project Director	Substitute Cert./ Bachelors Degree	\$25,500	8/25/23

5. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator appoint as the district's Affirmative Action Officer.

Finance and Facilities

1. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator, approve the Bill List for the period from 7/27/23 to 8/23/23.
2. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator, approve the Board Secretary's (A148) Report and Treasurer's (A149) Report, for the month ending July 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 July 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 Interim Chief Administrator accept a USDA Food and Nutrition Service FY23 Farm to School – Turnkey Planning Project grant (FNS-529) in the amount of \$71,521.00.
4. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator accept the MLK I Have a Dream grant award of \$476.19 from the New Jersey Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission.
5. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator pay a contract buyout fee of \$7,500.00 to the Delta T Group in order to hire David Ritchie as a Building-based Substitute Teacher at a rate of \$200.00 per day.

Motion: Ms. Roman Second: Ms. Hernandez

All in Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Ramirez, Ms. Roman;

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
- 3. Consultant Contract

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:00 pm.

Motion: Ms. Roman Second: Ms. Hernandez

Voice Vote All In Favor: 4; Opposed: 0

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:46 pm.

Motion: Mr. Syed Second: Ms. Roman

Voice Vote All In Favor: 4; Opposed: 0

XII. OTHER MOTIONS

- 1. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator, accept the resignation of Nathaniel Higgins as Dean of Culture and Climate, effective August 21, 2023.

Motion: Ms. Roman Second: Ms. Hernandez

All in Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Puntiel, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed;

Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0 Motion Passed

- 2. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator, approve the following SY 2023-24 contract:

Candidate Name	Position	Certification	Prorated Salary	Effective Date
Juan de los Santos	MS mathematics	Limited CE	\$77,500	8/25/23

Motion: Ms. Roman Second: Ms. Hernandez

All in Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Puntiel, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed;

Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0 Motion Passed

3. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator, approve the following SY 2023-24 contract:

Candidate Name	Position	Certification	Prorated Salary	Effective Date
Alberto Duran	IT Assistant (part-time)	NSE 1 and 2, A+, Google	\$30,000	8/25/23

Motion: Ms. Roman Second: Ms. Hernandez

All in Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Puntiel, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed;

Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0 Motion Passed

4. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator, approve the Memorandum of Understanding between AUL and the Jewish Renaissance Foundation for the 2023-24 Step-Up Program, contingent upon legal review.

Motion: Ms. Roman Second: Ms. Hernandez

All in Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Puntiel, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed;

Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0 Motion Passed

5. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator, approve the Memorandum of Understanding between AUL and Middlesex College for the 2023-24 Dual Enrollment program. - Tabled

6. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator, approve the purchase of recruiting space at the Dominican Festival at a cost of \$500.00 to be paid to United Dominicans of Perth Amboy previously approved by the Executive Committee.

Motion: Ms. Roman Second: Ms. Hernandez

All in Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Puntiel, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed;

Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0 Motion Passed

7. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator, approve the SY 2023-2024 contract with NWEA for student assessments and professional development at a cost not to exceed \$10,600.00, previously approved by the Executive Team.

Assessment	Grades	Unit Price	Quantity	Total Price
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MAP Growth (Math, Reading Language Usage)	7-12	\$14.50	400	\$5,800.00
MAP Growth Science	7-12	\$2.75	400	\$1,100.00
Assessment Total				\$6,900.00

Professional Development	Staff Members	Date	Price
MAP Growth Basics for Teachers (virtual)	Teachers (up to 30 participants)	TBD - Target Sept 5	\$1,260.00
MAP Growth – Applying Reports: Student Goal Setting (virtual)	Teachers (up to 30 participants)	TBD	\$1,260.00
MAP Growth – Applying Reports: Essential Reports for Teachers (virtual)	Teachers (up to 30 participants)	TBD	\$1,260.00
Professional Development Total			\$3,780.00

Motion: Ms. Hernandez Second: Ms. Roman

All in Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Puntiel, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed;

Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0 Motion Passed

8. Move that the Board of Trustees approve Administrative Leave with pay for Dr. Jeff White effective August 14th, 2023 through September 4th, 2023.

Motion: Ms. Roman Second: Mr. Ramirez

All in Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Puntiel, Ms. Roman, 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. - No Public Comment

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

The Board President entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 pm.

Motion: Ms. Roman Second: Ms. Hernandez

All in Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Puntiel, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed;

Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0 Motion Passed