



**ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
612 AMBOY AVE. PERTH AMBOY, NJ
7:00 PM
Wednesday, March 27, 2024**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:19 PM and presided over by Joshua 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. 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 - Excused
Mr. Ambiorix Ramirez - Excused

Additional Attendees:

Dr. Jack A. Perna - Interim Chief Administrator - Present
Ms. Bernadette Pinto – Interim BA/Board Secretary - Present
Ms. Patricia Bombelyn - Board Attorney - Excused
Ms. Tobi Knehr - Middle School Administrator - Present
Dr. Edwin Duroy - Per Diem Administrator - Present

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Move that the Board of Trustees approve the meeting minutes from February 16, 2024.

Motion: Ms. Roman Second: Mr. Syed
All In Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop-Mbachu, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed, Ms. Hernandez;
Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0

MOTION PASSED

Move that the Board of Trustees approve the meeting minutes from February 28, 2024.

Motion: Ms. Roman Second: Mr. Syed
All In Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop-Mbachu, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed, Ms. Hernandez;
Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0

MOTION PASSED

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Middlesex County Teen Arts Festival

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Adrian Wright, 10th grade student summer classes being offered in the areas of Calculus and Algebra II. He discussed the importance of his education and how such classes would help him in preparing for college.

Margaret Feliciano, parent provided a recommendation regarding high school and chaperones and spoke about the relationship between Perth Amboy City Art Displays and invited AUL staff and Board to look into the program as a means to showcase the student talent seen earlier. In addition, she mentioned that donations of prom dresses is great.

Tasha Vasquez, parent asked if the school considered requesting donations for tuxedos for men, flowershops, and donations of tickets for the prom venue.

Ana Ramirez, 8th grade student discussed peer to peer tutoring opportunities during school hours and lunch time versus only after school. In addition she asked if items could be sold during lunch and if the school lunch could have healthy option sandwiches. She added she would love an Art Club and Theater Club.

Natalie Senshi, student opened with discussing 8th grade transition year and goal of having a fundraiser such as a dinner / dance. She expressed interest in supporting such an event along with a middle school yearbook. She added that the school needs to promote a variety of clubs and organizations to ensure more student involvement.

Brian McDire, teacher spoke regarding Algebra 2 courses in the summer and that he would welcome teaching such a course in the summer.

Jenna, parent / PTO Co-President, spoke regarding the French Teacher in the Middle School, Middle School yearbook, Art Program, Bowling and Paradox Museum. She closed with support for an 8th Grade level Prom / Dance. She encouraged more virtual parent meetings and to consider some on Saturday as it will help more parent's availability.

Parent, shared her concern that a student was marked absent while she was present in school and the parent were extremely concerned as the child appear to be missing but the entire time was in the school.

Blanca R. Blanco, 21st Century Director, discussed the presentation along with strengthening parental engagement. In addition, she reminded the Board that this is the last year of the 21st Century Grant.

Ms. Roman, BOT Vice President thanked all the parents for coming out to the PTO and all meeting and in particular for their support.

VIII. PRESENTATIONS

Middlesex County Teen Arts
FY25 Budget Presentation & ARP ESSER Amendments

IX. STAKEHOLDER REPORTS

X. INTERIM CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Academic Excellence
2. Human Resource and Recognition
3. Finance and Facilities
4. Executive

XII. MOTIONS

Academic Excellence

- 1) Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator approve the following Professional Development requests:

Professional Development	Staff Member(s)	Date(s)	Location	Cost
NJSACC Annual Conference on Afterschool and Out of Time 2024	Blanca Blanco 21 st Century Project Director	April 26, 2024	Marriott Hotel and Conference Center 100 College Road East Princeton, NJ 08540	\$199 registration fee + Travel cost \$23.12 (reimbursement) 21 st Century funds
3rd Quarter 21st Century Project Directors Meeting	Blanca Blanco 21 st Century Project Director	April 17, 2024	RWJ Fitness and Wellness Center 3100 Quakerbridge Rd. Hamilton, NJ 08619	No Fee Travel cost \$40.40 (reimbursement)
Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences	Kelly Howlett	March 22, 2024	New Brunswick, NJ	\$0 free
NJ TESOL	Dr. Edwin Duroy	March 31, 2024	Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick, NJ	\$99.00 funded by ARP ESSER

Motion: Ms. Roman

Second: Mr. Syed

**All In Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop-Mbachu, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed, Ms. Hernandez;
Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0**

MOTION PASSED

- 2) Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator approve the following field trip requests as listed below.

Discussion: Ms. Hernandez asked for details regarding the coordination of events for the Grounds for Sculpture Trip.

Field trip	Students	Date(s)	Location	Cost
21 st Century trip Grounds for Sculpture	21 st Century 60 Students: Gr. 7 - 15 students Gr. 8 - 15 students Gr. 9 - 10 students Gr.10 - 10 students Gr.11 - 5 students Gr. 12 - 5 students	April 22, 2024	Grounds for Sculpture, 80 Sculptors Way, Hamilton Township, NJ 08619	Admissions: \$10 per student x 60 students = \$600, A \$50 deposit is required upon booking to reserve the space. 2 Buses: 2 x \$700 = \$1400 Grant Funds
Perth Amboy Library University Day	53, 11 th Gd. (Juniors) Kelly Howlett + 4 additional chaperones	April 16, 2024	P. Amboy Library 196 Jefferson St. PA, NJ	No fee, Bus Cost = \$350
Hispanic College Fair Day	53, 11 th Gd. (Juniors) Kelly Howlett + 4 additional email	April 17, 2024	Fairleigh Dickinson University, Florham Campus Madison, N.J.	No fees, Bus provided by FDU
The Clean Ocean Action Summit	28 - 7th grade students Emma Stark, counselor	May 16, 2024	Sandy Hook, NJ	No Registration fee + Travel cost = \$700.00 Bus funded by ARP ESSER
Senior Class Trip To Hershey Park, PA	64 Senior Students / 6 chaperones Maria Sena/Advisor	June 20, 2024	Hershey Park, 100 Hershey Park Dr, Hershey, PA 17033	\$2,586.50 From Student Activity Funds + 2 Buses @ \$800ea = \$1600.00 Total = \$ 4,186.50
Grad Nite @ Six Flags Great Adventure	64 Senior Students / 6 chaperones Maria Sena/Advisor	June 7, 2024	1 Six Flags Blvd, Jackson Township, NJ 08527	\$5,249.30 + 2 Buses @ \$800ea = \$1600.00 Total = \$6,849.30
Grounds for Sculpture - Removed from	40 students each day + 4 chaperones as follows: (D. Frost) Gr. 9 - 10 students	May 28, May 29, May 30, 2024	Grounds for Sculpture, 80 Sculptors Way, Hamilton	Admissions: \$10 per student x 44 students/chaperones = \$440/ per day x 3 days = \$1320.00

Consent Agenda	Gr.10 – 10 students Gr.11 – 10 students Gr. 12 – 10 students		Township, NJ 08619	Buses 3 x \$500 = \$1500.00 Total = \$2,820.00 funded
American Dream Mall Sea Life Aquarium	40 12 th Gr. Students + 4 chaperones	April 12, 2024	1 American Dream Way East Rutherford NJ 07073	Entry total = \$560.00 + 1 bus @ \$600 Total cost =\$1160.00 funded by ARP ESSER

Motion: Ms. Roman

Second: Mr. Syed

**All In Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop-Mbachu, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed, Ms. Hernandez;
Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0**

MOTION PASSED

- 3) Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator approve the following graduation site contract; Middlesex College PAC, Edison, NJ on June 27, 2024, at a cost of \$4000.00 funded by the Student Activity Account.

Motion: Ms. Roman

Second: Mr. Syed

**All In Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop-Mbachu, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed, Ms. Hernandez;
Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0**

MOTION PASSED

- 4) Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator approve a contract with Educational Resource Company (ERC) for the provision of program inventory and instructional review in alignment with the AULCS Remediation Plan for the amount of \$40,000. - **TABLED**

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 Stipend	Start Date
Kyle Fisher	Sports Coordinator	\$3,000.00	3/15/24

2. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator, accept the following resignation:

Name	Position	Effective Date
Lesly Quesada	Building Based Sub Teacher	3/8/24

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

Name	Position	Effective Date
Denisse Peralta Castaneda	HR Assistant	2/7/2024

4. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator, rescind the following previous appointment:

Name	Position	Effective Date
Gabriel Sousa	Part-Time Security Officer	3/13/2024

5. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator, accept the following termination:

Name	Position	Effective Date
Jennifer Negron	Administrative Assistant	3/13/2024

6. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator, approve the following applicants for the 21st Century Afterschool Program to be funded by 21st CCLC Grant Account #: 20-451-100-101 not to exceed 2 hours a day from March 28, 2024 – June 14, 2024:

Candidate Name	Position/Club	Amount
Sonia Charles	Girl Talk	\$40/hr
Santiago, Evelyn	Gardening	\$40/hr
Drayton, Danielle	Girl Talk ACS	\$40/hr
Melendez, Nelisabel	Girl Talk ACS	\$40/hr

7. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Lead Administrator renew the “HelpDesk for HR” 2024 Subscription in the amount of \$349.00.

Motion: Ms. Roman

Second: Mr. Syed

**All In Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop-Mbachu, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed, Ms. Hernandez;
Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0**

MOTION PASSED

Finance and Facilities

1. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Business Administrator, approve the Bills List for the period of 3/1/24 to 3/27/24.
2. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Business Administrator and School Business Administrator, approve the Board Secretary's (A148) Report, Treasurer's Report, and transfers for the month ending February 2024. Be it further resolved that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim 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 February 29, 2024, no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures that 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 Business Administrator approve the Projected FY25 Budget..
4. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Business Administrator approve the ACFR FY23 Corrective Action Plan.
5. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Business Administrator approve ARP ESSER Amendments.

Motion: Ms. Roman

Second: Mr. Syed

**All In Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop-Mbachu, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed, Ms. Hernandez;
Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0**

XIII. OTHER MOTIONS

1. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator approve a Medical Leave of Absence from 4/8/24 through 4/30/24 as requested by Employee #15240.

Motion: Ms. Roman Second: Mr. Syed
All In Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop-Mbachu, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed, Ms. Hernandez;
Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0

MOTION PASSED

2. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator approve a Medical Leave of Absence from 3/6/24 through 3/21/24 as requested by Employee #15406.

Motion: Ms. Roman Second: Mr. Syed
All In Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop-Mbachu, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed, Ms. Hernandez;
Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0

MOTION PASSED

3. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator approve a Religious Leave of Absence from 3/28/24 through 4/11/24 as requested by Employee #15455.

Motion: Ms. Roman Second: Mr. Syed
All In Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop-Mbachu, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed, Ms. Hernandez;
Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0

MOTION PASSED

4. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim School Business Administrator approve the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Food Service Management Company for the 2024-2025 School Year.

Motion: Mr. Syed Second: Ms. Roman
All In Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop-Mbachu, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed, Ms. Hernandez;
Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0

MOTION PASSED

1. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator approve a contract with Educational Resource Company (ERC) for the provision of program inventory and instructional review in alignment with the AULCS Remediation Plan for the amount of \$43,450.00 to be funded by ARP ESSER. - **TABLED**

2. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator approve a contract with SOS Social Media Group LLC for the provision of recruitment services not to exceed the amount of \$16,000 funded by ARP ESSER. - **TABLED**

3. Move that the Board of Trustees under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator approve acceptance of a donation of 50 prom dresses from Tina's Bridal shop in Totowa, NJ for student use.

Motion: Mr. Syed

Second: Ms. Roman

All In Favor: 4: Mr. Bishop-Mbachu, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed, Ms. Hernandez;

Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0

MOTION PASSED

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

XV. 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.
Attorney Client Privilege
Negotiations

Personnel
Kelly VS AUL
Student Discipline

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:08 PM.

Motion: Ms. Roman Second: Mr. Syed
Voice Vote All In Favor: 4; Opposed: 0

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:56 PM.

Motion: Mr. Syed Second: Ms. Roman
Voice Vote All In Favor: 4; Opposed: 0

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

The Board President requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:34 PM.

Motion: Ms. Roman Second: Ms. Hernandez
Voice Vote All In Favor: 4; Opposed: 0.