



**ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
612 AMBOY AVE., PERTH AMBOY, NJ
7:00 PM
Wednesday, December 20, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 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.

I. 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.

II. 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.

III. 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 - Absent
Mr. Ambiorix Ramirez - Present

Additional Attendees:

Dr. Natasha Howard - Interim Chief Administrator - Present
Ms. Tobi Knehr - Middle School Administrator - Absent
Ms. Joyel Furges - Principal - Present
Ms. Lauren Gonzalez – Interim Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Support Services - Present
Ms. Patricia Bombelyn - Board Attorney - Present
Ms. Bernadette Pinto – Interim BA/Board Secretary - Present

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Move that the Board of Trustees approve the meeting minutes from November 29, 2023.

Motion: Ms. Roman

Second: Mr. Ramirez

All In Favor: 6: Mr. Bishop-Mbachu, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Ramirez;

Abstained: 0; **Opposed:** 0

MOTION PASSED

V. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email regarding 21st century regarding guidelines

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Ms. Stracensky, parent and PTO Vice President, spoke about gym classes not being held in the middle school and not having access to the 3rd floor due to the recent flooding. In addition, she spoke about the bathrooms not working properly.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

1. Student Recruitment
2. Spring 2023 NJSLA results

VIII. STAKEHOLDER REPORTS

PTO Representative presented

1. Learn to Point presentation
2. PTO Email and participation
3. Bake Sale to be held on Friday

IX. INTERIM CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

XI. MOTIONS

Academic Excellence

1. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator, approve the acceptance of \$30,000.00 in IDEA CCLC supplemental grant funds to increase after-school and summer programming opportunities for students with disabilities.

2. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator, approve the following field trip requests:

Field trip	Students/Sponsor	Date(s)	Location	Cost
Somerset Patriots STEM Day (21 st Century)	60 (all grades)/B. Blanco	May 15, 2024	TD Bank Ballpark, Bridgewater	Admission - \$530 Waiting on bus quote
Engineering Career Day at Rutgers	12 (11 th and 12 th grades)/K. Howlett	March 13, 2024	New Brunswick	Waiting on bus quote
Middlesex County SPTS Be S-Well Summit	8 (10 th and 11 th grades)/K. Howlett	March 12, 2024	Middlesex College, Edison	Waiting on bus quote

Human Resources and Recognition

1. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator, approve the following appointment for the 2023-24 school year:

Candidate Name	Position Title	Prorated Salary	Start Date
Leni Cordero	Spanish Teacher	\$73,750.00 *	2/26/24

*Consistent with CBA new hire guidelines for 11 years of experience

2. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator, approve the following appointment for the 2023-24 school year:

Candidate Name	Position Title	Stipend Amount	Start Date
Khalilah Selby	National Junior Honor Society Advisor	\$750.00	12/21/23

3. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief

Administrator, accept the following separation:

Name	Position	Effective Date
James Santangelo	ELA Teacher	12/11/23

Finance and Facilities

1. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator to, approve the Bills List for the period of 11/30/23 to 12/20/23 for the grand toll of \$490,486.77
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 Report for the month ending November 2023. 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 November 30, 2023, no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures that in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of 6A:23A16.10(a).

Motion: Ms. Roman

Second: Mr. Ramirez

All In Favor: 6: Mr. Bishop-Mbachu, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Ramirez;

Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0

MOTION PASSED

XII. OTHER MOTIONS

1. Move that the Board of Trustees, under the recommendation of the Interim Chief Administrator, approve the following applicants for the 21st Century Afterschool Programs at AUL and Assumption Catholic School to be funded by the 21st CCLC Grant and not to exceed 2 hours a day through June 14, 2024:

Candidate Name:	Position:	Interview Date:	Amount:
Roque, Angelee	ACS Yearbook/ Substitute	11/21/2023	\$40/hr
Roque, Lilyana	ACS Yearbook	11/21/2023	\$40/hr
Sommerville, Evon	AUL Sports	11/30/2023	\$40/hr
Quesada, Lesly	AUL Culinary	11/29/2023	\$40/hr

Motion: Mr. Ramirez

Second: Mr. Syed

All In Favor: 6: Mr. Bishop-Mbachu, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Ramirez;

Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0

MOTION PASSED

2.

Motion: Mr. Ramirez

Second: Mr. Syed

All In Favor: 6: Mr. Bishop-Mbachu, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Ramirez;

Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0

MOTION PASSED

3.

Motion: Mr. Ramirez

Second: Mr. Syed

All In Favor: 6: Mr. Bishop-Mbachu, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Ramirez;

Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0

MOTION PASSED

4. USDA

Motion: Mr. Ramirez

Second: Mr. Syed

All In Favor: 6: Mr. Bishop-Mbachu, Ms. Roman, Mr. Syed, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Ramirez;

Abstained: 0; Opposed: 0

MOTION PASSED

5. Farm to School Grant

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

XIV. 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. Kelly v. AUL
3. Negotiations Update
4. Personnel
5. HIB report

The Board went back into Executive Session at 9:58 pm.

Motion: Mr. Syed; Second: Mr. Ramirez

Voice Vote: All In Favor: 6; Opposed: 0

The Board came out of Executive Session at 11:51 pm

Motion: Ms. Roman; Second: Mr. Ramirez

Voice Vote: All In Favor: 6; Opposed: 0

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

The Board President entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 pm.

Motion: Ms. Roman; Second: Mr. Ramirez

Voice Vote: All In Favor: 6; Opposed: 0