



# University Academy

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL  
AT NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY

275 West Side Avenue  
Jersey City, New Jersey 07305

**Board of Trustees Meeting  
University Academy Charter High School  
Multi-purpose Room  
November 20, 2008  
5:30 PM**

**Ruddys Andrade  
Marco Valdivia  
Tomas Porturas  
Migdalia Viole-Hernandez  
Melissa Scauri  
Karen Ridley  
John Melendez**

## **Public Session**

In accordance with the Public Notice Law of New Jersey, the University Academy Charter High School's meeting was advertised in the Jersey Journal and the Star Ledger. A copy was also sent to the City Clerk and a copy was posted in a public place. The public meeting of the University Academy Charter High School called to order 5:40 p.m. Mr. Valdivia addressed the public. There were no questions.

## **Review of October 2008 minutes (action item)**

**Moved by Andrade. Second by Ridley.**

**Unanimous. No abstentions.**

## **Dean's Report (see attached)**

Dr. Melendez asked how we performed against our peers in Jersey City? Mr. Lugo said we performed better than Snyder but not McNair. Dean Lugo stated we have great hope we will make progress with this soon. This year we did freshman cohorts and these resources have shown to be well spent with the freshman class. Also, based on the safe harbor policy, we might still make AYP if we make a continuous effort, according to NCLB.

Ms. Scauri asked the number of students failing more than one course. Mr. Sawyer said about 20-25%. Dean Lugo stated there is an increase in Honor Roll and Dean's List.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Personnel**

#### **Resolution to hire (action item)**

**Moved by Ridley. Second by Scauri.**

Mr. Andrade stated perhaps in the future we could require someone that has a managerial position/background. Ms. Viole-Hernandez asked how this could be done? Mr. Andrade stated we could make this as a managerial position. Mr. Lugo stated right now you need a supervisor or certificate background to perform this duty. Ms. Viole-Hernandez asked if it would be wise to hire a

new teacher to perform this function. Mr. Andrade stated he would like to discuss further for future decision.

Mr. Lugo stated we could blend this with the Service Coordinator position. Ms. Violen-Hernandez stated that in the public schools you are expected hold a supervisor's certificate this position. Mr. Lugo stated he will be performing the instructional piece of this. Dr. Melendez asked Mr. Perlman is it possible to change the title to Coordinator for the record as this is No Child Left Behind (submitted as a Director position) no violation of the bargaining unit, the job department is really coordination based.

**Unanimous. No abstentions.**

### **Finance**

Mr. Puzo presented on behalf of the Finance Committee. Mr. Puzo stated our Health Insurance renews on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Our health carrier (Oxford) wants a 16% increase and the Vision plan is looking for about a 10% increase. I have submitted this to our representative and they are shopping around for a better rate, this is how we found Oxford last year. With this in mind, I might have to contact the board for immediate approval or questions. The other development is that the Supreme Court struck down Corzines's spending formula. We have received some money under Corzines's plan (based on targeted aid) and I am afraid this will go away and be sent to district funding. In February we should receive our numbers for next year. If they go back to Abbott funding we will suffer tremendously, based in salary increases etc. Also, there are a couple of contract that have switched form 10 to 12 months. Can the board please take a look and verify information. Dr. Melendez stated that sounds like a responsibility of the administration. Mr. Lugo stated that he will work with Nick Puzo to gain this information. Mr. Puzo stated that his only immediate question is about Michele Bruce's position.

**Review of October 2008 Finance Report and invoices to be paid (action item)**

**Moved by Andrade. Second by Melendez.**

**Unanimous. No abstentions.**

### **Old Business**

**Dr. Melendez stated that he promised to provide retention numbers of UACHS alumni at NJCU:**

Fall 2007: 21 graduates of UACHS

One semester retention of 90%

Two semester retention 70%

For UACHS it is 57%

Of the (13) students equal 57%, only 4 (19%) have registered for the spring semester.

Dr. Melendez is suggesting for UACHS to plan and discuss outreach and future ideas to develop the future UACHS classes. Maybe we can see how HCC is doing and see if they are having success there. Perhaps this is a better starting place and then they can transfer afterwards. If so, maybe we can defer their scholarship until they complete remediation at HCCC and then transfer to NJCU.

### **New Business**

**Resolution to renew The Doctor is In contract (action item)**

**Moved by Ridley. Second by Violen-Hernandez.**

**Unanimous. No abstentions.**

**Resolution to approve the UACHS membership NJSIAA (action item)**  
**Moved by Melendez. Second by Scauri.**  
**1 opposed.**

**Resolution to approve Latino Institute Conference and Travel (action item)**  
This item has been tabled for a future date.

**Announcements**

Mr. Valdivia stated that the Director of Create High School was recently arrested in Washington DC. Please remember you are a reflection of this school. Please keep this in mind during your daily activities in outside of the classroom.

Mr. Andrade announced that Melissa Scauri was accepted to Leadership NJ. Ms. Scauri thanked the board for their sponsorship.

**December Board Meeting**  
**December 10, 2008**  
**4:30 pm**

**Adjournment**

Moved by Ridley. Second by Scauri.  
Unanimous. No abstentions.