

**LEAP Board of Trustees Meeting  
May 8, 2025  
MINUTES**

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Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

**Attendance:**

Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago
Belianis Colon
Dr. Matthew Closter
Margaret Manthe
Bette Mengesha
Dr. Donna Nickitas
Hector Nieves
Brenda Ortiz
Dr. Michael Palis
Shaun Waters

**Excused:**

Dr. Anthony Lowman  
Cal Maradonna  
Dr. Yosmeriz Roman  
Omar Samaniego  
Margo Venable

**I. Welcome/Declaration of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act:**

Dr. Santiago called the meeting to order and announced that it had been disseminated to the school community. Public comments can be submitted in writing via email at [wandag@camden.rutgers.edu](mailto:wandag@camden.rutgers.edu).

**II. Approval of Minutes of March 25, 2025: Hector Nieves** presented the following resolution:

**Item 1:** Resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the meeting minutes of March 25, 2025, as prepared by Wanda Garcia, Board Liaison.

**Seconded by Dr. Palis**

**Roll Call:**

Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago	YES
Belianis Colon	YES
Dr. Matthew Closter	YES
Margaret Manthe	ABS

Bette Mengesha	YES
Dr. Donna Nickitas	ABS
Hector Nieves	YES
Brenda Ortiz	ABS
Dr. Michael Palis	YES
Shaun Waters	YES

### III. Chairperson's Report: Dr. Santiago presented the following updates:

#### A. Update on the construction of a new fab lab in partnership with Rutgers University

- a. Staff has informed that all documentation needed by the City of Camden has been filed, and they are awaiting approval to break ground.

#### B. Puerto Rico LSE Upscale

- a. Three new schools are approved to open in August 2025
- b. First high school graduation class – LEAP STEAM + E Academy of San Juan
  - i. Twelve students from Puerto Rico are accepted and are in the process of committing to Rutgers for the 25-26 academic year.
  - ii. Thirty-two students from LEAP Academy are committed to Rutgers. A growing number of students are also attending our partner institutions — Rowan and Camden County College.

Dr. Santiago thanked Dean Griffin and Dean Nickitas for their support and diligence in working with LEAP in NJ and PR to ensure that graduates apply and are supported to enroll at Rutgers-Camden as freshmen for the incoming academic year.

#### C. Upcoming Events: Dr. Santiago reminded the Board of the following upcoming events:

- a. **Scholarship Fundraising Gala** – November 21, 2025, in San Juan, PR
- b. **LEAP High School Graduation:** June 4, 2025

#### D. Charter Renewal Application Due October 15, 2025.

#### E. Authorization for doctoral student to conduct interviews with LEAP teachers: Dr. Santiago requested that doctoral students include interviews with LEAP teachers in their dissertation work.

Dr. Closter presented the following resolution:

**Item 2:** Resolved that the Board grant permission to Giovanna Sarubbi to conduct interviews with LEAP teachers as part of her dissertation research that focuses on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on teachers' perceptions of their working conditions.

Further, resolved that the Board request copies of IRB approvals before engaging in the research work.

Further, resolved that the Board designates Jozian Molina as the liaison from the school to collaborate with Ms. Sarubbi on her access to the teachers.

**Seconded: Dr.Nickitas**

**Roll Call:**

	<b>Item 2</b>
Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago	YES
Belianis Colon	YES
Dr. Matthew Closter	YES
Margaret Manthe	ABS
Bette Mengesha	YES
Dr. Donna Nickitas	ABS
Hector Nieves	YES
Brenda Ortiz	ABS
Dr. Michael Palis	YES
Shaun Waters	YES

**IV. Operational Report:** Stephanie Rogers, COO and Lead Person, presented an operations report addressing the following areas:

- Enrollment, Recruitment, and Retention
- Building Infrastructure and Maintenance
- Health Center
- Family Support/Parent Engagement
- Fire Drills and Bus Drills
- Two items—Submittal of Comprehensive Equity Plan and Update of School Wellness Policy were presented.

Dr. Nickitas presented the following resolutions:

**Item 3:** Resolved that the Board approves the Comprehensive Equity Plan and authorizes submittal to the NJDOE.

- **School Wellness Policy**

**Item 4:** Resolved that the Board approves the School Wellness Policy and directs the Board Liaison to Update on School Policy Book.

**Seconded by Bette Mengesha.**

**Roll Call**

	<b>Item 3</b>	<b>Item 4</b>
Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago	YES	YES
Belianis Colon	YES	YES

	<b>Item 3</b>	<b>Item 4</b>
Dr. Matthew Closter	YES	YES
Margaret Manthe	YES	YES
Bette Mengesha	YES	YES
Dr. Donna Nickitas	YES	YES
Hector Nieves	YES	YES
Brenda Ortiz	YES	YES
Dr. Michael Palis	YES	YES
Shaun Waters	YES	YES

**V. Finance Committee Actions:** Margaret Manthe presented items 5-11 for Board approval:

**A. Approval of Line-Item Status Report**

**Item 5:** Whereas, the members of the LEAP Board of Trustees, voting on this resolution, have reviewed the Board Secretary's and Monthly Financial Reports for February and March 2025 and have consulted with the Chief Financial Officer/SBA as appropriate.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the members of this Board of Trustees voting (by recorded roll call) on this resolution do hereby certify that, based on the monthly certification of the Board's Secretary concerning "Budgetary Line Item Status" N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c) 3, no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a) 3, and based on such report and the status of budgetary amounts and expenditures as of the date of the adoption of this Resolution, there appear to be sufficient funds available to meet the School's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

**B. LEAP Cramer Hill LLC Financials**

**Item 6:** Resolved that the Board approves the Financial Reports for LEAP Cramer Hill LLC for February and March 2025 as provided by the CFO/SBA.

**C. LEAP Microenterprise Financials and LEAP Health and Wellness**

**Item 7:** Resolved that the Board approves the Financial Reports for LEAP Microenterprise LLC and LEAP Health Center for February and March 2025 as provided by the Chief Financial Officer/SBA.

**D. LEAP Student Transportation**

**Item 8:** Resolved that the Board approves the Financial Reports for LEAP Transportation LLC for February and March 2025 as provided by the Chief Financial Officer/SBA.

**E. Budget Transfers**

**Item 9:** Resolved that the Board approve budget transfers for February and March 2025 as provided by the CFO/SBA.

## F. Approval of Expenditure Report/Bill List

**Item 10:** Whereas the Business Administrator certifies that there are sufficient funds to pay bills and payroll for March 2025;

Resolved that the Board approve payment of bills, as follows:

### SUMMARY OF BILLS FOR THE MONTH CHECK AND WIRE DISBURSEMENTS

FUND	March 2025
10 General Current Expense	\$ 3,368,420.20
20 Special Revenue	\$ 679,632.75
30 Capital Projects	\$ 12,570.55
60 Enterprise	\$ 175,167.81
90 Agency	\$ 640,473.76
91 Payroll	\$ 952,082.99
95 Student	\$ 16,269.00
96 Parent Council	\$0
<b>Total Disbursements:</b>	<b>\$ 5,844,617.06</b>

## G. Contracts and Financial Transactions

**Item 11:** WHEREAS, the New Jersey Schools Insurance Group (“NJSIG”) is a school board insurance group authorized by N.J.S.A. 18A:18B-1, et seq. to provide insurance coverage and risk management services for its members;

WHEREAS, the LEAP Academy University Charter School, hereinafter referred to as the “Educational Institution,” is a member of NJSIG; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with NJSIG Policy 3710, the goal of the safety grant program is to provide members the necessary resources to complete risk reduction projects and improve the safety of the population NJSIG members serve.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

LEAP Academy applies for a safety grant through the NJSIG safety grant program for the **2025-2026 fiscal year in the amount of \$3,210** for the purposes set forth in their safety grant application, which is attached hereto; and, The Business Administrator or their designee is hereby authorized to take all action necessary to apply for and receive a safety grant award.

**Seconded by Hector Nieves.**

**Roll Call**

	Item 5	Item 6	Item 7	Item 8	Item 9	Item 10	Item 11
Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES ABS on payments to Rutgers and Metz	YES

	Item 5	Item 6	Item 7	Item 8	Item 9	Item 10	Item 11
Dr. Matthew Closter	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Belianis Colon	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Margaret Manthe	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Bette Mengesha	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Dr. Donna Nickitas	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES ABS on payments to Rutgers	YES
Hector Nieves	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Brenda Ortiz	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES ABS on payments to Rutgers	YES
Dr. Michael Palis	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES ABS on payments to Rutgers	YES
Shaun Waters	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

## **VI. Personnel Committee: Bette Mengesha presents items 12-17 for approval.**

### **A. New Appointments**

**Item 12:** Resolved that the Board appoints the following individuals for employment:

Name	Position	Compensation
Kahlicia Baptiste	Culture and Climate	20.00 per hour
Demi Adepoju	Substitute Teacher	200.00 per day
David Pena Colon	Maintenance & Facilities (Start Day 4/28/2025)	52,000.00
Raquel Rodriguez	PT. Safety Monitor (Start Day 4/28/2025)	16.00 per hour
Jackeline D. Beltres	PT. Safety Monitor	16.00 per hour
Charlotte Spearman	PT. Safety Monitor	16.00 per hour

### **B. Teacher/Certificated Staff Renewals:**

**Item 13:** Resolved that, based on recommendations from the CAO and after review by the Personnel Committee, the Board approves the following certified staff for renewal (compensation to be calculated through the performance-based program):

ANTRILLI, EMILY  
 ASHISH, ARCHNA  
 ASPENBURG, STEPHANIE  
 AYRES, AMIR  
 BADIALI, SARAH

BAKER DEAN, ARFA  
 BARTON, JESSE  
 BENITO, CHARLES  
 BIZZELLE, MELLINA  
 BLACKMAN, DANIEL

BUTTERWORTH, GLEN  
CAIONE, RACHEL  
CARPENTER, AMANDA  
CHOHAN, DIVYA  
CHUGH, SONIA  
CLARK, CATHERINE  
CLOHERTY, MELISSA  
COBB, STEPHEN  
COGDELL, KWANZA  
COLES, SUMMER  
CONNELLY, BRIANNE  
CONNORS, CAROLINE  
CRUMP, ALICIA  
CUSICK-PLAGGE, KIM  
DACENKO, AMANDA  
DATIZ, STEPHANIE  
DAVICSIN, KATIE  
DAVIS, SCOTT  
DEFRANCE, VICTORIA  
DINUOVA, MICHAEL  
DIXON, KAMIKA  
DURAKOV, YUSEIN  
DURNEY, JOHN  
EDWARDS-SHAKUR, TAESHA  
FICHERA, DAWN  
FRIZANO, KIMBERLY  
GARTLAND, PATRICK  
GESSMAN, ANDREW  
GUCUYENER OZCELIK, SEDA  
HAGERMAN, DARREN  
HESS, JONATHAN  
HIDDEMEN, MIKAYLA  
HOGUET, TUGBA  
HOLGUIN, LAUREN  
HOWELL, ISABEL  
HUDOCK, ASHLEY  
IRIZARRY RIVERA, JENNIFER  
JANKOWSKI, KATHERINE  
JENKINS, KYRA  
JOHNSTON, ALANA  
JOSEY, DAMISO  
KAMPF, HARRISON  
KEEFE, ALEXANDRA  
KESSLER, NICOLE  
KOCH, RYAN  
KOGAN, JULIA  
LAVIN, COURTNEY

LOMBARDI, DERICK  
LONG, DEBRA  
MAENNER, NICOLE  
MAIER, GEORGE  
MALONE, WILLIAM  
MARINO, RICHARD  
MCCREESH, CRISTIN  
MCKEOWN, LAUREN  
MERRILL, DARLA  
MESLAR, CHRISTINE  
MILLS, JESSICA  
MINTON-JACK, LINDSAY  
MOLINA, JOZIAN  
MONTE, MELVIN  
MOORE, JAMES  
MURRAY, SECLINDA  
NIEVES, BRIELLE  
ODILLE, KATHARINE  
OLIUS, EMMANUELLE  
ORE, BRIGITTE  
ORIO, JOANNE  
ORLINA, MARIA  
PARKER, ARTHUR  
PEREIRA ABREGO, JOHANNA  
PHILLIPS, JEFFREY  
PICKARD, AMANDA  
PICKUS, KARELIS  
PIERCE, MICHELE  
QAYYUM, ABDUL  
QUIDACHAY, DEANNA  
REDMOND, HELEN  
REED, PATRICIA  
RHEA, MICHAEL  
RICE, TAMIKA  
RODRIGUEZ, SAMANTHA  
ROSICA, ZACHARY  
ROSSI, RAYMOND  
SAED, SHIRLEY  
SCHULTICE, AMY  
SKALKKA, CHRISTINE  
SMITH, RANDOLPH  
SOLTYS, GWENDOLYN  
STEEN, MATTHEW  
STONEBACK, SUSAN  
SZYCHOSKI, HEATHER  
THOMPSON, ANGIANA  
TORRES, NANCY

UTTAROTAI BARTAL, HELEN  
VASILAKIS, LISSEL  
VASQUEZ, SILVIA  
WALLACE, DANIELLE  
WEDDERBURN, SIOMARA

WEIR, RAKEISHA  
WRIGHT, SA'MIYAH  
YUZEKCHIEVA, SUZANA

**Further resolved that the following teachers are not renewed:**

Gorman, Jonathan  
Noonan, Susan  
Kean, Michelle  
Councill, Desurae  
Gardner, Elias  
McManus, Christopher  
Dales, Omar

**C. Tenure Recommendations**

**Item 14:** Resolved that the Board recommends the following teachers for tenure per the recommendation of the CAO and after review by the Personnel Committee. The Board congratulates these teachers for their exemplary work.

2024-2025 TENURE

Mckeown	Lauren
Lavin	Courtney
Quidachay	Deanna
Minton-Jack	Lindsay
Jenkins	Kyra
Gartland	Patrick

**D. New Position**

**Item 15:** The Board approves the creation of the Early Learning Instructional Coordinator position.

**E. Resignations**

**Item 16:** Resolved that the Board accepts the following resignations/terminations:

Vincent Walls	PT. Security Guard	4/15/25
Jennyliz Soto	PT. Bus Driver	4/2/25
Nancy Rauch	School Nurse	4/15/25
Marcus McCrimmon	Teacher	6/17/25
Tamia Wilkerson	Teacher	6/17/25



## F. Approval of Stipend for Special Assignments

**Item 17:** Resolved that the board approves the following stipends for personnel assigned co-curricular duties:

Baseball Head Coach	Ray Rossi	\$10,000.00
Baseball Assistant Coach	Elijah Rojas	\$5,000.00
Softball Head Coach	Kyra Jenkins	\$7,000.00
Softball Assistant	Robriah Pollitt	\$5,000.00
Volleyball Assistant	Gregory Schultz	\$3500.00
Home Instruction	Seclinda Murray	\$45.00 per hour

**Seconded by Hector Nieves.**

**Roll Call:**

	Item 12	Item 13	Item 14	Item 15	Item 16	Item 17
Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Dr. Matthew Closter	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Belianis Colon	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Margaret Manthe	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Bette Mengesha	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Hector Nieves	YES	ABS	YES	YES	YES	YES
Dr. Donna Nickitas	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Brenda Ortiz	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Dr. Michael Palis	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Shaun Waters	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Dr. Thanked you for congratulating the teachers who earned tenure and thanked them for their excellence in teaching.

## VIII. Curriculum Committee

**A. Academic Progress Report** – Jozian Molina, CAO, Nicole Kessler, CTL, Dr. Dawn Fecherra (Chief of STEM) presented the update report.

**B. Action Items: Dr. Closter presented items 18-**

### School Calendars and Schedules

**Item 18:** Resolved that the approved academic schedules for 25-26 for K-11 students and for 12th Grade Early College students.

**Item 19:** Resolved that the Board approves the school calendars for 25-26 for K-11 and 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **K-5 Restructuring**

**Item 20:** Whereas, the leadership team has worked on a plan to restructure teaching and learning in K-5 and align K-1 with the pre-school program; and,

Restructuring in early grades is critical to accelerate and sustain learning; and,

Whereas proper alignment and restructuring in early learning has proven essential for building foundations, addressing learning gaps, adapting to change, and aligning with learning expectations; and,

The restructuring of the organization and focus of learning at the early grades is essential for enhancing children's learning engagement, improving academic outcomes, supporting differentiated instruction, fostering a love of learning, and sustaining excellence and efficiency.

Be it resolved that the Board approves a restructuring of the instructional program for the early grades, by

- i. Relocating Grades 4-5 to 649 Cooper Street
- ii. Moving K-1 to 532 Cooper Street
- iii. Creating a unified Early Learning Program from PreK through 1st
- iv. Increasing instructional quality and continuity for all grades

Further, the board approves the professional development plans to cultivate and sustain PreK-2 instruction and provide an environment for teachers to collaborate.

Further resolved that the Board approves the development and contracting of an Early Learning Instructional Coordinator.

## **Approval of Graduating Class**

**Item 21:** Whereas, the Chief Academic Officer and High School Principal certify that the following students have met the academic requirements for 12<sup>th</sup>-grade graduation.

Be it resolved that the Board approves the following students for high school graduation in June 2025.

Alvarez Cepeda, Yamely  
Calderon, Jalissa  
Burgos, Vivianni A lee  
Clark, Avori Hunter  
Carr, Isaiah  
Benson, Denym  
Arroyo, Angelina Jada

Castellanos, Joanna  
Benito-Aguilar, Anthony  
Alvarez, Jose David  
Atenco-Popoca, Kelly Guadalupe  
Cardoso, Oswin  
Alvarez, Valeriana  
Aviles, Adrianna

Bussey, Zakee Hazim  
 Clark, Makyhi  
 Clary, Sylvia Ida Denise  
 Calderon, Michael Joseph  
 Branch, MiNaya Sharnice-Michelle  
 Bernard, Yanathan Yoel  
 Blanco Concepcion, Lesly Mariana  
 Aquino, Israel Everardo  
 Andujar Velez, Yovanka Ananlys  
 Bullock, Shakera Rashea  
 Hernandez Zabala, Kyara Liz  
 Downs, Siyani Lee'asia  
 Guyton, Ayanna Lanae  
 Guzman, Cassandra Delilah  
 Graham, Karon  
 Gonzales-Hernandez, Fausto  
 Hobgen, Aniyah Kaleeyah  
 Gonzalez-Tapia, Eva Paulina  
 Espinal, Kimberly  
 Hunter-Ruiz, Branasijah Jamirah  
 Gay, Oshiana Shaline Vanessa  
 Gaston, Keira June  
 Curry, Radimes Antonio  
 Goodwin, Tamarr  
 Fortuna, Sherine  
 Gray, Deljone Jon'nyiah  
 Gardner, Mahogany Mariah  
 Hilario Nunez, Wilmaris Priscilla  
 DeLaRosa Zoquiell, Ana Sofia  
 Fernandez Gomez, Ashleiry  
 Fana Zabala, Abigail  
 Fana Zabala, Grismeiry  
 Exposito Guilarte, Jose Manuel  
 Feliz Perez, Maria Alexandra  
 Mendez-Atenco, Ashly Vanesa  
 Jones, Victor Charles  
 Jimenez, Elesban  
 Lopez Meza, Helen Banesa  
 Matias Aponte, Yahir Abiel  
 Medales, Raul  
 Ihesiaba, Kennedy Chibuike  
 Mendez, LeLani Alize  
 Matias, Danelly  
 Marquez-Colon, Leslie Marie  
 Martinez, Nathan Alexander  
 Javier Almanzar, Sayeli  
 McClain, Aniyah Nicole

McClure, Justtice  
 Luna-Lopez, Gerald  
 Jimenez, Valentina  
 Miller, Janiyah Amerah  
 Medina-Cabrera, Ojany  
 Lopez, Ayleen Dayane  
 Mercado, Dalbeth Geralco  
 Mieses, Angel  
 Lopez Vinas, Yoherly  
 Marrero Gonzalez, Ana Julia  
 Melo, Eyerlin Yasmerlyn  
 Ramos Espinosa, Yareli  
 Nunez Concepcion, Eliam  
 Padilla, Adilix  
 Potter-Barden, Za' Myia Da'Wuanae  
 Myles, Isreal  
 Santiago, Alberto James  
 Montanez, Leilani  
 Ortega Rojas, Jennifer  
 Peralta, Laisha  
 Njoku, Chimereucheya  
 Mostafa, Amar  
 Page, Briana  
 Reese, Latiya  
 Roman Sauri, Zoarylis  
 Moorman, Jayla  
 Ruiz, Wilson  
 Morales, Angel  
 Rivera, Pedro  
 Olivo, Chelsy Mariel  
 Rodriguez-Rojas, Ana Karen  
 Rodriguez-Rojas, Estefany Heidi  
 Perez, Pedro David  
 Rios, Sahyra Marie  
 Santiago Vazquez, Jensen Gabriel  
 Objio Sanchez, Luis Armondo  
 Walker, Robert  
 Solorzano-Diego, Joanna  
 Trejo Resendiz, Richard  
 Witherspoon, Everette  
 Verdugo-Perez, Dafny Yahaira  
 Tlanipa, Josh Matthew  
 Vasquez-Montero, Miriam  
 Thomas, Damani Dimitri Everton  
 Vallejo, Sophia Victoria  
 White, Brianna Nicole  
 Weir, Gloriam Samantha

## FIELD TRIPS

**Item 22:** Resolved that the Board approves the following field trips per the attached.

Field Trips Requestor Departure & Return Time	Grade Level	Date of Trip	Cost	Student Learning Standard Aligned	Purpose of the Trip	Educational Outcome	Number of Students attending
<p>Teen Leadership and Health Conference</p> <p>Cherry Hill, NJ</p> <p>Tamika Rice and Sativah Williams Social Worker</p> <p>8am-2:45pm</p>	9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup>	5/7/2025	\$300	Standard 9.2 develops career readiness, outlining the importance of being knowledgeable about one's interests and talents, and being well informed about postsecondary and career options.	Teens explore a variety of workshops and interactive stations, all focused on leadership, empowerment, health and access to vital resources.	This activity will expose students to leadership, empowerment, health, and vital resources.	20
<p>TEMPLE UNIVERSITY</p> <p>2020 N. 13<sup>th</sup> Street Philadelphia, PA 19122</p> <p>Julia Kogan</p> <p>8:30am-2pm</p>	11 <sup>th</sup>	5/21/2025	\$0	Will prepare students for career readiness, life literacies & key skills rapid advancements in technology and subsequent changes in the economy have created opportunities for individuals to compete and	To see Temple University and talk to the campus admissions about going to this university, and specifically about their business, medical, arts program.	It will inspire students to attend Temple University by exposing them to the college environment.	50

Field Trips Requestor Departure & Return Time	Grade Level	Date of Trip	Cost	Student Learning Standard Aligned	Purpose of the Trip	Educational Outcome	Number of Students attending
				connect on a global scale,			
<p>CHAMPION SCHOOLS SHOWCASE AT SIXFLAGS GREAT ADVENTURE</p> <p>1 Six Flags blvd, Jackson Twp, NJ 08527</p> <p>Amanda Dacenko</p> <p>7:45am – 3:15pm</p>	11-12th	5/22/2025	\$0	2.3.12. PS.3.4. The standards are tied with health and physical education standards. They help students achieve goals, set high standards and network with people they may not on a regular basis.	Champion schools showcase	Overall, attending the showcase for champion schools can be a valuable and enriching experience for high school students, offering a blend of academic, personal, and professional developmen t opportunitie s.	12
<p>HERSHEY PARK 100 Hersheypark Dr. Hershey, PA 17033</p> <p>Ryan Koch/Scott Davis</p> <p>8:30am – 6:00pm</p>	9-11 <sup>th</sup>	5/23/2025	\$258 6.50	This trip aligns with the NJ career and Tech education (CTE) standards, particularly in areas such as Business management and administration,	To provide students with a behind the scenes look at how a major amusement park operates from a business perspective. Students will	Providing a real-world context for understandi ng key business concepts such as marketing, operations	70

Field Trips Requestor Departure & Return Time	Grade Level	Date of Trip	Cost	Student Learning Standard Aligned	Purpose of the Trip	Educational Outcome	Number of Students attending
				marketing and hospitality & Tourism.	explore various aspects of park management including marketing strategies, customer service, operations, logistics, and financial planning.	managemen t, customer experience, and financial decision- making.	
<p>ROWAN UNIVERSITY GLASSBORO CAMPUS</p> <p>131 Rowan Blvd Glassboro, NJ 08028</p> <p>Julia Kogan/Tamika Rice</p> <p>8:45am – 1:30-2pm</p>	11th	5/27/202 5	\$0	Intended for integration throughout all k- 12 academic and technical content areas, the 2020 NJ students learning standards career readiness, life literacies, and key skills provides the framework for students to learn the concepts, skills and practices essential to the successful navigation of career exploration and preparation, personal finances and digital literacies.	To see Rowan University and talk to the campus admissions about going to this university, and specifically about their business, medical, arts program.	It will inspire students to attend Rowan University by being exposed to the college environmen t.	50

Field Trips Requestor Departure & Return Time	Grade Level	Date of Trip	Cost	Student Learning Standard Aligned	Purpose of the Trip	Educational Outcome	Number of Students attending
Morgan Stanley Capital International  7 World Trade Center 250 Greenwich St New York, NY  Dr. Dawn Fichera  1pm - 9:30pm	10 <sup>th</sup>	5/30/2025	\$0	The night of Innovations aligns with several NJ Core content standards, including 21 <sup>st</sup> century life and careers: students will develop skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration. Science and Engineering Practices: The event encourages students to engage in practices such as defining, developing and using models and designing solutions.	This experience will help them develop critical skills such as public speaking, project management and networking.	Participation in Project Invent's Night of Innovations will provide students with a unique opportunity to showcase their projects in front of industry experts.	12
ROWAN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EARTH & ENVIRONMENT  201 Mullica Hill Rd Glassboro, NJ 08028  Dr. Cogdell and Dr. Fichera  7:30am – 2:30pm	11 <sup>th</sup>	5/30/2025	\$0	The symposiums focus on alternative energy technologies directly supports the NJCCCS for science, which emphasize understanding energy, which is a key component of the science	Alternative Energy Symposium	This opportunity can offer numerous benefits to the 11 <sup>th</sup> grade environmental students exposure to cutting edge research. Students	30

Field Trips Requestor Departure & Return Time	Grade Level	Date of Trip	Cost	Student Learning Standard Aligned	Purpose of the Trip	Educational Outcome	Number of Students attending
				curriculum career readiness.		will learn about the latest advancemen ts in alternative energy technologie s, such as solar, wind and hydrogen 1.	
LOVE PARK IN PHILADELPHIA  Center City, PA  9am – 1:30pm  Kwanza Cogdell	9 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup>	5/1/2025	\$0	6.1 U.S. History: Students can explore how public spaces reflect historical and civic values. Love Park is near historical landmarks like City Hall and Love sculpture, offering opportunities to discuss American symbols, public art, and democratic values. 6.3 Active Citizenship: Discuss civic responsibility, public spaces, and how city planning	Uniform Compliance Incentive	Students would be required to write a short reflection describing what you saw, learned, and how it connects to classroom lessons (e.g., public art, urban design, or community spaces). They would have to include what surprised you or stood out, like the design of	100



Field Trips Requestor Departure & Return Time	Grade Level	Date of Trip	Cost	Student Learning Standard Aligned	Purpose of the Trip	Educational Outcome	Number of Students attending
				affects community life.		the LOVE sculpture or the purpose behind the parks layout.	
Fort Mifflin Historical Landmark  6400 Hog Island Road Philadelphia, PA 19153  9am – 2pm  Harrison Kampf	10 <sup>th</sup>	5/30/202 5	\$1,65 4	6.1.1.2 History CC.3.a: Evaluate the role of religion, music, literature, and media in shaping contemporary American culture over different time periods.	This trip offers students to bridge the gap between classroom learning and tangible historical sites.	The knowledge acquired during the Fort Mifflin field trip will be integrated into a cross- curricular project with the 10 <sup>th</sup> grade English class. Students will utilize the trip as the basis for physical-to- digital research projects.	125

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Item 23:** Resolved that the Board authorizes the following staff for participation in PD opportunities as listed below:

NAME	NAME OF WORKSHOP/SEMINAR	ACADEMIC/ OPERATIONAL RATIONALE	LOCATION	DATE (S) & TIME	COST
Dr. Damiso Josey	Innovative Schools Summit	LEAP was invited to present in Nashville, Tennessee. The title of the presentation is “Mixing and Mastering 101: The Convergence of Differentiated Instruction, Classroom Management and Student Engagement” See description below.	Gaylord Opryland resort and convention center 2800 Opryland Nashville, TN 37214	7/17/25-7/19/25	Conference - \$650.00 Flight - \$158.96 Lodging - \$984.70  Total - \$1,793.66
Matthew Steen	Innovative Schools Summit	Presenting elevates the work LEAP is doing to support all learners to educators across the country. The information gained at this summit will allow me to turn key important information to district staff as well as the middle school staff that will provide actionable items or them to use in their classrooms as it relates to student achievement. This will be done in professional development sessions, faculty meetings, and/or CPT’s.	Gaylord Opryland resort and convention center 2800 Opryland Nashville, TN 37214	7/17/25-7/19/25	Conference - \$650.00 Flight - \$158.96 Lodging - \$984.70  Total - \$1,793.66
Amir Ayres	Innovative Schools Summit	Presenting elevates the work LEAP is doing to support all learners to educators across the country. The information gained at this summit will allow me to turn key important information to district staff as well as the middle school staff that will provide actionable items or them to use in their classrooms as it relates to student achievement. This will be done in professional development sessions, faculty meetings, and/or CPT’s.	Gaylord Opryland resort and convention center 2800 Opryland Nashville, TN 37214	7/17/25-7/19/25	Conference - \$650.00 Flight - \$158.96 Lodging - \$984.70  Total - \$1,793.66

### Disney Junior Grant

**Item 24:** Resolved that the Board accepts the Disney Junior grant and acknowledges Dr. Fichera’s efforts in securing this resource for LEAP students.

**Seconded by Dr. Nickitas.**

**Roll Call:**

	<b>Item 18</b>	<b>Item 19</b>	<b>Item 20</b>	<b>Item 21</b>	<b>Item 22</b>	<b>Item 23</b>	<b>Item 24</b>
Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Dr. Matthew Closter	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Belianis Colon	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Margaret Manthe	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Bette Mengesha	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Hector Nieves	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Dr. Donna Nickitas	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Brenda Ortiz	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Dr. Michael Palis	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Shaun Waters	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

## **IX. Public Comment**

**Public Comment to be submitted via email to [wandag@camden.rutgers.edu](mailto:wandag@camden.rutgers.edu)**

**X. Meeting Adjourn: Dr. Palis presented a motion to adjourn.**

**Seconded by Dr. Nickitas.**

**Roll Call:**

	<b>Item 25</b>
Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago	YES
Dr. Matthew Closter	YES
Belianis Colon	YES
Margaret Manthe	YES
Bette Mengesha	YES
Hector Nieves	YES
Dr. Donna Nickitas	YES
Brenda Ortiz	YES
Dr. Michael Palis	YES
Shaun Waters	YES

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

**Respectfully submitted**

**Dr. Wanda Garcia  
Board Liaison**