

**LEAP Board of Trustees Meeting
March 25, 2025
MINUTES**

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago at 5:15 pm.

Attendance:

Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago
Belianis Colon
Dr. Matthew Closter
Cal Maradonna
Bette Mengesha
Hector Nieves
Brenda Ortiz
Dr. Michael Palis
Dr. Yosmeriz Roman
Margo Venable
Shaun Waters

Excused:

Dr. Anthony Lowman
Margaret Manthe
Bette Mengesha
Dr. Donna Nickitas
Omar Samaniego

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.

II. Approval of Minutes of March 2025: Dr. Palis 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 Bette Menegesha

Roll Call:

	Item 1
Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago	YES
Belianis Colon	YES
Dr. Matthew Closter	YES

	Item 1
Cal Maradonna	YES
Hector Nieves	----
Dr. Yosmeriz Roman	YES
Brenda Ortiz	YES
Dr. Michael Palis	YES
Margo Venable	YES
Shaun Waters	ABS

III. Chairperson's Report: Dr. Bonilla-Santiago provided updates as follows:

A. Fab Lab Report—Maker's Day: She indicated that Maker's Day was successful and was highlighted prominently in various news outlets, as follows:

- <https://6abc.com/post/camden-students-build-cardboard-planetarium-more-nj-makers-day/16069961/>
- <https://app.criticalmention.com/app/#/clip/public/15ee358d-8b91-493d-83bb-1413acf36041>
- <https://app.criticalmention.com/app/#/clip/public/0fc20094-7dd6-4f30-a2be-e559e80f2230>

B. Update on the construction of a new Fab Lab in partnership with Rutgers University: An update on the construction of the new Fab Lab was presented, along with 3-D images of the building's design. Staff is currently working on obtaining final permits from the City to initiate the construction phase. The building structure that was at the site has been demolished.

C. Puerto Rico LSE Upscale: Dr. Santiago provides updates on the work of the LEAP Social Enterprise in Puerto Rico, with the following highlights:

- a. 3 new schools to open in August 2025
- b. First high school graduation class – LEAP STEAM + E Academy of San Juan
 - i. Twelve students admitted to Rutgers Camden are visiting with their parents and fellow students coming to Rutgers this week.
 - ii. **Rutgers Event for LEAP Puerto Rico Early Admits**– March 25-30, 2025 (10 students attending with 10 parents)

D. Upcoming Events: Dr. Santiago announced the following upcoming events:

- a. **Rutgers Event for LEAP Early Admits to Rutgers Camden** – TBD
- b. **Annual Walk–Across–the–Bridge Event** - May 3, 2025
- c. Mark your Calendars: Scholarship Fundraising Gala – November 21, 2025, in San Juan, PR

IV. Operational Report - Stephanie Rogers, COO/Lead Person, provided an updated report on the following items:

- Enrollment, Recruitment and Retention
- Building Infrastructure and Maintenance
- Health Center
- Family Support/Parent Engagement – Maria Cruz
- Fire Drills and Bus Drills
- Addressing Immigration Matter School-wide
- **ESL Updated Policy:** This item required a resolution.

Hector Nieves presented item 2 for approval:

Item 2: Resolved that the Board approves the following mandated ESL Policy, as follows:

Board Policy Regarding Meeting World Language or ELA Course Graduation Requirements for Multilingual Learners (MLs) (6A:15-1.4(k) and N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1).

Scope: This policy applies to all students identified as multilingual learners (MLs) in the district who are enrolled in high school and are working toward graduation.

Policy Guidelines:

1. Eligibility for Credit Application:

- Multilingual learners (MLs) may apply credits earned in ESL courses towards meeting the world language or ELA course graduation requirements, as stipulated by N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1.
- These credits may be applied upon successfully completing ESL courses that align with the New Jersey State Learning Standards (NJSLS) at the high school level.

2. Approval Process:

- The district shall establish a process to assess the appropriateness of applying ESL credits to the world language or ELA graduation requirements for each ML student.
- The assessment shall include a review of the student's progress in ESL coursework, alignment with the NJSLS, and overall academic standing.
- The district will ensure that ESL courses meet or exceed the standards required for world language or ELA credit and will document how the course aligns with the NJSLS at the high school level.

3. Verification of ESL Credit on Student Records:

- The district shall verify on the student's academic record that the ESL credits earned are applicable toward the world language or ELA course graduation requirement.
- This verification will include documentation that confirms the ESL course(s) meet or exceed the required NJSLS standards at the high school level, as mandated by the New Jersey Department of Education.
- The student's record will reflect the fulfillment of either the world language or ELA credit requirement, as appropriate, upon successful completion of the approved ESL course(s).

4. *Record Keeping:*

- The district shall maintain accurate records of each multilingual learner's ESL course enrollment, credits earned, and the application of those credits to the graduation requirements. These records will be available for review by the state or other regulatory authorities as needed.
- A formal process for auditing and verifying that ESL credits fulfill the graduation requirements will be established and reviewed periodically to ensure compliance.

5. *Monitoring and Evaluation:*

- The district will monitor the implementation of this policy and regularly evaluate its effectiveness in ensuring that multilingual learners are able to meet graduation requirements.
- Any necessary adjustments to the policy or its implementation will be made based on feedback from students, teachers, and administrators.

Responsibilities:

- Superintendent: Ensure compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.4(k) and N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1, oversee the implementation of this policy, and coordinate the evaluation process.
- ESL/Bilingual Education Director: Oversee the design and delivery of ESL programs that meet the required NJSL standards and collaborate with counselors and administrators to ensure ESL credits are appropriately applied toward graduation requirements.
- College Access Director: Assist in the documentation and verification of ESL credits for students, ensuring that those credits meet the necessary academic standards and are accurately recorded on student transcripts.

Process to Assess the Appropriateness of Applying ESL Credits to World Language or ELA Graduation Requirements for Multilingual Learners (MLs)

The process for determining if ESL credits can fulfill world language or English Language Arts (ELA) graduation requirements for multilingual learners (MLS) in New Jersey is described below. This process aligns with the guidelines established by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and ensures that credits earned in ESL courses meet or surpass the New Jersey State Learning Standards (NJSLs) at the high school level.

1. Student Identification and Enrollment

- Step 1: Identification of ML Student
 - Multilingual learners (MLs) are identified through the Home Language Survey (HLS) and subsequent language proficiency assessments, such as the ACCESS for ELLs or WIDA screener.
 - Once identified as MLs, students are placed in appropriate ESL courses according to their proficiency levels.

- Step 2: Enrollment in ESL Courses
 - The student is enrolled in an ESL course that corresponds to their proficiency level and academic needs. These courses are aligned with the NJSLS for English Language Development (ELD).

2. Course Alignment and Content Review

- Step 3: Review of ESL Course Curriculum
 - The district reviews the ESL course(s) offered to the student to ensure alignment with the NJSLS at the high school level. The ESL courses must cover the necessary language development skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing that contribute to the overall language acquisition process.
 - If the ESL course includes content that is consistent with world language or ELA standards, it is eligible for consideration to meet the graduation requirements.
- Step 4: Verification of NJSLS Standards
 - The district ensures that the ESL curriculum addresses the key aspects of world language or ELA graduation requirements, including reading comprehension, writing proficiency, speaking and listening skills, and cultural understanding.
 - Courses should be designed to support the development of these skills to the level required by high school graduation requirements for ELA or world language.

3. Assessment of Student Performance

- Step 5: Monitoring Student Progress
 - Teachers assess the student's performance in ESL courses regularly, using formative and summative assessments that evaluate progress in language acquisition as well as mastery of content. These assessments should reflect the NJSLS for English Language Arts and/or World Languages.
 - For ELA credits, the assessments would focus on proficiency in reading, writing, and comprehension of texts in English using the WIDA English Language Development Standards as well as NJSLA.
 - For world language credits, the focus would be on proficiency in the target language (if applicable) and communicative competencies.
 - ESL teachers evaluate the student's proficiency level through individual performance, including oral presentations, written assignments, reading comprehension tasks, and listening exercises. These evaluations should demonstrate the student's readiness to meet the standards for ELA or world language graduation requirements.
 - A portfolio of student work, which may include essays, projects, and tests, can be used as evidence of the student's language proficiency and academic performance.

4. Credit Application and Determination

- Step 6: Credit Evaluation
 - Upon successful completion of the ESL course(s), the district will assess whether the earned ESL credits meet the high school world language or ELA graduation requirements based on the following criteria:
 - World Language Requirement: If the student has demonstrated proficiency in a language other than English through an ESL course that includes world language content, the course may count toward the world language credit requirement.
 - ELA Requirement: If the student has demonstrated sufficient progress in reading, writing, listening, and speaking in English, the ESL course may count toward fulfilling the ELA credit requirement.
- Step 7: Documentation and Verification
 - The district verifies that the course content and the student's performance meet the NJSL standards at the high school level.
 - The student's academic record (transcript) will reflect the ESL credits applied towards the world language or ELA graduation requirement.
 - This verification includes a statement that the ESL course(s) satisfy the necessary state standards for graduation.

5. Review and Final Approval

- Step 8: Final Review by School Counselors or Graduation Committee
 - College Access staff s, in collaboration with the ESL/Bilingual Education Coordinator, will conduct a final review of the student's records to ensure that all graduation requirements are met. This includes verifying that the ESL credits have been applied appropriately toward world language or ELA graduation requirements.
 - The review ensures that the student's transcript is complete and that all necessary credits are recorded accurately.
- Step 9: Approval for Graduation
 - Upon final review, the district will confirm that the student has met all graduation requirements. The student's progress is documented on the final graduation record if ESL credits are applied to meet world language or ELA requirements.

The policy is to go into effect immediately.

Seconded by Dr. Closter.

	Item 2
Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago	YES
Belianis Colon	YES
Dr. Matthew Closter	YES
Dr. Anthony Lowman	YES
Margaret Manthe	YES

	Item 2
Cal Maradonna	YES
Bette Mengesha	YES
Dr. Donna Nickitas	YES
Hector Nieves	YES
Brenda Ortiz	YES
Dr. Michael Palis	YES
Dr. Yosmeriz Roman	YES
Omar Samaniego	YES
Margo Venable	YES
Shaun Waters	YES

V. Finance Committee Actions: Hector Nieves presented items 3-16 for Board approval:

A. Approval of Line-Item Status Report

Item 3: Whereas, the members of the LEAP Board of Trustees, voting on this resolution, have reviewed the Board Secretary's and Monthly Financial Reports for January 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 amount and expenditures as of the date of the adoption of this Resolution there appears to be at this time sufficient funds available to meet the School's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

B. LEAP Cramer Hill LLC Financials

Item 4: Resolved that the Board approves the Financial Reports for LEAP Cramer Hill LLC for January 2025 as provided by the CFO/SBA.

Further resolved that the Board approves a donation of \$50,000 to the LEAP Academy University Charter Schools for various purposes, as follows: the cost of sponsoring a teacher appreciation luncheon, sponsoring professional development activities, and related travel.

C. LEAP Microenterprise Financials and LEAP Health and Wellness

Item 5: Resolved that the Board approves the Financial Reports for LEAP Microenterprise LLC and LEAP Health Center for January 2025 as provided by the Chief Financial Officer/SBA.

D. LEAP Student Transportation

- Item 6:** Resolved that the Board approves the Financial Reports for LEAP Transportation LLC for January 2025 as provided by the Chief Financial Officer/SBA.

E. Budget Transfers

- Item 7:** Resolved that the Board approve budget transfers for January 2025 as provided by the CFO/SBA.

F. Approval of Expenditure Report/Bill List

- Item 8:** Whereas the Business Administrator certifies that there are sufficient funds to pay bills and payroll for January and February 2025;

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

SUMMARY OF BILLS FOR THE MONTHS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2025 CHECK AND WIRE DISBURSEMENTS

FUND	January 2025
10 General Current Expense	\$3,199,761.36
20 Special Revenue	\$284,989.48
30 Capital Projects	\$126,350.00
60 Enterprise	\$168,755.79
90 Agency	\$632,614.08
91 Payroll	\$899,312.33
95 Student	\$16,679.78
96 Parent Council	\$13,001.00
Total Disbursements:	\$5,341,463.82

FUND	February 2025
10 General Current Expense	\$2,033,058.24
20 Special Revenue	\$214,833.38

FUND	February 2025
30 Capital Projects	\$5,000
60 Enterprise	\$165,582.62
90 Agency	\$654,664.92
91 Payroll	\$988,459.02
95 Student	\$0
96 Parent Council	\$3,391.77
Total Disbursements:	\$4,064,989.95

G. Adoption of 25-26 Budget

- Item 9:** Resolved that the Board approves the Annual FY 25-26 Operational Budget for the LEAP Academy University Charter Schools as presented by the CFO/SBA and submit to the NJDOE Office of Charter Schools.

H. Contracts and Financial Transactions

- Item 10:** Resolved that the Board accepts the 2024 Sustainable Jersey Grant in the amount of \$10,000 funded by NJEA.
- Item 11:** Resolved that the Board accept, with heartfelt appreciation, a donation of sports equipment valued at \$2,010 from The Gift of Sport.
- Item 12:** Resolved that the Board accepts a donation of \$50,000 from LEAP Cramer Hill, LLC to the LEAP Academy University Charter Schools for the purpose of covering the costs of the teacher appreciation luncheon, professional development, and travel.
- Item 13:** Resolved that the Board approves refinancing the loans for 639 and 527 Cooper St. with Provident Bank, amounting to \$4,620,000, and an option to finance an additional amount of up to \$880,000 for capital improvement projects within 12 months of closing. The current loan matures on 6/30/2025 and is held by Fulton Bank.
- Item 14:** Resolved that the Board approve the revised IDEA grant FY25-Rev1 budget.
- Item 15:** Resolved that the Board approve the revised ESEA grant FY25-Rev budget.
- Item 16:** Resolved that the Board approve 3rd renewal of the contract (FY 23 base year) with Metz Culinary Management for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, for the provision of food services for the LEAP Academy with the following requirements:

Total FY26 Contract: \$1,752,557.29, including Management Flat fee: \$57,561.16.
No Financial Guarantee

**Seconded by Dr. Roman.
Roll Call**

	Item 4	Item 5	Item 6	Item 7	Item 8	Item 9	Item 10	Item 11	Item 12	Item 13	Item 14	Item 15	Item 16
Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES ABS on payments to Rutgers and Metz.	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	ABS
Dr. Matthew Closter	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Belianis Colon	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Cal Maradonna	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES ABS on payments to Rutgers.	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Hector Nieves	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Brenda Ortiz	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES ABS on payments to Rutgers.	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Dr. Michael Palis	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES ABS on payments to Rutgers.	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Dr. Yozmeris Roman	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Margo Venable	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Shaun Waters													

VI. Personnel Committee: Dr. Santiago presented a motion to approve the Personnel Committee actions, items 17-21.

A. New Appointments

Item 17: Resolved that the Board appoints the following individuals for employment:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Building Location</u>	<u>Contract/Start</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Clara McClauley	PT School Nurse	TBD	\$40.00 per hour
Aralyns Valdez	PT Bus Driver	TBD	\$40,000.00
Naida Miranda	Office Manager	2/24/25	\$45,000.00
Kenny John	PT Custodian	TBD	\$16.00 per hour
Lenny Hernandez	PT Custodian	TBD	\$16.00 per hour

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Building Location</u>	<u>Contract/Start</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Danielle Wallace	K-5 Teacher	2/25/25	\$55,000.00
Ashish Archana	Math Teacher	3/17/25	\$90,000.00
Ana Sofia Delarosa	Student Counselors - 21st Century	2/4/25	\$16.00 per hour
Mahiekine Espinal - Vargas	Student Counselors - 21st Century	2/4/25	\$16.00 per hour
Brisneyda Ferrer-Rivera	Student Counselors - 21st Century	2/4/25	\$16.00 per hour
Olumachi Francis	Student Counselors - 21st Century	2/4/25	\$16.00 per hour
Chloe Murray	Student Counselors - 21st Century	2/4/25	\$16.00 per hour
Ji'Breel O'Neal	Student Counselors - 21st Century	2/4/25	\$16.00 per hour
Jah'nelle Pile	Student Counselors - 21st Century	2/4/25	\$16.00 per hour
Trinity Sanchez	Student Counselors - 21st Century	2/4/25	\$16.00 per hour
Kimberly Almonte-Peralta	Student Counselors - 21st Century	2/4/25	\$16.00 per hour
Alondra De La Cruz-Jimenez	Student Counselors - 21st Century	2/4/25	\$16.00 per hour
Jah'nae Pile	Student Counselors - 21st Century	2/4/25	\$16.00 per hour
Crisly Reyes-Santana	Student Counselors - 21st Century	2/4/25	\$16.00 per hour
Caylan Gramby	Culture and Climate Assistant	TBD	\$20.00 per hour
Erik Favors	Culture and Climate Assistant	TBD	\$20.00 per hour
Yamilla Toro Garcia	After School Assistant	2/4/25	\$25 per hour

B. FMLA

Item 18: Resolved that the Board approves the following requests for FMLA:

Name	Position	Period
TJ	Director of Early College	2/25/25 – 8/25/25

C. Position Change/Salary Adjustments

Item 19: Resolved that the Board approves the following salary adjustments:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Previous Title/Postion</u>	<u>to</u>	<u>New Salary</u>	<u>Effective Day</u>
Christine Skalka	ELA Supervisor	AssistantDirector of Early College	No Change	

D. Resignations

Item 20: Resolved that the Board accepts the following resignations/termination:

Rosa Ovalles Vargas	Director of Transportation	3/28/25
---------------------	----------------------------	---------

E. Approval of Stipend for Special Assignments

Item 21: Resolved that the board approves the following stipends for personnel assigned co-curricular duties:

Name	Assignment	Period	Compensation
Kim Cusick Plagge	Home Instruction	School year 24-25	\$45/hour

Seconded by Dr. Palis.

Roll Call:

	Item 17	Item 18	Item 19	Item 20	Item 21
Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Dr. Matthew Closter	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Belianis Colon	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Cal Maradonna	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Hector Nieves	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Brenda Ortiz	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Dr. Michael Palis	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Dr. Yozmeris Roman	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Margo Venable	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Shaun Waters	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

VIII. Curriculum Committee

A. Academic Progress Report – Jozian Molina, CAO, Nicole Kessler, CTL, Dr. Dawn Fecherra (Chief of STEM) – An updated report was provided.

B. Action Items: Dr. Closter presented items 22 - 27 for approval:

EARLY COLLEGE

Item 22: Resolved that the Board approves the offering of the following Early College courses for the AY 25-26:

Program/ University	Course Name	Day	Time	Cohort	University Instructor
Rutgers Arts & Sciences	Intro to Urban Studies	TR	9:30–10:55 AM	Social Justice	-TBD by Rutgers
Rutgers Arts & Sciences	Intro to Sociology	TR	9:30–10:55 AM	Engineering	-TBD by Rutgers
Rutgers Arts & Sciences	Intro to Health Sciences	TR	11:10–12:30 PM	Health Sciences	-TBD by Rutgers
Rutgers Arts & Sciences	Intro to Criminal Justice	MW	11:10–12:30 PM	Social Justice	-TBD by Rutgers
Rutgers School of Nursing	Nursing Seminar	TR	8:00-9:30	1	-TBD by Rutgers
Rutgers School of Business	Replacement Course <i>(previously Intro to Finance & Investment)</i>	MW	9:30–10:55 AM	Business A/B	-TBD by Rutgers
Rutgers School of Business	Replacement Course <i>(previously Intro to Finance & Investment)</i>	TR	9:30–10:55 AM	Business A/B	-TBD by Rutgers
Rowan	Foundations of College Writing	MW	9:30-10:45	Social Justice	-TBD by Rowan

Program/ University	Course Name	Day	Time	Cohort	University Instructor
Rowan	Survey of Criminal Justice	MW	8:00-9:15	Liberal Arts	-TBD by Rowan
Rowan	Creative Writing	TR	11:00-12:15	Liberal Arts	-TBD by Rowan
Rowan	Foundations of College Writing	MW	8:00-9:15	Business B	-TBD by Rowan
Rowan	History of Popular Music	TR	11:00-12:15	Health Sciences	-TBD by Rowan
Rowan	Foundations of College Writing	MW	11:00-12:15	Health Sciences	-TBD by Rowan
Rowan	College Algebra	MW	8:00-9:15	Engineering	-TBD by Rowan
Rowan	Intro to Engineering	W	9:30-12:00	Engineering	-TBD by Rowan
Rowan	College Algebra	MW	9:30-10:45	Health Sciences	-TBD by Rowan

Program/ University	Course Name	Day	Time	Cohort	University Instructor
CCC	Basic Psychology	MW	9:30-10:45	Liberal Arts	-TBD by CCC
CCC	Computer Literacy	TR	11:00-12:15	Liberal Arts	-TBD by CCC

FIELD TRIPS

Item 23: 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
Princeton University 36 University Place Princeton, NJ Julia Kogan/Ted Johnson 9:30am – 1:30 – 2pm	11 th	4/30/25	\$0	Will outline concepts and skills necessary for NJ students to thrive in an ever-changing world. Intended for integration throughout all k-12 academic and technical content areas, the 2020 New Jersey student learning standards.	To talk to various college admission representatives from Princeton University about various majors such as business, medical, arts program.	Students will be asked questions and be engaged with University staff, to learn more about the college and its opportunities.
La Salle University 1900 W Onley Ave Philadelphia, PA 19131 8:15am – 1pm Tamika Rice	9 th - 10th	4/3/25	\$0	Standard 9.2 develops careers readiness, outlining the importance of being knowledgeable about one's interests and talents, and being well informed about postsecondary and career options	This activity will expose students to college exploration, choices and awareness.	Students will engage in a discussion highlighting what they experienced and articulating/writing about how experience impacts future

Field Trips						
Requestor	Grade Level	Date of Trip	Cost	Student Learning Standard	Purpose of the Trip	Educational Outcome
Departure & Return Time				Aligned		
						goals/aspiration
Temple University 2020 Nth 13 th Street Philadelphia, PA 19122 9:30am – 2pm Julia Kogan	11th	4/2/2025	\$0	Will prepare students for Career Readiness, Life literacies and key skills rapid advancements in technology and subsequent changes in the economy have created opportunities for individuals to compete and connect on a global scale.	To see Temple University and talk to the campus admissions about going to this University.	Students will be asked questions and be engaged with the University staff, to learn more about the college and its opportunities
Philadelphia Zoo 3400 W. Grand Ave Philadelhia, PA 19104 9am – 2pm Dr Kamika Dixon Shameka Shoultz	6	4/29/25	\$980	MS-ESS2-2 Construct an explanation based on evidence of how geoscience process have changed Earth’s surface at varying time and spatial scale DCI ESS3.B	Learn about animals, their habitats, and adaptation.	Students will have to create a digital scrape book in which they will provide information of various animal that seen at the zoo in which we learned in the classroom. Students will have to provide research background of their natural habitat verses how the zoo resembles that habitat.
Legoland Discovery Center 500 W Germantown PK Ste 1055 Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462 9am – 1pm	6	5/14/25	\$2000	This trip aligns with NJCCCS standards for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) by addressing topics such as problem-solving, understanding design processes and applying	Will provide students with a hands-on engaging opportunity to explore STEM concepts such as engineering problem solving.	Students will complete a post-field trip reflection activity where they will document their learning experiences and the STEM concepts they explored at Lego

Field Trips						
Requestor Departure & Return Time	Grade Level	Date of Trip	Cost	Student Learning Standard Aligned	Purpose of the Trip	Educational Outcome
Isabel Howell Amanda Mercado				engineering practice.		Land. They will also participate in a classroom project that requires applying the engineering and design skills they practiced during the trip, such as creating a model structure or solving a real-world problem using Legos.
Virginia PA Bush Gardens and Kings Dominion Senior Trip 1 Busch Garden Blvd 5/19/2025 -8am to 5/21/2025 9:30pm	12 th	5/19/25-5/21/25	\$30,490.00 670 per student		Senior Trip	After the trip, students will complete a reflection activity , where they will write about their experiences and discuss what they learned in relation to classroom lessons. They will present projects or group discussions focusing on the historical and scientific aspects they encountered, such as discussing key landmarks or explaining the physics behind roller coasters.
Arts Quest 101 Founders Way, Bethlehem, PA Donna Roberts/ Dr.	6	4/17/25	\$0	This trip aligns with several NJ Core Curriculum content standards, including science: Understanding	Features five young ASCE members working to solve the world's most pressing challenges	Students can create presentations or reports on what they learned from the film and the Q&A

Field Trips						
Requestor Departure & Return Time	Grade Level	Date of Trip	Cost	Student Learning Standard Aligned	Purpose of the Trip	Educational Outcome
Josey 8:30am – 2pm				the impact of engineering and technology on society and the environment. SS: exploring how urban planning and development effect communities.	with inspiring solutions.	sessions. Engage in a project-based learning activity where they design their own “city of the future” using the concepts discussed. Participate in classroom discussions and reflect on how the field trip has influenced their understanding of urban development and engineering.
St. Mary of the Lakes School 196 Rt 70 Medford, NJ 08055 Dr. Josey 9am – 11am	7 th	4/8/2025	\$0	This activity ties directly to the ELA NJ core Curriculum content standards of speaking and listening as well as the reading domain.	Read Across America- Students will read to K-4 classes.	The select number of students will have follow up conversations with middle school ELA teachers about their experiences.
Rutgers University New Brunswick 12 College Ave New Brunswick, NJ 08901 7:4am – 2pm Julia Kogan	11 th	4/1/2025	\$0	Will prepare students for career readiness, life literacies and key skills rapid advancements in tech and subsequent changes in the economy have created opportunities for individuals to compete and connect on a global scale.	Leap was invited to EOF program for Rutgers University and a tour showcasing Rutgers-New Brunswick College Ave Campus.	Students will be asked questions and be engaged with the University staff, to learn more about the college and its opportunities.
Lockheed Martin 199 Bortons Landing	5 th	4/10/25	\$0	This experience directly correlates to the NJ Career Readiness	Industry career workshop to explore STEM	Students will demonstrate knowledge gained

Field Trips						
Requestor Departure & Return Time	Grade Level	Date of Trip	Cost	Student Learning Standard Aligned	Purpose of the Trip	Educational Outcome
Rd. Moorestown, NJ 08057 8:30am – 2:00pm Tamika Rice				Standards.	focused activities explore strategies for career success, and engage in panel with varied disciplines in Lockheed.	through the panel discussion question/answer period.
Liberty Science 222 Jersey City Blvd Jersey City Blvd, Jersey City , NJ 07305 8:30am – 2:30pm Dr. Kamika Dixon	7th	4/16/25	\$1512	We are learning about ecosystems and climate change as part of our curriculum and the Liberty Science Center has a good program on climate change.	View exhibits focused on various areas of STEM	The students will be able to see and recognize firsthand how human impact has helped climate change.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Item 24: 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
Tugba Hoguet	Blending AI and strategies in educational technology to improve instructional	AI today is a great resource for students and educators. Making sure these innovative technology tools are supporting all	12 Centre Drive, Monroe, NJ	3/14/2025	\$300

NAME	NAME OF WORKSHOP /SEMINAR	ACADEMIC/ OPERATIONAL RATIONALE	LOCATION	DATE (S) & TIME	COST
	outcomes	our learners is key to unlocking gen. ed. Standards to our students with disabilities.			
Tugba Hoguet	Inclusion Institute-Special Needs	The inclusion Institute focuses on meeting the needs of all learners with emphasis on content area teaching, inclusive school culture and Universal design for learning.	Rowan University	3/18/2025	\$0
Dr. Dawn Fichera/Rafael Miranda	K—12 Maker Project PD Workshops	This workshop will significantly benefit our students by providing them with hands on , practical skills that align with NJ state standards for STEAM education.	Edgerton Center Massachusetts Institute of Technology 77 Massachusetts Ave, Room 4-408 Cambridge	6/23/2025 - 6/25/2025	\$ 500 each – Workshop \$572 each – Lodging \$125 each – Transportation \$ 336 each – Meals/Incidentals

NAME	NAME OF WORKSHOP /SEMINAR	ACADEMIC/ OPERATIONAL RATIONALE	LOCATION	DATE (S) & TIME	COST
Stephanie Weaver-Rogers	NCSC25	Learn from leaders at the forefront of charter school innovation to gain actionable insights and be part of the conversation shaping education's future.	Orlando World Center Marriott Orlando Florida	June29- July2, 2025	Registration - \$535 Hotel - \$587.25 Airfare - \$350
Jozian Molina	NCSC25	Learn from leaders at the forefront of charter school innovation to gain actionable insights and be part of the conversation shaping education's future.	Orlando World Center Marriott Orlando Florida	June29- July2, 2025	Registration - \$535 Hotel - \$587.25 Airfare - \$350
Yusein Durakov	NJASBO Annual Conference		Ocean Casino Resort 500 Boardwalk Atlantic City, NJ 08401	6/3/2025- 6/06/2025	Registration - \$500 Hotel - \$357.00 Tolls- \$10 Meals – \$102.00
Whitney Conner	Pattern of Strengths and Weaknesses: Analyzing Difficult Cases	Throughout the school year, a larger number of students are referred to the child study team due to a suspected learning	Webinar	4/11/25	\$60.00

NAME	NAME OF WORKSHOP /SEMINAR	ACADEMIC/ OPERATIONAL RATIONALE	LOCATION	DATE (S) & TIME	COST
		disability. Use of the PSW approach will aid in the appropriate identification of SLD as well as provide a preventative measure in order to avoid over identifying students with academic difficulties as students with disabilities.			

COMPREHENSIVE EQUITY PLAN

Item 25: Resolved that the board authorizes the school's Affirmative Action Committee to update the Comprehensive Equity Plan as mandated by the NJDOE. Plan to be submitted by June 14, 2025 Further resolved that the Board appoints the following staff members to oversee completion:

Stephanie Rogers
Jozian Molina
Tugba Hoguet
Yusein Durakov

Item 26: Resolved that the Board authorizes completion and vetting of the Curriculum Map Template.

Item 27: Resolved that the Board authorizes completion and vetting of the Novel Approval Protocol.

Motion:

Second:

Roll Call:

	Item 22	Item 23	Item 24	Item 25	Item 26	Item 27
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
Cal Maradonna	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

	Item 22	Item 23	Item 24	Item 25	Item 26	Item 27
Hector Nieves	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Brenda Ortiz	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Dr. Michael Palis	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Dr. Yozmeris Roman	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Margo Venable	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

IX. Public Comment

Public Comment to be submitted via email to wandag@camden.rutgers.edu

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

Seconded by Margo Venable.

Roll Call:

	Item 26
Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago	YES
Dr. Matthew Closter	YES
Belianis Colon	YES
Cal Maradonna	YES
Hector Nieves	YES
Brenda Ortiz	YES
Dr. Michael Palis	YES
Dr. Yozmeris Roman	YES
Margo Venable	YES

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Dr. Wanda Garcia
Board Liaison
Public Comment