

Amistad Academy and Elm City College Preparatory

Joint Session - Board of Directors Meeting

September 19, 2012

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Directors in Attendance:

Elm City

Dick Ferguson, Laura Saverin, Will Heins, Lystra Richardson, Marnie Halsey, Joseph Boskovski, Carolyn Greenspan, Deborah Quinsee.

Amistad Academy

Melinda Hamilton, Lisa Bonnifield, Lorraine Gibbons, Andrew Lachman, Paul McCraven, Alexander Troy, Michael Van Leesten and Michael Thomas.

Others in Attendance: Dana Foster, Kelonda Maull, Lauren Miller, Ken Paul, Reshma Singh, Amanda Alonzy and Andrew Poole

Mr. Ferguson called the meeting to order at 5:40pm. He welcomed the board and opened the room for public comment. No Public comment was made and he proceeded to move forward with the Retreat Recap.

Ms. Singh introduced Kelonda Maull and Laina Vlasnik Yip to the board and then began discussing major themes from the Board Retreat and let the board know she is working with other teams to answer all board questions and concerns that were addressed at the retreat.

Mr. Ferguson asked the principals to make their reports to the boards.

Andrew Poole, principal of Elm City College Prep Elementary greeted the board and discussed the schools current priorities, key successes and challenges. Mr. Poole began letting the board know about upcoming IA assessments, guided reading and the excitement for building a positive behavior system and staff morale. Mr. Poole is excited to have gained clarity and immense focus on implementation of their behavior system and was very enthusiastic a recent article in the New Haven Register. Mr. Poole expressed some challenges to the board regarding student attendance and academic performance.

Amanda Alonzy, principal of Amistad Elementary school greeted the board and discussed the current priorities, key successes and challenges at the school. Ms. Alonzy discussed her excitement regarding her new operations team and managing new enrollment, investment in her teachers for engaged learning and teaching, addressing positive and negative behaviors that will set scholars up for success and holding scholars to academic excellence. Ms. Alonzy addressed some challenges this year dealing with afternoon dismissal and maintaining strong math results while also focusing on reading.

Ms. Singh gave an update on advocacy and community engagement for the upcoming year and expressed the need to focus on local support for our schools, community engagement and outreach this year. Ms. Miller discussed her plans for community outreach as it relates to student recruitment and enrollment for the 2013-14 school year.

Amistad Academy Individual Board of Directors Meeting

Directors in Attendance: Melinda Hamilton, Lisa Bonnifield, Alex Troy, Andrew Lachman, Lorraine Gibbons, Michael Thomas, Sheri Gellman, Michael Van Leesten

Others in Attendance: Candice Dormon, Max Polaner, Reshma Singh, Lauren Miller, Laina Vlasnick-Yip

Ms. Hamilton welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. She asked if the board had a chance to review the meeting minutes. Hearing no proposed changes, she asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes in the form presented to the board.

Moved: Bonnifield
Seconded: Lachman
(all in favor)

Ms. Hamilton invited Mr. Polaner to review the financial reports with the board in absence of the board treasurer. Mr. Polaner went over the current financial statements and balance sheets for the board and took questions from the board. He also discussed the revised high school budget with the board and the need to amend the budget that the board had passed over the summer to reflect higher enrollment at the high school.

Ms. Hamilton asked the board if they were prepared to vote on the financials.

Approval of forecast financials:

Moved: Troy
Seconded: Thomas
(all in favor)

Approval of revised high school budget as presented to the board

Moved: Bonnifield
Seconded: Troy
(all in favor)

Ms. Hamilton then asked the board to consider voting to renew the 403b plan renewal resolution.

With respect to the adoption of the Achievement First Amistad Academy 403(b) Plan (the "Plan"), the following resolutions are hereby adopted:

Approved: 11/28/12

RESOLVED: That the Company shall make annual employer matching contributions to the Plan after the conclusion of the Plan Year in an amount equal to 100% of the participant's elective deferrals up to a maximum of 4% of compensation but in no event in excess of \$2,500, for the exclusive benefit of the employees eligible for a matching contribution allocation under said Plan.

RESOLVED FURTHER: That the officers of the Company be, and they hereby are, authorized and directed to take any and all actions and execute and deliver such documents as they may deem necessary, appropriate or convenient to effect the foregoing resolutions including, without limitation, causing to be prepared and filed such reports documents or other information as may be required under applicable law.

Moved: Lachman
Seconded: Thomas
(all in favor)

Ms. Hamilton provided the board with an update from the high school building committee meeting that she attended. Her major takeaways were that it will be a very nice facility with a lot of green space. She will continue to keep the board updated.

Mr. Paul provided the board with an update about development. The year is off to a great start and the overall fundraising goal is down a little after the legislative changes last year but there is still a lot of philanthropy needed to cover the new high school project.

Ms. Hamilton then asked the board to consider the changes to the Whitson's contract – the school food service provider. The board did not have any questions about the amendment and voted to approve it.

BE IT RESOLVED that Amistad Academy board of directors approves the amendment to the Whitson's Food Service Contract as referenced in the meeting and provided in the meeting preparation materials and attached hereto these minutes.

Moved: Troy
Seconded: Bonnifield
(all in favor)

Ms. Hamilton then asked the board for new business. The board engaged in a conversation about using Skype to have board members call in if they are unable to be present at a board meeting. Moving forward, we will ask board members who ask to call in if they are able to call in with Skype and we will see if it is possible to make it work.

Ms. Singh also circled back with the board about their questions during the board retreat about community use of Amistad's building.

Hearing no further business, Ms. Hamilton asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Approved: 11/28/12

Moved: Lachman

Seconded: Troy

(all in favor)