

Amistad Academy
Board of Directors Meeting

November 28, 2012

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Joint Meeting with Elm City College Preparatory School

Elm City College Prep:

Board members in attendance: Dick Ferguson, Joe Boskovski, Marnie Hasley, Carolyn Greenspan, Sharon Oster, Patricia Pierce, Will Heins, Laura Saverin.

Amistad Academy:

Board members in attendance: Melinda Hamilton, Alexander Troy, Lisa Bonnifield, Andrew Lachman, Paul McCraven, Caroline Williams, Michael Griffin, Lorraine Gibbons.

Others in Attendance: Kelonda Maull, Reshma Singh, Ken Paul, Pat Sweet, Teresa Neff-Webster, Shirley Harrell, Kevin Taylor, Lauren Miller Kevin Taylor

Kelonda Maull recorded minutes

Ms. Hamilton called the meeting to order at 5:43pm and asked for public comment. Hearing none Ms. Hamilton welcomed Ms. Singh, Vice President of External Relations to begin her presentation.

Ms. Singh talked to the boards about Advocacy and parent engagement in Bridgeport and New Haven and its importance on a local and state level. Ms. Singh gave the board an update on State advocacy efforts. She explained the importance of legislation for the year and Ms. Sweet elaborated on this. Ms. Singh let the board know of Achievement First upcoming Amistad Academy Visitor Day on December 7th and asked the board to invite guests. Ms. Singh answered questions from the board.

Ms. Singh gave an update to the board on the High School Project and the progress made with community partners and securing an approval from the Board of Alderman. Ms. Singh took questions from the board.

Ms. Singh spoke on behalf of Tony Siddall regarding the Achievement First School Report Card results and let the board know they will be having a higher level discussion during their individual board meetings. Ms. Singh gave background to the board concerning the results per school. Mr. Taylor gave background to the board regarding Achievement First budget, TIFF Grant and school wide bonuses. Mr. Taylor answered questions from the board.

The boards then separated to hold their individual board meetings.

Amistad Academy Individual Board Meeting:

Ms. Hamilton thanked the board for attending this evening and began the Amistad portion of the meeting by speaking about adding new board members to the Amistad board. The nominating committee will be considering candidates and will hopefully make recommendations at the next board meeting.

Ms. Hamilton acknowledged the recent passing of a scholar at Elm City College Prep Middle School and commented on how impressed she was with how the school has been dealing with this tragedy.

Ms. Hamilton talked about the NEASC reaccreditation process that several board members participated in a few weeks ago. Ms. Hamilton said she was blown away by the presentation by Mr. Bostock and his leadership team and scholars. She looks forward to hearing the final review results.

Ms. Hamilton then led the board through a discussion about the bonus policy that was proposed to the board this evening. She talked the board through the process and showed them how our schools are being rated currently. Ms. Hamilton said she was thrilled by the results at the high school and wanted to learn more about the results at the middle and elementary schools. She will be setting up a meeting with the school principals to discuss this and looks forward to learning more about the report card at the January board meeting. The board engaged in discussion about the policy before motioning to approve it.

This is a tool – we will get deeply into it in January and will do work by now and then to better understand the process and what’s going on.

RESOLVED, The Achievement First Amistad Academy Board hereby approves the bonus policy attached herein, covering performance from the 2011-12 school year. The Board further approves the AF School Report Card as the method for determining the amount of bonuses, and delegates to Achievement First co-CEO and Superintendent Doug McCurry the exclusive authority to award mitigating points in exceptional circumstances.

RESOLVED: To approve the Bonus Policy

RESOLVED:

Moved: McCraven

Seconded: Griffin

(all in favor)

Ms. Hamilton asked Mr. Paul to report to the board about fundraising and development. Mr. Paul provided the board with a brief report.

Ms. Hamilton then introduced Ms. Sarah White, principal of Amistad Academy Middle School, and asked her to make her report to the board.

Ms. White introduced herself to the board and discussed her priorities and growth areas for the year for the school. She spoke about the highly successful family orientations that the school held in August for all families, clearer school culture and behavior guidelines and coordinated school priorities. Ms. White also addressed areas of growth that the school is working on. Ms. White answered questions from the board and engaged in discussion with them.

Ms. Hamilton asked Ms. White to talk to the board about a recent violent incident in the community near the school. Ms. White talked about the incident and how the school responded to the incident as well as the school guidelines and procedures related to dealing with such incidents.

Ms. Hamilton asked if the board had a chance to review the minutes from the previous board meeting. Ms. Hamilton asked if anyone had any suggestions or changes to make. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes in the form presented to the board.

RESOLVED: To approve the meeting minutes from the September 19, 2012 meeting of the Amistad Academy Board of Directors in the form presented to the board.

Moved: McCraven

Seconded: Troy

(all in favor)

Mr. Griffin, board treasurer, provided a financial update to the board. He reviewed the budget sheets with the board and talked about the forecasted financials. He said that everything looked to be in good shape. The board then engaged in a discussion with Ms. Bourne and Mr. Taylor from the Achievement First Finance Team about the finances and also about the procedures used by the finance team. The board decided to enter into executive session at which point all non-board members left the room.

RESOLVED: To enter into executive session

Moved: Troy

Seconded: Williams

(all in favor)

RESOLVED: To return from executive session

Moved: Troy

Seconded: Lachman

(all in favor)

Ms. Hamilton thanked Mr. Taylor and Ms. Bourne for speaking with the board. They asked to schedule a follow up call with Mr. Polaner tomorrow to further discuss their questions. Ms. Miller offered to help connect board with Max for the meeting.

Ms. Hamilton asked if there was any new business to be addressed at the meeting. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting

RESOLVED: To adjourn the meeting.

Moved: McCraven

Seconded: Troy

(all in favor)

Respectfully Submitted: _____