

DRAFT MINUTES

CT Joint Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 22, 2014

5:30-8:30 PM

Amistad Academy

130 Edgewood Ave.

New Haven, CT

A meeting of the CT Joint Board of Directors was held at 5:30PM on Wednesday, January 22 at Amistad Academy. The following members were attendance:

Board Attendance:

Sheri Gellman, AA Board - Yes
Lorraine Gibbons, AA Board - Yes
Michael Griffin, AA Board - Yes
Melinda Hamilton, AA Board - Yes
Howard Hill, AA Board - Yes
Andrew Lachman, AA Board - Yes
Jane Levin, AA Board - Yes
Paul McCraven, AA Board - Yes
Khadijah Muhammad, AA Board - Yes
Bill Powers, AA Board - Yes
Michael Thomas, AA Board - Yes
Alexander Troy, AA Board - Yes
Caroline Williams, AA Board - Yes
Katrin Czinger, AA Board - No
Dorsey Kendrick, AA Board - No
Michael Van Leesten, AA Board - No
Andrew Boas, AFBA Board - Yes
Chris Kunhardt, AFBA Board - Yes
Marlene Macauda, AFBA Board - Yes
Judy Andrews, AFBA Board - No
James Bennett, AFBA Board - No
Melissa Cerialle, AFBA Board - No
Debra Hertz, AFBA Board - No
Dick Kalt, AFBA Board - No
Harold Kamins, AFBA Board - No
Cornelius Medas, AFBA Board - No
Wiley Mullins, AFBA Board - No
Max Perez, AFBA Board - No
Ed Raice, AFBA Board - No
Barry Jacobson, AFHA Board - Yes
Jean LaVecchia, AFHA Board - Yes

James Morton, AFHA Board - Yes
Nyema Pinkney, AFHA Board - Yes
Angela Scott, AFHA Board - Yes
Lankford Wade, AFHA Board - Yes
Nancy Zwiener, AFHA Board - Yes
Bernice Aljoe, AFHA Board - No
Laura Estes, AFHA Board - No
Denise Gallucci, AFHA Board - No
John Motley, AFHA Board - No
Colleen Palmer, AFHA Board - No
Marshall Ruben, AFHA Board - No
Gretchen Unfried-English, AFHA Board - No
Erik Clemons, ECCP Board - Yes
Dick Ferguson, ECCP Board - Yes
Carolyn Greenspan, ECCP Board - Yes
Marnie Halsey, ECCP Board - Yes
William Heins, ECCP Board - Yes
Patricia Pierce, ECCP Board - Yes
Laura Saverin, ECCP Board - Yes
Kate Stasik, ECCP Board - Yes
Pat Sweet, ECCP Board - Yes
Magaly Cajigas, ECCP Board - No
Sharon Oster, ECCP Board - No
Deb Quinsee, ECCP Board - No
Lystra Richardson, ECCP Board - No

Other Attendees:

Bill Bouton, AF Network Support - Yes
Hillary Bridges, AF Network Support - Yes
Lauren Cohen, AF Network Support - Yes
Candice Dormon, AF Network Support -

Yes

D. Scot Kerr, AF Network Support - Yes
Kelonda Maull, AF Network Support - Yes
Mel Ochoa, AF Network Support – Yes
Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes
Sharon Richards, AF Network Support - Yes
Tony Siddall, AF Network Support - Yes

Reshma Singh, AF Network Support - Yes
Megan Tokarski, AF Network Support - Yes
Dacia Toll, School Leadership - Yes
Karen Prager, School Staff - Yes
Melissa Baily, New Haven Independent - Yes

Call to Order

Melinda Hamilton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Notes

- Welcome (Melinda Hamilton)
 - Melinda introduced the six AF Amistad High scholars in attendance, as well as Lauren and Karen, two of AF's high school college readiness teachers.
 - Melinda also introduced four guests considering joining the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors.
 - Melinda then introduced Tony Siddall, Sr. Director of Governance of AF.
- Internship Discussion (Tony Siddall)
 - Tony previewed the need for board-sponsored internships for AF Amistad High and AF Hartford High students in summer 2014.
 - Tony introduced Lauren Cohen, College Readiness Teacher, Amistad High School and Karen Prager, Dean of College Services, Hartford High School:
 - Karen reported that in summer 2013, AF Hartford High scholars did not participate in internships outside of the school, but the school is looking forward to adding this component to its summer experiences in summer 2014.
 - Lauren reported that AF Amistad High has approximately 120 students, including students from both Bridgeport and New Haven, qualifying for summer internships in 2014. Lauren reported a correlation between internship experiences at AF Amistad High and successful work-study experiences for our alumni in college.
 - Several board members inquired about the logistics of internships, including the age of student interns, the number of hours for each internship, compensation for interns, intern transportation to and from internships, the types of internships that might interest students, etc. Lauren and Karen answered their questions.
 - Andy Boas requested that internship information / materials be sent to board members to forward to their contacts.
 - The board members broke into small group discussions with the six AF Amistad High students to discuss their internship experiences.

- At the conclusion of the small group discussions, each facilitator shared out key takeaways from each scholar's internship experience.
 - Tony thanked the scholars in attendance, and thanked the board members, in advance, for hosting interns in summer 2014.
 - He asked board members to fill out an interest form if they might like to host an intern in summer 2014, so that the appropriate staff member can follow up to discuss the internship opportunity.
 - Tony shared an internship timeline, with the announcement of internship commitments at the March board meeting.
 - Melinda thanked Tony, Lauren, and Karen for their presentation and proceeded to recognize departing board member Alex Troy for his service on the Amistad Academy Board of Directors and showed a tribute video. Melinda then introduced Dacia Toll, Co-CEO of Achievement First to present a mid-year review.
- Mid-Year Review (Dacia Toll)
 - Dacia reminded the board members that Amistad Academy is celebrating its 15th anniversary, and AF is celebrating its 10th anniversary.
 - Dacia reviewed AF's four-part Theory of Change.
 - Dacia previewed the onset of the Common Core State Standards.
 - Dacia highlighted the major differences between the Common Core and current state standards, with an emphasis on the key ELA and Math instructional shifts required by the Common Core. Board members discussed and shared out the instructional shifts introduced by a sample seventh-grade ELA Common Core test question and by a sample fifth-grade Math Common Core test question.
 - Dacia shared AF's average IA2 results from the 2013-14 school year on Common Core-aligned IAs, highlighting achievement across the network on Common Core-aligned assessments. AF's NY schools are performing better than AF's CT schools, likely due to earlier implementation of the Common Core in NY.
 - Dacia shared AF's approach to meeting the increased rigor of the Common Core.
 - In response to a board member question, Dacia shared some best practices from her visits to Success Academy, and as an exemplar, she offered to send board members a video clip of fourth graders from Success discussing literal and figurative characters.
 - State of AF (mid-year review)
 - Dacia provided updates on year-to-date suspensions, attrition, school leader retention, and feedback school leaders on the Network Support Survey.
 - Board members discussed and shared out what they were happy to see,

what they were surprised to see and what they were concerned to see from the mid-year review.

- Dacia recommended the book *The Smartest Kids in the World* for board members interested in reading more about the impetus behind the Common Core.
- Looking forward to 2014-15 and beyond
 - Dacia shared that AF plans to open four new schools in the 2014-15 school year - three in NY and one in Hartford.
 - In four of five AF cities, we have / will have new district superintendents, and in three of five AF cities, we have / will have new mayors.
 - Dacia previewed AF's two big strategies to meet our vision going forward:
 - Big steps (sustaining innovation)
 - Greenfield (disruptive innovation)
 - Board members discussed and shared out what excites them and what concerns them about AF's plans for 2014-15 and beyond.
- Regional / City Updates
 - Dick Ferguson provided 2013-14 highlights from Elm City College Preparatory.
 - Andy Boas provided 2013-14 highlights from AF Bridgeport Academy.
 - Jean LaVecchia provided 2013-14 highlights from AF Hartford Academy.
 - Melinda Hamilton provided 2013-14 highlights from Amistad Academy.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. by Melinda Hamilton.

Minutes taken by Megan Tokarski on January 22, 2014.