

Amistad Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
September 16, 2015
403 James Street, New Haven

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order by Carolyn Greenspan at 5:44pm.

The following directors and staff were in attendance:

Carolyn Greenspan, AA Board - Yes	Howard Hill, AA Board - No
Caroline Williams, AA Board - Yes	Dorsey Kendrick, AA Board - No
Katrin Czinger, AA Board - Yes	Jane Levin, AA Board - Yes
Lorraine Gibbons, AA Board - Yes	Reginald Simmons, AA Board - No
Daisy Gonzales - AA Board - Yes (phone)	
David Katzman - AA Board - Yes	
Michael Griffin, AA Board - Yes	Bill Bouton, Legal Resources - No
Jennifer Connell - AA Board - Yes	
Cassie Crockett - AA Board - Yes	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes
Pat Sweet, AA Board - Yes	Laurie Bussmann - AF Network Support - Yes
Andrew Lachman, AA Board - Yes	

Guests:

Khadijah Muhammad, Amistad Parent
Cornelius Medas - AFBA Board Member

II. Open Session For Public Comment

No public comment.

III. Teacher Certification (Laurie Bussmann)

Ms. Laurie Bussmann gave a presentation about the certification status of Amistad Academy teachers. Despite progress made in getting more teacher certified last year (48% to 71%), Amistad dipped back down at the start of this year because of new hires. Unlike last year, AF is implementing consequences at AF Hartford. Consequences attached to the incentives are resulting in more responsiveness.

The percent currently certified at Amistad is 57% (started with 52% at the beginning of the year). Within the next few weeks, the numbers will go up again.

The Board discussed ideas of consequences and incentives and the balance between holding onto strong teachers while also reaching 100% certification. The Amistad charter is up for renewal in 2017 and the Board expressed their dissatisfaction with the lack of year-over-year progress and concerns that this

could be a repeated cycle. Laurie Bussmann responded with the ways in which AF has changed the messaging, the consequences and the strong alignment from senior leadership to regional superintendents to principals to operations staff around the fact that this is a top priority.

IV. SBAC Results (Carolyn Greenspan)

Having discussed the SBAC results at the September 4th meeting, the board did not discuss the SBAC results further.

V. Treasurer's Report (Mike Griffin)

Mr. Mike Griffin led the Treasurer's Report reviewing the financials provided. A tentative audit report will be in October and the finance committee will meet with the auditors. October 1st is the date when the State determines how many students are in each school. Mr. Max Polaner reports the elementary and middle schools are on target and the high school is overenrolled.

Mr. Griffin also reported out on the staffing on AF's Team Finance and concluded with some comments about the funding challenges that AF faces having not gotten increases from the State in our per-pupil funding. Ms. Khadijah Muhammad shared with the Board that there is an effort to get parents involved in advocating for money follows the child.

Ms. Pat Sweet would like to have a future conversation to better understand how philanthropy is allocated to each charter.

Board Business

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the financial report as presented.

Moved by Caroline Williams
Seconded by Pat Sweet
All in favor

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from 5/20/15, 8/13/15 and 9/4/15.

Moved by Lorraine Gibbons
Seconded by Katrin Czinger
All in favor

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby accepts the 2015-2016 School Wellness Policy as drafted.

Moved by Caroline Williams
Seconded by Cassie Crockett
All in favor

Discussion

Ms. Carolyn Greenspan shared some updates from her calls with Amanda Alonzy (Amistad Elementary School) and Katie Poynter (Amistad Middle).

Ms. Carolyn Greenspan reported that eight teachers have resigned from Amistad Elementary School since the beginning of the year but that Ms. Alonzy does not anticipate an impact on scholar performance. Three possible dates for an on site meeting with Amanda Alonzy are: Sept 30th, Oct 2th, Oct 6th. Ms. Greenspan will be in touch with board members about arranging this meeting.

Amistad Middle School is off to a strong start. Ms. Poynter reports that the final 30 minutes of each day are spent with “goal teams” which has been a great way to end the day (an idea borrowed from the Greenfield model). She invited the Board to come visit between 11:47am and 12:50pm during student council meeting on 10/2 or 10/9.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03pm by Carolyn Greenspan.

**Joint Session of the Boards of Directors of
Amistad Academy & Elm City College Preparatory
Boards of Directors Meeting
September 16, 5:30 – 7:00 pm
403 James Street, New Haven**

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 pm by Ms. Carolyn Greenspan.

The following board members and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

Carolyn Greenspan, AA Board - Yes
Pat Sweet, AA Board - Yes
Genevive Walker, ECCP Board - Yes
Richard Ferguson, ECCP Board - Yes
Marnie Halsey, ECCP Board - Yes
Katrin Czinger, AA Board - Yes
Carlos Torre, ECCP Board - Yes
Lorraine Gibbons, AA Board - Yes
Kaitlyn Stasik, ECCP Board - Yes
Patric Gregory, ECCP Board - Yes
Caroline Williams, AA Board - Yes

Howard Hill, AA Board - No
Michael Griffin, AA Board - Yes
Patricia Pierce, ECCP Board - No
Laura Saverin, ECCP Board - No
Dorsey Kendrick, AA Board - No
Andrew Lachman, AA Board - No
Daisy Gonzales, AA Board - No
Magaly Cajigas, ECCP Board - No
William Heins, ECCP Board - No
Sharon Oster, ECCP Board - No
Lystra Richardson, ECCP Board - No

Jane Levin, AA Board - Yes
David Katzman, AA Board - Yes
Cassie Crockett, AA Board - Yes
Reginald Simmons, AA Board - No

Jennifer Connell, AA Board - Yes
Megan Tokarski, AF Network Support - Yes
D. Scot Kerr, AF Network Support - Yes
Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes

II. Reports

A. Joint High School Update

Ms. Caroline Williams gave a report from the Joint High School Committee. She detailed Principal Claire Polcrack's three main points of emphasis - Reading, Joy and Community.

They have added an additional four stops to the Bridgeport late bus, allowing more students to stay after for additional help or work.

The biggest challenge right now is teacher retention - two teachers have quit abruptly within the first few weeks/days of school. Ms. Polcrack and members of the leadership team are working on different strategies to prevent such occurrences from happening again.

B. Governance Committee (Marnie Halsey)

In June 2015, the Governance Committee created a sub-committee to review the bylaws . The sub-committee has been reviewing bylaws since then, and proposed changes to the bylaws will hopefully be distributed before the next Board Meeting.

In addition, the Roles and Responsibility document will be discussed at the next meeting Ms. Halsey instructed all Board Members to read and review the document before the next Board Meeting. Board members will also be required to attend a (re-)orientation session in October and submit to a background check pursuant to new state of Connecticut regulations.

Mr. Scot Kerr explained a number of changes in relation to compliance with authorizers. In particular, the Board is now required to attend a training session before the renewal in 2017, submit to a background check, and sign a new conflict of interest agreement with a new anti-nepotism clause.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44pm by Ms. Carolyn Greenspan.