

Amistad Academy
Board of Directors Meeting

January 25, 2017, 7:00pm
580 Dixwell Ave, New Haven

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order by Carolyn Greenspan at 7:03 pm. The following directors, constituting a quorum, and staff were in attendance:

Carolyn Greenspan - Yes	Jennifer Connell - Yes
Caroline Williams - No	Paul McCraven - No
Mike Griffin - Yes	Khadijah Muhammad - No
Lorraine Gibbons - Yes	Tim Pavlis - Yes
Andrew Lachman - Yes	Reginald Simmons - No
Cassie Crockett - Yes	Shannon Garfield, AF Network Support - Yes
Daisy Gonzales - No	Victor de La Paz, AF Network Support - Yes
Jane Levin - Yes	Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes
Pat Sweet - Yes	John Furniss - AF Network Support - Yes
	Gina Musumeci - AF Network Support - Yes

Members of the public: n/a

II. Open Session for Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from 11/16/2016.

Motion by Lorraine Gibbons

Seconded by Jennifer Connell

All in favor

III. Reports

A. Joint High School Committee Report (Carolyn Greenspan)

Ms. Greenspan gave a report from the HS Committee. Over 1,000+ applications have already been submitted and students getting in early to Yale, Wesleyan, Lafayette, Union and Franklin and Marshall. Student achievement is mixed, and AP for All has not gotten a consistent reception. While the rigor is ambitious and generally beneficial to scholars, there are considerations and accommodations that will be taken into account in the future. Staff culture is seeing improvement.

B. Board Chair Report (Carolyn Greenspan)

Ms. Carolyn Greenspan reported out from a phone call with Ms. Katie Poynter, Principal of Amistad MS. Suspensions are down overall but scholar GPAs are low. The teachers are doing bi-weekly grade reports. Expecting strong teacher retention.

The charter renewal hearing is tomorrow night at Wilbur Cross High School at 6:00pm.

Ms. Greenspan reiterated support for the John Krause Memorial Fund and the Orchestra trip to Providence and Brooklyn. She then solicited the Board for ideas for School Leader Appreciation Week.

Ms. Greenspan asked for Board feedback regarding Board goals. Ms. Greenspan reiterated her request for a student data dashboard. Will need analysis on trends as well, turnover/retention.

Ms. Greenspan shared that Ms. Katrin Czingar has resigned from the board.

C. Treasurer Report (Michael Griffin)

Mr. Griffin introduced Mr. De La Paz, who then gave a brief introduction of his background and experience. He spoke on strengthening financial risk management and filling key vacancies on his team. He reiterated the need to build a financial foundation so that we don't have to raise money for the current year.

Mr. Griffin presented the financial report and audited financial statement. He noted that personnel expenses are higher than budgeted, but overall, with a budget adjustment that will be coming in March, the budget will break even.

1. Approve Financial Report

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

Motion by Pat Sweet

Seconded by Jane Levin

All in favor

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby accepts the report of the independent auditors CohnReznick prepared in relation to the fiscal year ended 6/30/16.

Motion by Jennifer Connell

Seconded by Mike Griffin

All in favor

IV. Executive Session

The board entered executive session to discuss personnel at 7:05 pm. Motion by Lorraine Gibbons.

Seconded by Jane Levin. The board exited executive session at 7:23pm. Motion by Cassie Crockett.

Seconded by Jane Levin.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm by Carolyn Greenspan. Motion by Cassie Crockett. Seconded by Tim Pavlis.

All in favor