

**Amistad Academy  
Board of Directors**

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

Amistad High School, 580 Dixwell Ave., New Haven

**I. Call to Order & Attendance**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Carolyn Greenspan. The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First staff were in attendance:

Carolyn Greenspan - Yes

Jane Levin - Yes

Caroline Williams - No

Carla Seeger - No

Mike Griffin - Yes (phone)

Pat Sweet - Yes

Lorraine Gibbons - Yes

Khadijah Muhammad - No

Tim Pavlis - Yes

Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes

**Open Session for Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**II. Business**

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from November 15, 2017.

Motion by Pat Sweet

Seconded by Tim Pavlis

All in favor

**III. Reports and Discussion**

**Joint High School Committee Report**

Jane Levin shared that Amistad HS has continued to make progress on school culture.

Suspensions are on track to be down, year over year. The large size of the freshman class, with scholars coming from three feeder middle schools, has contributed to some culture challenges that the team is working to address.

Four seniors and one junior attended the HS Committee meeting to talk about their high school experience and reflect on the college application process. They couldn't say enough about how strong the college counseling program was and specifically the counselors themselves. The 104 members of the senior class have submitted 1100 applications. 77% of seniors have already received an acceptance to college.

Looking ahead to next year, staff retention looks to be in a good place with 65% of staff indicating they intend to return and 20% indicating they are likely to return. The new Director of School Operations, Sandy Mackie, has started. Sandy was on the Amistad High School operations team in a support role several years ago and was most recently the Director of School Operations at AF Hartford Middle School.

The question about a sexual harassment policy arose and there is a robust sexual harassment policy in place and they have had no issues.

### **Board Chair Report**

Carolyn Greenspan has check ins with school leaders and she reported that everything remains pretty consistent with where it has been and there are no significant updates.

Carolyn recommended that board members fill in the survey shared by Sarah for the PCLB Foundation board governance trainings. Sarah shared that she is going to follow up with the Foundation to learn more about the frequency of the trainings in subsequent years and to ensure that there is alignment between their training and the requirement of the State. Board members are required to attend a training during the period of the charter.

Principal renewal contracts will be shared in the coming week and the board will hold a meeting on Tuesday, January 30th at noon to confirm the contracts.

### **Treasurer Report**

Mike Griffin gave the Treasurer's report noting a predicted deficit, largely based on overstaffing at the elementary school. The number of students enrolled at the High School is four students lower than budget (\$44K). There had been concern about getting all seats funded by the State so the usual effort to reach full enrollment was not implemented.

The biggest concern that was discussed on the call with Victor De La Paz is that the State is not funding all seats for the year - 72 seats in total, 24 of which are at the Amistad schools. There is a meeting with the State in February to try to revisit that funding issue. Any shortfall will be made up in philanthropy.

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

Motion by Jane Levin

Seconded by Tim Pavlis

All in favor

#### **IV. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m. by Carolyn Greenspan.

Motion by Lorraine Gibbons

Seconded by Pat Sweet

All in favor