

**Amistad Academy
Board of Directors**

Wednesday, September 12, 2018
370 James Street, New Haven
6:00 pm

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by Carolyn Greenspan. The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First staff were in attendance:

Carolyn Greenspan - Yes	Jennifer Alexander - Yes
Mike Griffin - Yes (phone)	Albert Maldonado - Yes
Lorraine Gibbons - Yes	Sarah Lewis, Amistad School Leadership - Yes
Tim Pavlis - No	Victoria McCall, Amistad School Leadership - Yes
Jane Levin - Yes (phone)	LaShell Rountree, Amistad School Leadership - Yes
Pat Sweet - Yes (phone)	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes
Carla Seeger - Yes	Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes
Khadijah Muhammad - No	Sarah Claybaugh, AF Network Support - Yes
Jamell Cotto - No	Katie Rosa Moher, AF Network Support - Yes

Public: n/a

II. Open Session for Public Comment

No public comment

III. Approve Minutes

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from July 31, 2018.

Motion by Jen Alexander

Seconded by Lorraine Gibbons

All in favor

IV. Reports and Discussion

A. Principal Reports

Victoria McCall, Amistad Academy Middle School Principal, gave an update on the start of the school year. The Board reviewed teacher certification and Ms McCall shared that she's confident the teachers will reach the certification goal by January. The Amistad Academy

Middle School staff took a mini-organizational health survey the prior week and Ms. McCall feels confident that the school is moving in a positive direction. They are experiencing growth in terms of school culture benchmarks which will help the school move towards also reaching their academic goals.

Sarah Lewis, Amistad Academy Elementary School Principal, reflected on the year over year progress noting that last year she focused on building a strong team to drive strong academic results. She expressed her pride in the adult culture this year and believes it is the best it has been. She noted a significant decrease in classroom removals. The board inquired about Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Ms. Lewis shared that they are incorporating SEL into the daily schedule and provided the example that, when weather does not permit outdoor recess, they are using SEL as a focus for indoor activities. Ms. Lewis is confident they will reach their certification goals by January.

A. Governance Committee Report

Pat Sweet, co-Chair of the Amistad-Elm City Governance Committee, raised the issue of board member orientation. The Governance Committee is interested in a three hour presentation and assigned mentors for new members.

New members, Jen Alexander and Albert Maldonado, requested reading material to precede an orientation meeting and reference documents to contextualize key information.

Each Amistad board member was asked to consider one individual who might make a strong board member so as to create a pipeline of Directors.

C. Joint High School Committee Report

Jane Levin, Amistad Joint High School Committee Chair, gave the High School Committee report based on the meeting which immediately preceded the Amistad Board Meeting.

Amistad High School had a strong start to the school year with respect to school culture. They have had some teachers leave since the start of the school year, though, so they are looking to hire replacements. All teachers who left were new (to Achievement First and/or to teaching in general) and taught in different subject areas. In the meantime, they have a plan for covering classes. Despite the departures, Morgan Barth shared that teacher morale remains strong.

Student enrollment is up, year over year, and they've added three classrooms.

D. Chief Financial Officer Report

Victor De La Paz, AF's Chief Financial Officer, updated the board and shared financial year end results and financial drivers. He anticipates having the audit complete in the next few months.

Enrollment numbers are set on October 1. State funding is allocated based on those enrollment numbers.

AF will start the budgeting process earlier this year, and will be looking to trim budgets again this year across Connecticut schools.

E. Board Chair Report

Carolyn Greenspan shared that Albert Maldonado will be joining the High School Committee

Carolyn is going to work on scheduling a date for the board to visit Amistad Elementary and Middle Schools.

SBAC data is no longer embargoed so the board will soon receive comparison data.

V. Executive Session

The board did not go into executive session.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 by Carolyn Greenspan.

Motion by Lorraine Gibbons

Seconded by Carla Seeger

All in favor