

Amistad Academy
Joint High School Committee Meeting

November 15, 2017, 4:30 pm
495 Blake Street, New Haven

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 pm by Jane Levin. The following board members and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

Caroline Williams, Amistad Board - No	Chris Kunhardt, AFBA Board - Yes (phone)
Carolyn Greenspan, Amistad Board - Yes	Jim Bennett, AFBA Board - No
Jane Levin, Amistad Board - Yes	Dick Kalt - AFBA Board - Yes
	Morgan Barth, Amistad High School Principal - Yes
Richard Ferguson, ECCP Board - Yes	Megan Tokarski, AF Network Support - Yes
Laura Saverin, ECCP Board - Yes (phone)	Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes
William Heins, ECCP Board - No	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes

Public: n/a

II. Open Session For Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. School Report (Morgan Barth)

Morgan Barth, AF Amistad High School Principal, was happy to report that school culture across several indicators, is good and still improving. In particular suspension rates are on the decline, and student GPA is on the increase.

Amistad High added AP Seminar this year, so that seniors have the option to take four AP courses (AP Language, AP Seminar, AP Biology, and AP Calculus or AP Statistics). All are enrolled in at least two AP courses and the majority enrolled in three or four AP courses.

This is the first year that the school has really employed a consistent strategy to get all top-tier students to apply Early Decision or Early Action to colleges.

The quality of pre-college programs is improving with over 100 students already qualifying to attend a pre-college program on a college campus, with a GPA of at least 3.5

They had nearly 200 student athletes participate in fall sports. The athletics program has gotten bigger and better over time, including a couple of teams going to state tournaments for the first time (girls soccer and girls volleyball).

Morgan shared that the first round of org health results show that teacher morale hasn't improved

much over last year which was disappointing.

Morgan discussed with the board some issues of serious disciplinary issues some of which are resulting in expulsions. He is not worried that this is part of a trend but does acknowledge that given the size of the school, they are seeing more incidents. It is taking time, resources and energy staff.

They've had turnover in operations and support. Part of what makes an AF school great is that the operations are strong and principals do not need to deal with operations. The temporary DSO from AF Hartford High School Tasha Williams has been great and they have identified a permanent DSO to take over the role.

Long term planning of the school remains challenging with respect to the budget, facilities and enrollment. Student recruitment for next year is starting soon so decisions about future enrollment is happening now. In addition, Morgan is going to stay in his role for next year but the succession planning is starting this year.

Currently, the enrollment of the school is 630. If the incoming class next year is 200, like it was this year, the enrollment will be 730 next year. The High School Committee discussed options. The large size fueled by growth means lots of hiring and training new teachers. In addition, the feeder schools have been built on close personal relationships (Morgan referenced doing home visits for every single incoming kindergartener when he was AFBA principal). That is simply not possible at the size of Amistad HS. They need to do a better job thinking about breaking down that scale to ensure that relationships are strong and prioritized.

Carolyn Greenspan asked about GPA distribution and lauded the progress especially in the 12th grade. Morgan discussed the motivation of seniors because of college applications as well as staffing changes that have helped.

IV. Financial Report (Laura Saverin)

Laura Saverin gave the financial report.

V. Board Business

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy High School Committee hereby approves the meeting minutes from May 16 and September 12, 2017.

Motion by Carolyn Greenspan

Seconded by Dick Ferguson

All in favor

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy High School Committee hereby approves the financial report as presented.

Motion by Dick Ferguson

Seconded by Carolyn Greenspan

All in favor

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm by Jane Levin.

Motion by Carolyn Greenspan

Seconded by Dick Ferguson

All in favor