

Amistad Academy
Joint High School Committee Meeting

January 24, 2017, 4:15 p.m.

AF Amistad High School, 580 Dixwell Ave., New Haven

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 4:24 p.m. by Jane Levin. The following board members and Achievement First staff were in attendance:

Caroline Williams, Amistad Board - No
Carolyn Greenspan, Amistad Board - Yes
Jane Levin, Amistad Board - Yes

Chris Kunhardt, AFBA Board - Yes
Jim Bennett, AFBA Board - Yes
Dick Kalt - AFBA Board - Yes

Genevive Walker, ECCP Board - Yes
Richard Ferguson, ECCP Board - Yes
Laura Saverin, ECCP Board - Yes

Morgan Barth, AF Amistad High Principal - Yes
Megan Tokarski, AF Network Support - Yes
Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes
Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes
Margot Gotterer, AF Network Support - Yes

II. Open Session For Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. School Report

Principal Morgan Barth reported that AF Amistad High's 104 seniors have, in total, submitted more than 1,100 college applications. So far, 77% of seniors have been admitted to at least one college or university - and it is still early in the admission cycle! All of the acceptances-to-date have been either Early Decision/Early Action or at state schools with rolling admission.

AF Amistad High students took midterm Interim Assessments (IAs) last week. While the grading window has not yet closed, early indications are that AP courses, particularly AP History and AP Calculus, are on track for significant year-over-year achievement gains. This year, AF Amistad High has added AP Seminar to its course offerings (it is also the first year that the College Board is offering the course). All 11th graders are taking AP Seminar, which is a two-year course that does not culminate with a traditional AP exam, but rather, requires students to write several research papers that are submitted to and graded by the College Board. AP Seminar is much more student directed, with significantly longer periods of independent work time, than a typical AP or other course at AF Amistad High.

The school recently administered an optional "intent to return" survey to staff for the 2018-19 school year. Mr. Barth was pleased to report that 65% of staff indicated that they intend to return next year, with an additional 20% of staff indicating that they are "likely" to return. The official offer letter process for 2018-19 will take place in March/April.

Last week, AF Amistad High welcomed Sandy Mackie as the new, permanent Director of School Operations (DSO). Ms. Mackie is an experienced DSO, having been at AF Hartford Academy Middle for the last four years. Previously, she was a member of the Ops Team at AF Amistad High.

With regard to student culture, AF Amistad High is on track for lower suspension rates year-over-year. Although the school is experiencing some issues with regard to bullying, mostly via social media.

AF Amistad High's freshmen experience is not yet as strong as it needs to be in order to create an onramp for students to be successful in high school and college. With incoming 9th-grade cohorts exceeding 200 students, from three feeder middle schools, this is a challenge - and it is connected to larger issues regarding the school's long-term enrollment, facility, and budget.

At the committee's request, Mr. Barth distributed copies of AF's and the school's harassment policies from the Employee and Family Handbooks, respectively.

A panel of five students - four members of the Class of 2018 and one representative from the Class of 2019 - shared their experiences going through the college process at AF Amistad High.

IV. Financial Report

Laura Saverin gave a brief financial update. In February, AF Amistad High will learn if some, or all, of the school's currently unfunded seats will be funded. Otherwise, the school is on track budgetarily.

V. Board Business

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy High School Committee hereby approves the meeting minutes from November 15, 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 Kalt

Seconded by Dick Ferguson

All in favor

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m. by Jane Levin.

Motion by Carolyn Greenspan

Seconded by Laura Saverin

All in favor