

**Amistad Academy  
Board of Directors**

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

370 James Street, New Haven

5:30 pm

**I. Call to Order & Attendance**

The meeting was called to order at 5:41 pm by Carolyn Greenspan. The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First staff were in attendance:

Carolyn Greenspan - Yes

Mike Griffin - Yes (phone)

Lorraine Gibbons - Yes (phone)

Tim Pavlis - Yes

Jane Levin - Yes

Pat Sweet - Yes

Carla Seeger - Yes (phone)

Khadijah Muhammad - Yes

Jennifer Alexander - Yes (phone)

Albert Maldonado - No

Sarah Lewis, Amistad School Leadership - Yes (phone)

Victoria McCall, Amistad School Leadership - Yes

Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes

Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes

Sarah Claybaugh, AF Network Support - Yes

Katie Rosa Moher, AF Network Support - Yes

Erika Hval, AF Network Support - Yes

Public: Phillip Delgado, III

**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 September 12, 2018.

Motion by Pat Sweet

Seconded by Tim Pavlis

All in favor

**IV. Reports and Discussion**

**A. Principal Reports**

Sarah Lewis, Amistad Elementary Principal, is very pleased with the academic progress.

Performance has improved year over year. On the staffing side, she feels that the right people are on the team and everyone is in the right position. The org health data is back and the

results are up slightly from last year. As a whole they are focusing on adult culture.

Carolyn Greenspan noted that the board had an excellent visit as Amistad ES and MS.

The team at Amistad ES is doing skill building around classroom management to help increase time in the classroom for all scholars. The school has held “village” meetings with all teachers, parents, deans, and any important adults in the child’s life in order to discuss suspensions. They talk about bright spots as well as areas of opportunity for the student. They leave with a plan of how to execute, including a communication plan, a behavior plan, etc.

There is a parent association with about ten active parents.

Victoria McCall, Amistad Middle School principal, shared feedback from the org health survey noting double digit growth in positive responses in several areas and plans to improve areas that are stagnant. She shared that they are seeing significant academic growth in weekly quizzes.

They are working on bring attendance up from 96% to 97.5%. The operations team communicates regularly with families in their efforts.

The board also discussed other school culture metrics and teacher certification. Ken Paul reassured the board that there continues to be a commitment from senior leaders at AF to continuing to reach certification targets. They are offering to tutor struggling teachers for the next round of tests.

### **B. Joint High School Committee Report**

Jane Levin shared that that they didn’t hold a High School Committee meeting because Morgan was at Williams College, his alma mater, with thirty students. Mr Barth sent a written report and Jane shared highlights.

- 30 scholars have applied early decision to college.
- two New AP courses are being offered this year.
- Org health results reflected impact of the midyear departures reported at the last meeting.
- Social media is becoming a problem that leads to issues in school between students.
- This will be Morgan’s final year, he is working with AF find a successor.

### **C. Finance Committee Report**

Mike Griffin gave a report from the Finance Committee of AMistad Academy’s year to date

financials, balance sheet and the completed FY18 audit.

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 CohnReznik prepared in relation to the fiscal year ending 6/30/18.

Motion by Pat Sweet

Seconded by Jane Levin

All in favor

#### **D. Board Chair Report**

Carolyn Greenspan spoke about the visit board members had a Amistad ES and MS where they spent about an hour with each principal. She noted a huge positive difference from her last visit a couple years ago. She is hopeful that there will be a larger group and go visit again in the future. Mike Griffin asked about any plans to expand or build on to HS building. Jane mentioned that it's definitely on the radar and the team is aware that there is a need for space.

#### **V. Executive Session**

The board did not go into executive session.

#### **VI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm by Carolyn Greenspan.

Motion by Khadijah Muhammad

Seconded by Pat Sweet

All in favor