

**Amistad Academy**  
**Joint High School Committee Meeting**

January 23, 2019, 4:30 p.m.  
407 James St, New Haven

**I. Call to Order & Attendance**

The meeting was called to order at 4:58 p.m. by Jane Levin. The following board members and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

Carolyn Greenspan, Amistad Board	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support
Jane Levin, Amistad Board	Ken Paul, AF Network Support
Albert Maldonado, Amistad Board	Sarah Claybaugh, AF Network Support
Richard Ferguson, ECCP Board	Fatimah Barker, AF Network Support
Laura Saverin, ECCP Board	Tom Kaiser, AF Network Support
Genevive Walker, ECCP Board	Victor De La Paz, AF Network Support
Chris Kunhardt, AFBA Board	Shannon Garfield, AF Network Support
Jim Bennett, AFBA Board	Kevin Torres, AF Network Support
Dick Kalt - AFBA Board	
John Motley - AF Network Support Board	
Khadijah Muhammad - Amistad Board, Parent Rep.	

Public: 73 members of the public were in attendance.

**II. Open Session for Public Comment**

Jane Levin, Amistad High School Committee Chair, read a prepared statement welcoming the public, defining the purpose and goals of the meeting, and outlining the rules for public comment.

Public comments were made by 39 individuals who self-identified as AF students, alumni, parents, and current and former teachers/staff. The topics discussed included, but were not limited to: concerns over the former principal, the handling of the incident between the former principal and a student in October, school culture, student and staff wellbeing, bilingual communication, college readiness and parental engagement. Two additional letters were submitted by Amistad High School teachers who were unable to attend. Those letters were shared with the Amistad High School Committee.

Jane Levin closed the public comment session by thanking all those who spoke.

**III. Board Business**

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy High School Committee hereby approves the meeting minutes from September 12, 2018.

Motion by Carolyn Greenspan  
Seconded by Dick Ferguson  
All in favor

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy High School Committee hereby approves Emery Sykes as the interim principal of Achievement First Amistad High School, effective January 24, 2019.

Motion by Genevive Walker  
Seconded by Chris Kunhardt  
All in favor

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy High School Committee hereby seeks to hire an outside law firm to formally review a personnel decision made in October 2018 and to make findings and recommendations regarding that decision and any appropriate policy changes or other changes for future personnel decisions.

FURTHER RESOLVED, Achievement First and its designees are, jointly and severally, authorized and directed, in the name of the Amistad Academy High School Committee, to contact law firms regarding potential engagement in order to effectuate the foregoing resolution and the Chairpersons of the Amistad Academy High School Committee, the Amistad Academy, Elm City College Preparatory and the AF Bridgeport Boards of Directors will make the final selection regarding such engagement by no later than February 8, 2019 with a proposed date of completion by no later than April 8, 2019.

Motion by Carolyn Greenspan  
Seconded by Richard Ferguson  
All in favor

#### **IV. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm by Jane Levin.

Motion by Carolyn Greenspan  
Seconded by Laura Saverin  
All in favor