

**Amistad Academy  
Board of Directors**

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

370 James Street, New Haven

5:30 pm

**I. Call to Order & Attendance**

The joint session meeting of the Amistad Academy and Elm City College Preparatory boards was called to order at 5:37 pm by Carolyn Greenspan. The following Amistad Academy board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First staff were in attendance:

Carolyn Greenspan - Yes

Mike Griffin - Yes

Lorraine Gibbons - Yes (phone)

Tim Pavlis - No

Jane Levin - Yes (phone)

Pat Sweet - Yes (phone)

Carla Seeger - Yes

Khadijah Muhammad - No

Jennifer Alexander - Yes (phone)

Albert Maldonado - Yes (phone)

Sarah Lewis, Amistad School Leadership - Yes

Victoria McCall, Amistad School Leadership - Yes

Lashell Roundtree, Amistad School Leadership - Yes

Dacia Toll, AF Network Support - Yes

Shannon Garfield, AF Network Support - Yes

Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes

Sarah Claybaugh, AF Network Support - Yes

Katie Rosa Moher, AF Network Support - Yes

Public: n/a

**II. Executive Session**

The boards entered joint executive session at 5:37 pm. Motion by Mike Griffin. Seconded by Carla Seeger. The boards exited joint executive session at 7:04 pm. Motion by Genevive Walker, Elm City College Preparatory. Seconded by Laura Saverin, Elm City College Preparatory.

**III. Adjourn to individual meetings**

The board adjourned to individual meetings at 7:04pm.

**IV. Open Session for Public Comment**

No public comment.

**V. Reports, Discussion and Board Business**

**A. Principal Reports**

Victoria McCall, Amistad Middle School principal, began her update with teacher certification,

academic results from the mock SBAC test which showed year over year growth, and progress around school culture. In spite of progress, there are still behaviors at the school that are resulting in suspensions - most of which end up taking place in the gym and during unstructured times of the day.

The school is focusing on creating stronger academic and study habits around the completion of work, as scholars' grades suffer when assignments are not completed.

Ms. McCall's shared her priorities for Amistad Elementary in the 2019-20 academic year which are:

- Collaborative Community + Communication
- Scholars Feel Known and Loved
- Relentless, Thoughtful Rigor

Sarah Lewis, Amistad Elementary School principal, shared that attendance has varied dramatically this year with a range of external circumstances negatively impacting scholars' ability to get to school.

Attrition is low. The rate of suspension has been slowing down drastically throughout the year. They look to ensure that incoming teachers are either certified or would be on a quick path towards certification once hired. The board had a discussion with both principals about the difficulty of the tests required for certification. Ms. Lewis shared that Foundations in Reading is particularly hard. Most teacher who are not passing tests are missing by very small margins.

#### **B. Board Chair Report**

Carolyn Greenspan led a discussion about the Amistad High School Committee's discussion and interview with Simon Obas, the principal hiring process at Achievement First, the information the board receives from principals before and during board meetings, and potential for doing school visits so that the board members can experience the schools for themselves.

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves Simon Obas as the principal of Achievement First Amistad High School, effective July 1, 2019.

Motion by Carolyn Greenspan

Seconded by Lorraine Gibbons

All in favor

Carla Seeger Abstained from the vote

#### **VI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Motion by Pat Sweet

Seconded by Carolyn Greenspan

All in favor