

- DRAFT -

Amistad Academy
Joint High School Committee Meeting

May 22, 2019, 4:30 p.m.
580 Dixwell Ave, New Haven

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 pm by Jane Levin. The following board members and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

Carolyn Greenspan, Amistad Board - Yes	Emery Sykes, Amistad High School Principal - Yes
Jane Levin, Amistad Board - Yes	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes
Albert Maldonado, Amistad Board - No	Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes
Richard Ferguson, ECCP Board - Yes	Sarah Claybaugh, AF Network Support - Yes
Laura Saverin, ECCP Board - Yes	Fatimah Barker, AF Network Support - Yes
Genevive Walker, ECCP Board - Yes	Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes
Chris Kunhardt, AFBA Board - Yes	Christi George, AF Network Support - Yes
Jim Bennett, AFBA Board - Yes	Shannon Garfield, AF Network Support - Yes
Dick Kalt - AFBA Board - Yes	Scot Kerr, AF Network Support - Yes

Public: Peter Butler, Julie Hajducky, Nick DaCosta, Will Holland, Nasir Underwood, Hanz Legaspi, Linda Franciscovich

II. Open Session for Public Comment

Peter Butler, an employee at for 15 years who currently works at Amistad High School, spoke about trust, school culture and staff retention.

Nasir Underwood, a junior at Amistad, stated that he looks forward to coming to school now, but that there is still room to grow.

Julie Hajducky asked about the report and the investigation and when those would become available. Ms. Levin explained that it was the decision of the committee to extend the deadline of the investigation to allow time to interview all those necessary to fully conduct the investigation. The outside investigator will be present at 6:30 pm in the executive session.

Will Holland, an Amistad High School teacher, encouraged transparency with the investigator's report and spoke about teacher retention.

III. Principal Report

Emery Sykes, AF Amistad Academy High School interim principal shared that incremental progress is being made at the school, but that there is also still a lot of work to be done.

AP Exams have just concluded and the school is winding down makeup exams. This year, just over 1000 exams were taken in a number of subjects. The school is still working to fine-tune how they prepare students for the experience of taking these AP exams.

There are a number of upcoming events at the school including senior week, which has started now that AP exams are over and classes are complete. Some events from senior week include going to the movies, and trips to East Rock Park and the Bronx Zoo. The spring concert will be in June and everyone is very excited for senior signing day on May 29.

This year's seniors have all gotten over 600 acceptances to a diverse array of colleges with 100% of seniors receiving a college acceptance. Additionally, there are 300 internship programs as well as a two-week leadership program that some Amistad students will attend at Southern Connecticut State University. Ms. Sykes also shared that parents are very engaged and want to partner.

Board members engaged in a discussion with Ms Sykes around school culture changes, rules and enforcement, and student engagement.

Ms. Sykes is working on how best to capture that information and pass it along to Mr. Obas to use. She also plans to partner with him in the future.

Shannon Garfield , Regional Superintendent, shared feedback on Ms. Sykes positive impact and strong leadership at Amistad High and shared that she has visited multiple schools with Simon Obas, the future principal of Amistad High School, to see what excellence looks like in other high schools.

Prior to passing resolutions on the financials, Laura Saverin, ECCP Treasurer, gave the financial report.

IV. Board Business

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy High School Committee hereby approves the meeting minutes March 6, 2019.

Motion by Richard Ferguson

Seconded by Chris Kunhardt

All in favor

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

Motion by Genevive Walker

Seconded by Carolyn Greenspan

All in favor

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy High School Committee hereby approves the financial budget for Amistad High School for the 2019-20 fiscal year as recommended by the Finance Committee and

prepared by Achievement First.

Motion by Carolyn Greenspan

Seconded by Laura Saverin

All in favor

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 pm by Jane Levin.

Motion by Laura Saverin

Seconded by Carolyn Greenspan

All in favor