

- DRAFT -

Amistad Academy
Joint High School Committee Meeting

November 13, 2019, 4:00 pm

370 James St, New Haven

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm by Jane Levin. The following board members and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

Carolyn Greenspan, Amistad Board - Yes

Jane Levin, Amistad Board - Yes

Albert Maldonado, Amistad Board - No

Richard Ferguson, ECCP Board - Yes

Laura Saverin, ECCP Board - Yes

Genevive Walker, ECCP Board - Yes

Dick Kalt, AFBA Board - Yes

Jim Bennett, AFBA Board - Yes

Michael Strambler - AFBA Board - No

Simon Obas, Amistad High School Principal - Yes

Shannon Garfield, AF Network Support - Yes

Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes

Sarah Claybaugh, AF Network Support - Yes

Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes

Public: Julie Hajducky, Chris Peak

II. Open Session for Public Comment

There was no Public Comment

III. Principal Report

Mr. Simon Obas gave the principal report reviewing college applications, upcoming events at the High School, fall organizational health survey results, and adult culture at the school.

Seventeen scholars submitted early decision/action applications - a number similar to past years. On December 2nd, the class of 2020 will take the SAT. The school is arranging transportation and providing bus passes for scholars to ensure that that is not a barrier.

Mr. Obas discussed staffing challenges, especially in STEM. Some new teachers were hired recently. The organizational health survey results were up significantly from the spring, but are still lower than what Mr. Obas wants for his school. One of the biggest jumps (31% - 61%) was in response to the question of feeling proud of where they work.

December 15th is a choir performance. December 20th is Alumni Homecoming. The board is welcome to visit.

Ms. Shannon Garfield gave additional information about the progress of the school and Mr. Obas' performance so far this year. Board members asked about the transition to high school for students, AP courses and enrollment, staffing, areas of growth, support for ELL students, and the number of teaching positions filled since the start of the year as well as how many still open.

Ms. Garfield reported turnaround is on track at the school but they are still working on driving rigorous academic achievement and ensuring consistent teaching excellence.

IV. Financial Report

Laura Saverin gave the financial report. Despite enrollment being 20 students fewer than what was budgeted, the overall budget should still be okay.

Dick Kalt asked about the increase in the cost of busing.

V. Board Business

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy High School Committee hereby approves the meeting minutes September 11, 2019.

Motion by Laura Saverin

Seconded by Dick Kalt

All in favor

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

Motion by Genevive Walker

Seconded by Richard Ferguson

All in favor

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm by Jane Levin.

Motion by Richard Ferguson

Seconded by Genevive Walker

All in favor