

**Amistad Academy
Board of Directors**

Wednesday, November 13, 2019, 5:30 pm
370 James Street, New Haven

I. Call to Order and Attendance

The Amistad Academy Board meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by Carolyn Greenspan. The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First staff were in attendance:

Carolyn Greenspan - Yes	Jennifer Alexander - No
Lorraine Gibbons - Yes (phone)	Albert Maldonado - Yes (phone)
Tim Pavlis - Yes	Ethan Tyminski - Yes (phone)
Jane Levin - Yes	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes
Pat Sweet - Yes (phone)	Sarah Claybaugh, AF Network Support - Yes

II. Open Session for Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Elect new director and set number of directors

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors elects Tyra Smallwood to serve as a Teacher Representative with a three year term ending June 30, 2022 and does, effective November 13, 2019, set the number of members of the Board of Directors at nine (9).

Motion by Carolyn Greenspan
Seconded by Tim Pavlis
All in favor

IV. Approve Minutes

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from September 11, 2019.

Motion by Carolyn Greenspan
Seconded by Tim Pavlis
All in favor

V. Principal Reports

Amistad Elementary Principal, Brooke Williams, reported on school culture metrics including suspensions and removals, academic performance and teacher certification. The school has

implemented an afterschool basketball and cheerleading program which scholars are really enjoying. The fall organizational health results were lower than hoped, but they are diving deep this Friday to figure out how to improve adult culture.

Victoria McCall, Amistad Middle School Principal, began her report noting that this year has been a year of transitions on the staff which has impacted certification and adult culture. The leadership team is working to proactively implement academic and behavioral interventions for scholars. They've revised the school schedule so that now, core classes are done by 12:30 pm, after which scholars have lunch and Specials. They've also implemented "Effort Academy," a special time during Specials for students to complete work that is overdue. An ice cream sundae special will end the week.

VI. Regional Superintendent Reports

The board entered into Executive Session at 6:02 PM to discuss the principal performance review of the Amistad Elementary and Middle School Principals. Carolyn Greenspan invited the Regional Superintendents, Michael Hendrix and Christina Ellington, to join the board in executive session.

Motion by Tim Pavlis

Seconded by Jane Levin

All in favor

The board exited Executive Session at 6:50 PM.

Motion by Carolyn Greenspan

Seconded by Tim Pavlis

All in favor

VII. Joint High School Committee Report

Jane Levin gave the Amistad High School Report based on the Committee meeting with Simon Obas and Shannon Garfield. Seventeen members of senior class submitted early decision/action applications to some highly selective colleges and universities.

There have been some staffing challenges, especially in STEM but Mr. Obas has made some recent hires.

The school received the fall organizational health survey results which are significantly higher than spring 2019, and Mr. Obas, personally, received his 360 feedback results and shared some highlights related to his leadership during the Committee meeting.

Shannon Garfield, Regional Superintendent, noted that the school is on track with school culture metrics but they need more time to be able to assess academic performance.

VIII. Treasurer Report

Tim Pavlis, Board Treasurer, gave the financial report. Amistad Elementary and Middle are on budget, while the High School is projecting a deficit. The board discussed Amistad High School enrollment, building capacity and long-term liabilities.

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the financial report as presented.

Motion by Carolyn Greenspan

Seconded by Tyra Smallwood

All in favor

IX. Board Chair Report

Carolyn Greenspan discussed the charter renewal meeting which went well. She was grateful to Tim Pavlis for his engagement in the process. Feedback from the State should come in February. Ms. Greenspan noted that the financial audit is nearing completion.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm by Carolyn Greenspan.

Motion by Tim Pavlis

Seconded by Tyra Smallwood

All in favor