

- DRAFT -

**Amistad Academy  
Board of Directors**

Zoom Video Conference

Wednesday, May 13, 2020, 5:30 pm

**I. Call to Order and Attendance**

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 pm by Carolyn Greenspan. The following board members and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

Carolyn Greenspan - Yes

Albert Maldonado - No

Lorraine Gibbons - Yes

Ethan Tyminski - No

Tim Pavlis - Yes

Tyra Smallwood - Yes

Jane Levin - Yes

Brooke Williams, Amistad Elementary School Principal

Pat Sweet - Yes

Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support

Jennifer Alexander - Yes

Victor De La Paz, AF Network Support

**II. Open Session for Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**III. Discussion and Business**

**A. Principal reports**

Ms. Brooke Williams, Principal Amistad Elementary School, began her report addressing the satisfaction of the school's families during this time of remote learning. The response rate to a recent survey was good and feedback was generally quite positive. The school is implementing some of the feedback from families especially around progress reports.

Ms. Williams said they are working to be creative about engaging and providing lessons to the elementary school kids, putting them in small groups for mini-lessons with teachers, then sending them into breakout rooms for conferences. Attendance and work completion are top priorities. If scholars don't log in when they have a conference, teachers follow up.

Most scholars have wifi at home and for those who did not, they received hot spots from the AF network.

Ms. Williams reported 100% of the leadership team is returning next year, 85% of teachers are coming back and they are fully hired for next year. Ms. Williams is very excited about the new hires.

## **B. Joint High School Committee Report**

Jane Levin gave an update from the Joint High School Committee Meeting. Students at Amistad HS have access to all courses they are enrolled in and are having weekly advisory meetings. Attendance has been very high (as measured by work completion). The school found that many students, especially juniors and seniors, were unable to attend the live Zoom classes. However, those students are watching the videos and completing work before the end of the day.

The Amistad HS Committee meeting discussed the strong college acceptance results for the senior class and the plans for student promotion or retention for grades 9-11. Where promotion is in doubt, families have received steady communication throughout the year so that no one is surprised.

Of the twelve person leadership team, nine will return for next year resulting in a more streamlined leadership team. There are several positions still left to be filled and Mr. Obas shared his priorities for hiring.

## **C. Board Chair Report**

Carolyn Greenspan opened a discussion about the interview with Rosie Basile. The board felt strongly about her potential to be a great principal.

## **D. Chief Financial Officer Report**

Tim Pavlis presented the Treasurer's report which includes the year to date financials, showing a small surplus, and the proposed FY21 budget. Victor De La Paz joined the meeting to answer questions.

Mr. Pavlis noted the assumptions underlying the budget including flat per-pupil funding from the State, potential philanthropy, and the PPP loan. At the middle school, the budget includes commitments needed to set up the new principal for success. Mr. Pavlis also noted that, while the budget accounts for pay raises, the programmatic plans do not seem to have been too significantly cut.

Mr. De La Paz shared that they budgeted to the seat cap.

The budget will probably be revisited in the fall based on the direction of the economy and a recalibration of assumptions. Mr. De La Paz shared some thinking about planning for different scenarios based on potential budget cuts at the State level.

The board continued on to the resolutions, approving the minutes prior to going on to the financial resolutions.

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from April 23, 2020.

Motion by Tyra Smallwood  
Seconded by Pat Sweet  
All in favor

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby ratifies the re-appointment of CohnReznick to perform the financial audit of the 2019-20 fiscal year.

Motion by Pat Sweet  
Seconded by Jane Levin  
All in favor

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

Motion by Tim Pavlis  
Seconded by Lorraine Gibbons  
All in favor

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the financial budget as recommended by the Finance Committee and prepared by Achievement First for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Motion by Pat Sweet  
Seconded by Tyra Smallwood  
All in favor

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves Ms. Roseann Basile as principal of Amistad Academy Middle School effective July 1, 2020.

Motion by Tyra Smallwood  
Seconded by Pat Sweet  
All in favor

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby ratifies the re-election of the following directors with a three year term ending June 30, 2023.

- Carolyn Greenspan
- Jane Levin

Motion by Pat Sweet

Seconded by Lorraine Gibbons  
All in favor

The board welcomed Rosie Basile into the Zoom meeting to congratulate her on her appointment as Amistad Middle School principal. Ms. Basile said she looks forward to working together.

#### **IV. Adjourn**

There being no other business before the board, it was unanimously decided to adjourn at 6:34 pm by Carolyn Greenspan

Motion by Lorraine Gibbons  
Second by Jane Levin  
All in favor