

Amistad Academy

Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 28, 2020, 12:00 pm

Zoom Video Conference

- DRAFT MEETING MINUTES -

Board Members in Attendance:

Carolyn Greenspan, Jane Levin, Lorraine Gibbons, Jen Alexander, Ethan Tyminski, Pat Sweet

Staff and Guests in Attendance: Dacia Toll, Sarah Blanton, Ken Paul, Katie Rosa Moher, Scot Kerr

Sarah Blanton recorded the minutes. The meeting was called to order at 12:04 pm.

NOTE: This was a joint meeting with all Achievement First school boards.

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Discussion of 2020-21 School Reopening Plan

Dacia Toll reviewed the draft plans for the upcoming 2020-21 school year and engaged the board in a discussion about their feedback and questions, especially around the strength and vulnerabilities in the plans, how to address anxiety of staff about returning and how to support students and families who most need in-person school.

The draft plans are influenced by research from public health experts, guidance from local authorities, surveys of students, families and staff, and lessons from other districts around the world who have reopened.

Each of the plans begins with the following guiding principles:

1. Safety first
2. Family choice
3. Prioritize our youngest scholars
4. Flexibility
5. Strong socioemotional support
6. Strong student learning.

Under the AF draft plan, families will be able to choose whether they want their children to learn remotely or in-person and AF is committed to making both options excellent. In Rhode Island, the draft plans calls for kindergarten and first grade returning in person on August 31, with other grades starting

remote on that date and returning for in-person on September 15. In Connecticut, all grades will start remote on September 1 or 2 and in-person learning will be phased in starting on September 15. In New York, all grades will start remote on September 1 or 2 and in person will start no sooner than September 15.

Ms. Toll reviewed a sample schedule for in-person and remote, for elementary, middle and high school. She also reviewed the timeline for each state for gathering input on the plans, sharing them with families, collecting responses on whether they want in-person or remote, and school-specific follow up with families.

3. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:41 pm.