

**Amistad Academy**  
**Joint High School Committee Meeting**  
Zoom Video Conference  
Monday, November 2, 2020, 4:00 pm

**I. Call to Order & Attendance**

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm by Jane Levin. The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

Carolyn Greenspan, Amistad Board - Yes	Dick Kalt, AFBA Board - Yes
Jane Levin, Amistad Board - Yes	Kimberly Bruce, AFBA Board - Yes
Jennifer Alexander, Amistad Board - No	Michael Strambler - AFBA Board - Yes
Richard Ferguson, ECCP Board - Yes	Simon Obas, Amistad HS Principal
Laura Saverin, ECCP Board - Yes	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support
Julie Halberstam, ECCP Board - No	Ken Paul, AF Network Support

Public: Julie Hajducky, Kathryn Goldberg, Peter Butler

**II. Open Session for Public Comment**

Peter Butler made a public comment advocating for the Elm City Board of Directors to fill the vacant seat for a teacher representative.

**III. School Report**

Mr. Simon Obas reviewed the successes and challenges of the hybrid learning. The decision was recently made to have the entire school go fully remote until at least December 7<sup>th</sup>. He noted the challenge of truly engaging students with Zoom instruction. Students are logging in and doing work but it is not to the level that they might hope. It's keeping everyone safe, but the next hurdle is to figure out how to really engage students.

Twenty eight students have submitted college applications as of November 2, with 22 early decision submissions. The College Team grew by one full time staff member to support students with their college and career plans.

Mr. Obas shared that the organizational health survey results were very positive around staff morale, communication from the leadership team, and on feeling positively about working at Amistad High School. He highlighted that the school rated lower around whether the school

prepared students academically. They are going to address this as a team to get aligned on what it means and what they are going to do about it.

Laura Saverin gave the financial report, as of September 30<sup>th</sup>, which reflects the updated budget that was approved at the last meeting. With some expenses being higher and some lower, the school is at a break even.

#### **IV. Board Business**

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Joint High School Committee hereby approves the meeting minutes from September 8, 2020.

Motion by Dick Kalt

Seconded by Laura Saverin

All in favor

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

Motion by Carolyn Greenspan

Seconded by Dick Kalt

All in favor

#### **V. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 pm by Jane Levin.

Motion by Dick Ferguson

Seconded by Carolyn Greenspan.

All in favor