

- DRAFT -

Amistad Academy
Joint High School Committee Meeting
Zoom Video Conference
Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 4:00 pm

I. Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm by Jane Levin. The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

Carolyn Greenspan, Amistad Board - Yes
Jane Levin, Amistad Board - Yes
Jennifer Alexander, Amistad Board - Yes

Dick Kalt, AFBA Board - Yes
Kimberly Bruce, AFBA Board - Yes
Michael Strambler, AFBA Board - Yes

Richard Ferguson, ECCP Board - Yes
Laura Saverin, ECCP Board - Yes
Julia Halberstam, ECCP Board - No

Simon Obas, Amistad HS Principal
Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support
Ken Paul, AF Network Support

Public: Julie Hajducky, Peter Butler, Brian Zahn

II. Open Session for Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. School Report

Simon Obas shared that the return to school on March 2nd was smooth. Prior to the return to school, they held a professional development day (March 1st) and did a school tour to review safety protocol which include taking temperatures when students arrive, masks and social distancing. They were able to get busing despite some initial challenges.

He shared concerns about mental health among students who have struggled during the pandemic. The school has a system for following up with the scholars individually.

Generally, Dr. Obas feels that students seem happy to be back in school but they only have about 50 students in the building at a time. The year has been draining for everyone and he noted Zoom fatigue for both students and staff. He shared the important of leading with empathy.

Students who attend school in person are logging into their computers to receive synchronous instruction. Every classroom with students has an adult proctor in the room.

Planning for the 2021-22 school year is underway. Leader and staff retention is expected to be high going into next year.

Dr. Obas shared some results from college applications:

- 74% of the senior class has received at least one acceptance to a four-year college
- 25 students have decided not to pursue college after graduation

Students will participate in internships this summer and have already set up several exciting opportunities.

Dr. Obas shared that Early College Experience (ECE) will be offered next year at Amistad High. ECE courses give college credit. Eight teachers have been certified to teach these courses.

There being no other questions or comments about the school report, Laura Saverin shared the financial report.

IV. Board Business

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Joint High School Committee hereby approves the meeting minutes from January 20, 2021.

Motion by Dick Kalt

Seconded by Dick Ferguson

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 Ferguson

All in favor

V. Adjourn

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

Motion by Carolyn Greenspan

Seconded by Laura Saverin

All in favor