



**Amistad Academy  
Board of Directors**  
Zoom Video Conference  
Wednesday, May 5, 2021  
4:00 pm

**I. Call to Order and Attendance**

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm by Carolyn Greenspan. The following board members and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

Carolyn Greenspan - Yes  
Lorraine Gibbons - Yes  
Jane Levin - Yes  
Pat Sweet - Yes  
Jennifer Alexander - Yes  
Ethan Tyminski - No  
Tyra Smallwood - Yes

Shannelle Whyte - Yes  
Priyanka Junankar – No  
Yashira Agosto - Yes  
Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support  
Eduardo del Valle, AF Network Support  
Ketki Harale, AF Network Support  
Gaylord Bourne, AF Network Support

**II. Open Session for Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**III. Approve Minutes**

The board will approve the minutes at the meeting next week.

**IV. Discussion and Possible action related to the Amistad Middle School Interim Principal**

Carolyn Greenspan shared that Ms. Rosie Basile will be out on leave and Ms. LaShell Rountree has been asked and agreed to serve as interim principal for the time that Ms. Basile will be out. There was no additional discussion.

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves Ms. LaShell Rountree to serve as the Interim Principal of Amistad Middle School for a period of time beginning on May 10, 2021 and ending no later than June 4, 2021.

Motion by Pat Sweet

Second by Shannelle Whyte

All in favor



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**V. Discussion and possible action related to capital improvements on the Amistad K-8 and Amistad High School Buildings**

Gaylord Bourne shared the financial context underlying the capital investment.

Eduardo del Valle, VP of Facilities, gave an overview of the capital improvement project and the benefits associated with solar panels including an educational component as the company will install meters in the STEM classrooms.

The vendor, 64Solar, is based in New York but has done work in Connecticut, specifically in Litchfield and Fairfield Counties. The AF Facilities Team noted the strong recommendations and the ease of working with them during the bidding process.

The work would be completed by June 30, 2021.

The board discussed their interest in having the contact thoroughly reviewed by counsel. AF has spoken with an attorney who is willing and able to do this work.

Given the desire to have the contract reviewed by counsel, the board made an amendment to the proposed resolution:

Tyra Smallwood made a motion, seconded by Lorraine Gibbons, and unanimously approved by the board, to add the following language to the resolution below: “Subject to review by counsel prior to 5/12/21 of the contract specific to Amistad Academy, with a report back to the board prior to 5/12/21.”

WHEREAS, the PPP Loan that Amistad Academy received during FY21, having been fully allocated to employee compensation, has created opportunities to invest additional funds in capital facility improvements, and

WHEREAS, deploying photovoltaic (solar panel) arrays on the rooftops of Amistad Elementary/Middle School, located at 130 Edgewood Avenue, New Haven, and Amistad High School, located at 580 Dixwell Ave, New Haven, is a capital improvement that will create annual cost savings on future utility expenses while also reducing the Amistad Academy’s carbon footprint,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors authorizes the aforementioned facilities improvement project for Amistad Elementary/Middle School, as presented, and





approves spending up to, but not in excess of, \$425K for the purposes of completing the project, and

BE IT RESOLVED, pending approval by the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors and the AF Bridgeport Board of Directors, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors authorizes the aforementioned facilities improvement project for Amistad High School, as presented, and approves spending up to, but not in excess of, \$120K for purposes of completing the project, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Achievement First and its designee are, jointly and severally, authorized and directed, in the name of Amistad Academy, to take any and all actions and/or submit such documents needed to effectuate the foregoing resolution.

Motion by Shannelle Whyte  
Seconded by Yashira Agosto  
All in favor

#### **VI. Adjourn**

There being no other business before the board, it was unanimously decided to adjourn at 4:52 pm.

Motion by Jane Levin  
Second by Pat Sweet  
All in favor



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