

- DRAFT -

## Amistad Academy Board of Directors

Zoom Video Conference

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

5:30 pm

### I. Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by Carolyn Greenspan. The following board members and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

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

Priyanka Junankar – Yes  
Yashira Agosto - Yes  
Brooke Williams, Amistad School Leader  
Lashell Rountree, Amistad School Leader  
Kristin Damo, AF Network Support  
Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support  
Neil Shah, AF Network Support  
Ken Paul, AF Network Support

### II. Open Session for Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### III. Approve Minutes

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from May 12, 2021.

Motion by Shannelle Whyte  
Seconded by Pat Sweet  
All in favor

### IV. Discussion and Business

A. Discussion with Amistad Academy principals



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The principals answered questions from the board members around issues of reading support and intervention, staffing shortages and COVID safety protocol. Both the elementary and middle schools are short two teachers. The AF network recently communicated a vaccine mandate and the principals discussed the roll out and response to that mandate.

COVID vaccination exemption is available for medical or religious reasons and for those individuals, they will receive weekly testing.

#### B. Joint High School Committee Report

Jane Levin reported from the Joint High School Committee meeting in the four categories of Simon Obas's report: COVID safety, adult culture, student experience and instruction.

They have had two positive COVID cases in the Amistad High School community. Those individuals quarantined.

Adult culture is strong but Mr. Obas noted that staff are fatigued. The Committee is intending to send a letter of support to the teachers.

Students are generally happy to be back in the building. Some behavioral issues are arising, in particular in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades, so they are proactively addressing that. Mr. Obas spoke about how the school is moving away from a demerit/detention system.

The school has moved to a block system of four periods, 90 minutes each, per day. This year there are more AP courses and the school is also offering ECE courses, run through a partnership with UCONN, which gives the opportunity for college credit.

#### C. Professional Growth Plan (PGP) Review

The board entered executive session at 6:08 pm to discuss the personnel matters related to the PGPs of the Amistad Academy Elementary School Principal and invited Sarah Blanton, Ken Paul and Kristin Damo to join. Motion by Pat Sweet. Seconded by Tyra Smallwood. All in favor.

The board exited executive session at 6:21 pm. Motion by Tyra Smallwood. Seconded by Shannelle Whyte. All in favor

#### D. Finance Committee Report



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Mr. Neil Shah joined the meeting to present the financial materials including the unaudited June FY21 balance sheet which reflects the PPP loan which was forgiven by the SBA.

Mr. Shah then reviewed the Federal ESSER II/III restricted grant funding and the ways that AF is aligning the grant opportunities to its COVID Response Strategies. Each school chose from options for allocating grant resources aligned to one of the following three strategies: design for physical safety, student experience, reading intervention.

The board reviewed the amended budgets including the allocations for ESSER spending.

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the amended budget as recommended by the Finance Committee and prepared by Achievement First for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Motion by Pat Sweet  
Seconded by Yashira Agosto  
All in favor

#### E. Board Chair Report

Carolyn Greenspan noted the annual CMO evaluation and welcomed board members' input.

Board members must complete the conflict of interest disclosure statement and submit the m to Sarah via email.

Ms. Greenspan noted the board will vote on board committees as a group.

She commented that the board will vote on the family handbook which she feels is stronger and better written every year.

The final item on the formal agenda is the interim principal hiring process. In order for the schools to be able to put into place an interim principal for a short term (less than two weeks), it is best for the school to be able to act without going through the process of having a formal board meeting.

#### 1. Board Business

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby elects the following leadership slate for the 2021-22 fiscal year:

Carolyn Greenspan, Chair



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Pat Sweet Treasurer  
Lorraine Gibbons, Secretary  
Motion by Pat Sweet  
Seconded by Jennifer Alexander  
All in favor

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby elects the following Directors to serve on the Amistad High School Joint Committee:

Jane Levin (Committee Chair)  
Carolyn Greenspan  
Jen Alexander  
Motion by Pat Sweet  
Seconded by Jennifer Alexander  
All in favor

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby elects the following Directors to serve on the Amistad Academy Finance Committee:

Pat Sweet (Committee Chair)  
Carolyn Greenspan  
Ethan Tyminski  
Jane Levin  
Yashira Agosto  
Motion by Pat Sweet  
Seconded by Jennifer Alexander  
All in favor

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby elects the following Directors to serve on the Amistad Academy Personnel Committee:

Carolyn Greenspan (Committee Chair)  
Jennifer Alexander  
Pat Sweet  
Motion by Pat Sweet  
Seconded by Jennifer Alexander  
All in favor

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the Family Handbook as presented by Achievement First.

Motion by Tyra Smallwood  
Seconded by Yashira Agosto



All in favor

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the following individuals to serve as interim principal, as needed, for a term not to exceed two weeks, between September 23, 2021 and November 4, 2021.

Lauren Gemske, Amistad Academy Elementary

Lashell Rountree, Amistad Academy Middle

Motion by Pat Sweet

Seconded by Shannelle Whyte

All in favor

**V. Additional Business**

There was no additional business.

**VI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm by Carolyn Greenspan.

Motion by Shannelle Whyte

Seconded by Tyra Smallwood

All in favor



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