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
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 9th and 10th 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
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.

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