

- DRAFT -

**Amistad Academy**  
**Joint High School Committee Meeting**

Zoom Video Conference  
Wednesday, November 3, 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 - No

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 - Yes

Simon Obas, Amistad HS Principal  
Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support  
Rod Bowen, AF Network Support

Public: Julie Hajducky, Peter Butler

**II. Open Session for Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**III. School Report**

Dr. Simon Obas shared an update on the school noting staffing, coverages, substitutes (of which there are four in the building) and the occasional use of leadership team members to teach classes. He praised the teachers for their hard work.

They are looking for a Spanish teacher, Algebra II, computer science and a special education teacher. The existing special education teachers are covering the needed hours. They have also used outside tutors to support special education but with the new vaccine mandate any outside partners must be vaccinated.

Mr. Rod Bowen articulated that the best thing board members can do to support the staffing



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shortages is send any potential teacher candidates to apply with a request to work at Amistad High School. Sarah Blanton and Rod Bowen are going to follow up to identify ways that candidates can specify a desire to work at Amistad High School, even if it is not the AF school with the greatest need.

While many students are thriving in the school environment, some are struggling with the transition back to school. School leadership elections took place recently. There are sports teams, peer mentoring (which is run by a social worker), and after-school clubs are getting started.

The committee had a discussion about gatherings and the prohibition on spectators attending indoor sports events.

13% of the senior class applied early decision/action as of November 1<sup>st</sup> with more students applying on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The college team is supporting families with their financial aid applications. The goal is to have 90% of the senior class submit applications by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

There have been some out of school suspensions and the Committee will get an update on that data at the next meeting.

Laura Saverin updated the board on the financial materials.

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

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy High School Committee hereby approves the meeting minutes from September 22, 2021.

Motion by Laura Saverin  
Seconded by Mike Strambler  
All in favor

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

Motion by Dick Ferguson  
Seconded by Carolyn Greenspan  
All in favor



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**V. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 by Jane Levin.

Motion by Dick Kalt

Seconded by Dick Ferguson

All in favor



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