

- DRAFT -
Amistad Academy Board of Directors
Zoom Video Conference
Wednesday, March 2, 2022
5:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Carolyn Greenspan. The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First staff were in attendance.

Yashira Agosto - Yes	Jesse Balis-Harris, Chief of Schools (Elementary)
Jennifer Alexander - Yes	Kristin Damo, Regional Superintendent
Lorraine Gibbons - No	LaShell Rountree, Director of School Operations
Carolyn Greenspan - Yes	Kate Aufiero, AF Network Support
Jane Levin - Yes	Fatimah Barker, AF Network Support
Gayatri Mehra - Yes	Beth Cocuzza, AF Network Support
Tyra Smallwood - No	Elise Major, AF Network Support
Patricia Sweet - No	Connor McGann, AF Network Support
Ethan Tyminski - Yes	Ken Paul, AF Network Support
Shannelle Whyte - Yes	Neil Shah, AF Network Support
	Megan Tokarski, AF Network Support

II. Open Session for Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Board Business

A. Approve Minutes

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from January 12, 2022.

Motion by Jane Levin
Seconded by Jennifer Alexander
All in favor

B. Principal Reports

LaShell Rountree, Director of School Operations, gave a report about Amistad Academy Middle, on behalf of Principal Roseann Basile. Ms. Rountree updated the Board on several important school culture metrics, including student attendance, attrition, and suspension rates, as well as academic performance, including class pass rates and results from the mid-year STAR reading assessment.

- Carolyn Greenspan suggested that, for future reports, it would be helpful to include comparative pre-pandemic data to help contextualize the school's current performance.
- Jane Levin asked about lower proficiency/growth rates among 8th graders on the STAR reading assessment. Jesse Balis-Harris explained that the growth rate of Amistad Academy Middle's 8th graders is toward the top of AF's middle school cohort. Historically, AF has seen a trend of lower reading proficiency/growth rates in upper grades and is investing in improving its secondary reading program to address this.

Kristin Damo, Regional Superintendent, delivered a report about Amistad Academy Elementary. Ms. Damo updated the board on several important school culture metrics, including staff satisfaction and retention, student attendance and suspension rates, and student and family satisfaction, as well as academic performance. Reading remains an area of concern, with 58% of Amistad Academy Elementary students growing at least 1+ levels on the mid-year reading assessment cycle, slightly below the AF network average for elementary schools. Students are continuing to receive extra support in phonics. Amistad Academy Elementary's performance on the most recent math interim assessment was on par with the AF network average.

C. Financial Report

Neil Shah, Chief Financial Officer, and Kate Aufiero, Vice President of Financial Planning & Analysis, presented Amistad Academy's year-to-date financial statements, through January 31, 2022, as previously reviewed with the Board's Finance Committee. Amistad Academy's Balance Sheet is typical for this point in the school year, and overall, the charter is projecting a positive balance.

In May 2022, the Board will review Amistad Academy's year-to-date financial statements, through March 31, 2022, as well as vote on the budget for FY23 (2022-23).

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the financial report as presented.

Motion by Jennifer Alexander
Seconded by Carolyn Greenspan
All in favor

IV. Discussion and Additional Business

A. Joint High School Committee Report

Jane Levin summarized Principal Simon Obas's school report from the Amistad Academy Joint High School Committee Meeting earlier today, as recorded and published in the committee meeting minutes dated March 2, 2022.

B. Executive Session: Personnel Discussion Regarding Principal Renewal Offers for the 2022-23 School Year

The board entered Executive Session at 6:05 p.m. and invited Achievement First staff to join. Motion by Jennifer Alexander. Seconded by Shannelle Whyte.

The board exited Executive Session at 6:12 p.m. to vote on the resolution for Principal renewal offers for the 2022-23 school year. Motion by Jennifer Alexander. Seconded by Jane Levin.

Carolyn Greenspan amended the resolution to remove Simon Obas, Principal of AF Amistad High, until the Board has an opportunity to speak with the Regional Superintendent.

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors has discussed the performance of the Amistad Academy Principals intending to return for the 2022-23 school year and the compensation package as proposed by Achievement First, and hereby approves the renewal of the following Principals, with a final compensation package to be incorporated in the FY23 budget to be reviewed and approved in May 2022:

- Brooke Williams, Principal, Amistad Academy Elementary School
- Roseann Basile, Principal, Amistad Academy Middle School

Motion by Jennifer Alexander
Seconded by Jane Levin
All in favor

C. Board Chair Report

There was no Board Chair report.

D. Approve Yale SOM Fellow

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves Ms. Gayatri Mehra to serve as a Yale SOM Board Fellow for an 18-month term, ending June 30, 2023.

Motion by Carolyn Greenspan
Seconded by Shannelle Whyte
All in favor

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V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m. by Carolyn Greenspan.
Motion by Shannelle Whyte
Seconded by Jennifer Alexander
All in favor

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