



**DRAFT Minutes  
Amistad Academy  
Board of Directors Meeting**

Venue: Amistad Academy Middle School, Room 150  
130 Edgewood Ave, New Haven, CT 06511  
Zoom: <https://achievementfirst.zoom.us/j/83942299731>  
Monday, February 6, 2023, 5:30-6:30 pm

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Jen Alexander.

Attendees:

Name	Present	Name	Present
Patricia B. Sweet	Y	Shannelle Whyte	
Lorraine Gibbons	Y	Yashira Agosto	Y
Jennifer Alexander	Y	Gayatri Mehta	N
Ethan Tyminski	Y	Linda Darkwah	

**AF Staff:** Lauren Raimondi, Beth Cocuzza, Rosie Basile, Kate Aufiero, Gaylord Bourne, Rod Bowen

**II. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

Approval of minutes was postponed until later in the meeting pending Ms. Lorraine Gibbons's arrival at the meeting. Following the Elementary School Principal Report, Ms. Lorraine Gibbons took the board through the approval of the previous meeting minutes.

It was:

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from December 7, 2022 and the Joint CT Board meeting

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minutes from August 23, 2022.

Motion by Pat Sweet  
Second by Jen Alexander  
All in favor.

#### **IV. Discussion with Achievement First**

##### **A. Principals' Reports**

Ms. Lauren Raimondi gave the Elementary school report, emphasizing the strong start of the calendar year with a focus on reading. She discussed the results of the org health survey which measures staff satisfaction and noted that the school's results this year were the strongest to date. She attributed the positive results to the school community's improved communication and sense of respect and compassion as well as the commitment to student outcomes. She also described the growth opportunities around staff input on areas such as curriculum decisions and she mentioned some of the action items the school's leadership team has taken to allow opportunities for this type of input.

Ms. Rosie Basile gave the Middle school report. She kicked off with an update on STAR reading, sharing a video where students discussed their reading growth, as well as some data of student average reading growth by grade level and overall progress towards the end-of-year goals.

Ms. Basile then gave an overview of the schools' org health data, sharing that the Amistad Middle School had the strongest results compared to the network. She shared the positive aspects contributing to staff satisfaction as well as the growth area related to staff input and the steps being taken to allow staff voice in the areas that matter to them.

#### **V. Committee Reports**

##### **A. Treasurer's Report**

###### **1. FY22 Audited Financial Statements**

Ms. Gaylord Bourne and Ms. Kate Aufiero gave a high level overview of the annual audit process and stated that the audit received an unmodified opinion which is the cleanest audit that

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can be received. Ms. Bourne answered questions from the board members.

#### B. Amistad Joint HS Committee Report

The Amistad Academy Board was joined by members of the AF Bridgeport Academy Board and the Elm City College Prep Board to hear the Amistad Joint HS Committee report.

Mr. Rod Bowen gave the High School report on behalf of Principal Simon Obas, starting with an update about the staff holiday party and some highlights about the school's basketball team.

He then discussed the results of the school's recent org health survey which outperformed the AF network averages across all dimensions but one.

He shared some of the key positive aspects and the growth areas and outlined some next steps and action items that the school's leadership team committed to putting in place in response to the survey results.

Board members asked questions about

- the STAR reading data and whether it represented a particular grade or an overall average
- whether humanities teachers were also able to focus on reading instruction and what other resources can be made available to shore up literacy such as tutoring

#### VI. Adjourn

At 6:35 pm, Ms. Lorraine Gibbons took the board through a motion to join the boards of AF Bridgeport Academy, Elm City College Prep and AF Hartford Academy in the Joint CT board meeting.

Motion by Jen Alexander  
Second by Yashira Agosto  
All in favor.