

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

Venue: Virtual Meeting

Zoom: <https://achievementfirst.zoom.us/j/85971520489>

Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 4:30-5:30 pm

I. Call to Order

Lorraine Gibbons called the meeting to order at 4:34pm.

Name	Present	NAME	Present
Jennifer Alexander	N	Kimberly Bruce	N
Lorraine Gibbons	Y	Dick Ferguson	Y
Yashira Agosto	Y	Laura Saverin	N
Dick Kalt	Y	Prish Pierce	Y
Michael Strambler	N		

AF Staff: Sulafa Bashir, Shannon Miller, Simon Obas, Kiersten Gibson-Cooper, Dumar Paden.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Gibbons asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion by Dick Kalt
Second by Prish Pierce
All in Favor.

It was approved.

RESOLVED that the Amistad Academy Joint HS Committee hereby approves the meeting minutes from May 22, 2023

IV. Discussion

A. School Report

Mr. Simon Obas reported on Amistad High School. He said the school year is off to a great start. The staff seems to be very invested. One highlight is the football team who is 4-1 so far this year which is back since 2018. There are now a number of sports and after school programs for scholars to participate.

Mr. Obas said they are getting ready to start college visits again. In late August, they were voted US News & World Report number seven public high school in the state of Connecticut. He said that it is great but there is a lot of work to be done to remain at that level of excellence. He has been very intentional about staff culture and recently did a survey which will have results soon.

Mr. Obas mentioned that spirit week is coming up at the end of October through Nov. 3rd. There are also interim assessments starting next week. This Saturday is the PSAT for students. There will be transportation provided for Bridgeport students.

Ms. Gibbons thanks Mr. Obas for the robust report and would love to try to visit. She is happy to hear about all the activities that help to make up a positive school culture. She attended the graduation ceremony and was very impressed.

Ms. Prish Pierce asked about the status of finding STEM teachers. Mr. Obas said it is better than last year but not fully hired. They have two offers out now and if they sign they will be fully hired.

Mr. Ferguson asked about the tenure of the faculty. Mr. Obas said the majority have been there 1-3 years but there are a handful who have been there longer. Mr. Ferguson asked about the deans. Mr. Obas stated they are split between longer tenured and newer.

Mr. Ferguson asked about the condition of the building. Mr. Obas said the building is good but the HVAC system has issues. He has spoken to the Facilities and Operations about replacing.

Mr. Obas also reported that students are being bused to Southern to take college prep classes. 21 go for classes during the day and two that go in the evening. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to get a sense of what college is like.

Dick Kalt asked about busing delays which Mr. Obas said it is back to normal.

Ms. Gibbons asked about the number of students and there are 720. She asked about the number for Bridgeport. Mr. Ferguson said it was about 35 % in the past.

Mr. Ferguson asked about stats for kids going into college and where they are going. Mr. Obas said he has the information and will send it later.

Mr. Kalt asked about the college dropout rate. Mr. Paden said that 91% went to post secondary pathways. 59% of AF graduates have either graduated or persisted which is about 30% higher than the national average. He said we are happy where we are but still pushing to get to be 100%.

Mr. Kalt mentioned that not all kids are going to be bound for college. Dumar Paten said in the upcoming board meetings he will be presenting more on how we support all students.

Mr. Kalt asked about the suspension rate. It is currently at 1% and we are on track to being under the 8% water line. Mr. Kalt asked about teacher certification. Mr. Paten said we don't have a choice and we are working towards compliance.

B. Finance Report

There was no financial report at the meeting.

V. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Motion by Dick Ferguson.

Second by Prish Pierce.

All in favor