



Amistad Academy Board Meeting Minutes

Achievement First

Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 6:30 PM to 7:00 PM EST

Amistad High School - 580 Dixwell Avenue, New Haven, CT 06513

Attendees

Board Members: Lorraine Gibbons, Jim Baron, Jason Prime, Alex Guzhnay, Henry Melzer, Yashira Zwisler, Shannelle Whyte

AF Staff: Amy D'Angelo, Sulafa Bashir

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Lorraine Gibbons at 6:32 pm.

II. Public Comment

There were no members of the public present who wished to make public comment.

III. Executive Session

Ms. Gibbons confirmed that a quorum of board members was present. She then indicated the need for the board to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Jim Baron motioned, Alex Guzhnay seconded, all were in favor and the board moved into Executive Session at 6:33 pm and exited at 6:40 pm.

IV. Board Business and Resolutions

Ms. Gibbons moved on the approval of the consent agenda. She asked if there were any questions or requested edits. There being none, she asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Alex Guzhnay motioned, Jason Prime seconded. All were in favor and the consent agenda passed.

1. BE IT RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from October 23, 2025 and October 28, 2025.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the following individuals to serve as interim principal, as needed through October 30, 2026, for a period of time not to exceed sixteen weeks, based on the recommendations by Achievement First.

School	Interim Principal 1	Interim Principal 2
Middle School	Qiana Dinkins	Kahlil Smith

V. Finance Committee Report

The members of the Finance Committee shared some of the highlights of the Q1 financials with the rest of the board members. The discussion included enrollment shortfalls resulting from withdrawals among students in grades 10 and 12, linked to safety issues from the previous year. Since then stabilization efforts were made which have altered the community's perception and improved conditions. There was also a discussion of strategies for community engagement that would result in potentially positive impacts on future enrollment. Additionally, suggestions were made to create a plan to engage 8th grade parents more effectively, aiming to clarify what the school offers amidst competition from other schools.

VI. Adjourn

Ms. Gibbons reminded the board members to complete the board contact and composition survey that had been sent out to them by the AF team.

There being no further business, Ms. Gibbons asked for a motion to adjourn, Alex Ghuznay motioned, Jim Baron seconded, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.