



Amistad Academy Special Board Meeting - Minutes

Venue: Virtual Meeting

Zoom: <https://achievementfirst.zoom.us/j/89781741246>

Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 9:00 am

Attendees

Board Members: Lorraine Gibbons, Jason Prime, Jen Alexander, Jim Baron, Shannelle Whyte

AF Staff: Amy D'Angelo, Dumar Paden, Mirtha Camille Sabio, Kiersten Gibson-Cooper, Ash Rodriguez

Guests: AJ Lowe

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Lorraine Gibbons at 9:00 am.

II. Public Comment

Principal AJ Lowe requested to address the board. He stated his understanding that the board was convening to discuss his termination. Mr. Lowe expressed his concerns regarding the circumstances that had led to the termination recommendation and he argued his case before the board.

Ms. Gibbons thanked Mr. Lowe and stated that the board will take his comments under consideration.

III. Executive Session: Personnel discussion: Amistad High School

Ms. Gibbons stated that the board needed an executive session for the topic of Amistad HS personnel discussion, and requested a motion for the board to enter into executive session, inviting the present AF network staff members to join.

Jen Alexander motioned, seconded by Jim Baron. The board entered executive session at 9:09 am and exited at 9:52 following a motion to exit by Jen Alexander, seconded by Shannelle Whyte, and all were in favor.

IV. Board Business and Discussion

Ms. Gibbons confirmed that there was still a quorum of board members present, following board member Jim Baron's early exit from the meeting. She then asked if there were any questions about the consent agenda. Hearing none, she



asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Shanelle Whyte motioned, seconded by Jen Alexander. Lorraine Gibbons was in favor, and an abstention was registered for Jason Prime due to technical difficulties as indicated in the attached certification. With a majority vote, the consent agenda passed.

Consent Agenda:

1. WHEREAS, the Board engaged in full and fair discussion regarding a personnel matter occurring in executive session of the Board; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the recommendation to terminate the employment of A.J. Lowe, as principal of Amistad Academy High School effective January 23, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the Executive Director of Connecticut, or their designee, to take all necessary steps to effectuate this action, including the issuance of required notices, execution of any related documents, and communication of the decision as appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the discussion held in executive session shall remain confidential as required by law and Board policy.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves Jasmine Watts to serve as interim principal of Amistad Academy High School through the end of the 25-26 school year, based on the recommendation by Achievement First.

V. Adjourn

There being no other business, Ms. Gibbons requested a motion to adjourn. Jen Alexander motioned, seconded by Shannelle Whyte. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 pm.