

Joint Session
Amistad Academy & Elm City College Preparatory
Boards of Directors
Wednesday, September 17, 2014, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
403 James Street, New Haven

A meeting of the joint boards of Amistad Academy and Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors.

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Richard Ferguson, Chair of Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors, at 5:42 p.m.

The following directors and staff were in attendance:

Bill Bouton, Legal Resources - Yes	Melinda Hamilton, AA Board - Yes
Carolyn Greenspan, ECCP Board - Yes	Caroline Williams, AA Board - Yes
Pat Sweet, ECCP Board - Yes	Sheri Gellman, AA Board - No
Erik Clemons, ECCP Board - Yes	Toni Harp, AA Board - No
Richard Ferguson, ECCP Board - Yes	Howard Hill, AA Board - No
Marnie Halsey, ECCP Board - Yes	Dorsey Kendrick, AA Board - No
Patricia Pierce, ECCP Board - Yes	Andrew Lachman, AA Board - No
Laura Saverin, ECCP Board - Yes	Amanda Alonzy, School Leadership - Yes
Kaitlyn Stasik, ECCP Board - Yes	Rebecca Good, School Leadership - Yes
Magaly Cajigas, ECCP Board - No	Katie Poynter, School Leadership - Yes
William Heins, ECCP Board - No	Andrew Poole, School Leadership - No
Sharon Oster, ECCP Board - No	Karin Gould, School Staff - Yes
Deb Quinsee, ECCP Board - No	Shirley Harrell, School Staff - Yes
Lystra Richardson, ECCP Board - No	D. Scot Kerr, AF Network Support - Yes
Katrin Czingler, AA Board - Yes	Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes
Lorraine Gibbons, AA Board - Yes	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes
Michael Griffin, AA Board - Yes	Robyn Silverman, AF Network Support - Yes
	Candice Dormon, AF Network Support - Yes

II. Principal Reports

Ms. Rebecca Good, Elm City College Preparatory Middle School Principal, provided a report on Elm City College Preparatory Middle School. Ms. Good lauded Achievement First's stronger than ever summer trainings for new teachers, leaders, and returning teachers. Ms. Good is excited that in addition to strong leadership at AF, community leadership and residents are also doing extremely well.

Ms. Good is confident in ECCP to make dramatic academic gains this year. She feels strongly about the alignment with common core in addition to new state testing. She is eager to catch up to AF NY counterparts and believes that the first round of interim assessments (IAs) will inform her and her school tremendously. Ms. Good was pleased to announce that the students are doing much of their work, including quizzes and assignments, on computers in preparation for computer based IAs and state tests. Good emphasized the importance of a smooth transition into an AF Greenfield school model. In addition, she wants to ensure that the community feels supported and informed throughout the transition so that we can maintain our strong relationship now and in the future.

Ms. Katie Poynter, Amistad Academy Middle School Principal, provided a report on Amistad Academy Middle School. Ms. Poynter agreed with fellow Principal Ms. Good that her school is happy with Achievement First training this year and confirmed that her staff jumped into the classroom stronger than ever before. She is eager to see the teachers grow even more throughout the school year.

Ms. Poynter noted that this school year suspensions are down 80% from where they were last year. She identified classroom culture and teacher's classroom management as two key contributing factors to success. Ms. Poynter confirmed that Amistad MS is prioritizing fun and joy in building relationships with kids and families. Their first town hall meeting, open to families and friends of AF held on Friday, September 12, 2014, was a success. Teachers participated in a flash mob and the Amistad community celebrated achievements from the 2013-14 school year.

Ms. Poynter expressed concern for full enrollment on October 1, 2014. Amistad MS has partnered with New Haven Public Schools and Amistad community members to reach full enrollment. Ms. Poynter is committed to backfilling all grades and discussed Amistad's protocol for welcoming students to Amistad Academy Middle School. Ms. Poynter also discussed high teacher retention and teacher sustainability.

Ms. Amanda Alonzy, Principal of Amistad Academy Elementary School, provided a report on her school. Ms. Alonzy discussed her school's eight week culture vision and the great gains the teachers are making. On the academic front, Ms. Alonzy confirmed AAES is pushing towards the October IAs. Ms. Alonzy reported that teachers, academic deans, and leadership at AA ES and ECCP ES are partnering to achieve more. She stated that there is a great potential both schools in this work.

Ms. Alonzy agreed with AF's policy to backfill but did note the challenge to get those students up to grade level. Ms. Alonzy stated that scholars who being at an Achievement First school in kindergarten are more and more prepared academically and behaviorally.

Ms. Shirley Harrell, Director of School Operations of Elm City College Preparatory Elementary

School, provided a report on ECCP ES. Ms. Harrell stated that the school year is off to a solid start with two clear goals: Eight Week Culture Vision and IA scores of 80%. She identified the next four weeks as critical to achieving success. Ms. Harrell read a letter written by Mr. Andrew Poole, Principal of ECCP ES. Mr. Poole's attention is focused on academic instruction and making sure teachers have a positive mindset about doubling student test scores. Ms. Harrell confirmed that the schools is one scholar away from full enrollment. Ms. Harrell concluded her report by inviting all to ECCP ES Family Pot Luck dinner on September 23rd.

Mr. Ferguson thanked the school leadership for all of their great work.

III. Joint High School Committee Report (Caroline Williams)

Ms. Caroline Williams, Chair of Amistad Academy Joint High School Committee, provided a report summarizing Mr. Bostock's presentation from the earlier meeting. Ms. Williams noted the growing student population (440 students) and reiterated Mr. Bostock's excitement to move into the new building in January. Ms. Williams discussed the building project and the multi-sport turf field installation. Ms. Williams confirmed construction timelines and budgets. Ms. Williams discussed exciting staff updates for the college readiness program.

IV. Community Engagement (Candice Dormon)

Ms. Candice Dormon, Achievement First Associate Director, New Haven Community Engagement, introduced herself and explained the internal re-organization of Achievement First's External Relations Team. Ms. Dormon provided a report of the New Haven Community. Ms. Dormon discussed community outreach including AF's partnership with Northeast Charter School Network to reflect a more public united front of the sector. Ms. Dormon stated that we want to make sure the public knows about all of the great schools. She is working on a legislative breakfast to ensure that legislatures visit all local schools. In addition, Ms. Dormon noted the growing partnership with ConnCAT (Connecticut Center for Arts and Technology) and announced that Dr. Howard Fuller will speak on September 25th at ConnCAT as part of his most recent book tour. Ms. Dormon described the 100 person strong Bridgeport cleanup effort that Amistad High School students who live in Bridgeport attended. Ms. Dormon also discussed AF's growing partnership with the Dixwell/Newhallville Community specifically with the alderman and longtime librarian of Stetson Branch Library.

Ms. Dormon also provided an update on student recruitment. She identified 10-12 seats open across all of our schools. Ms. Dormon confirmed that AF is working with the City of New Haven to ensure full enrollment on October 1, 2014. She stated that it is an interesting opportunity for parents and families to come into the school community.

V. Governance Committees (Marnie Halsey)

Ms. Marnie Halsey provided an update on the Governance committee. Ms. Halsey stated that the committee is focused on bringing in a leadership team for the Amistad Academy Board. Ms. Halsey confirmed that Deborah Quinsee, Paul McCraven, Michael Thomas, and Michael Van Leesten have resigned from the Board. In addition, Ms. Gibbons has agreed to serve as Secretary, Mr. Michael Griffin has agreed to serve as Treasurer, and Ms. Caroline Williams has agreed to serve as Vice Chair at Amistad. In addition, Ms. Carolyn Greenspan and Ms. Patricia Sweet will transition to the Amistad Academy Board from the ECCP Board. Ms. Halsey urged Board Members to think about potential board members and confirmed that October will be a great recruitment month for both Boards.

VI. Visitor Day Schedule (Ken Paul)

Mr. Ken Paul discussed Visitor Day in New Haven. He confirmed that AF will continue to host Visitor Days and all information is available on the Achievement First website. Ken implored board members to attend a visitor day and invite others.

Announcements

Ms. Lorraine Gibbons announced that she hosted an AF intern over the summer and was extremely impressed by the intern. Ms. Gibbons stated that the intern exceeded expectations and her entire team was blown away by the incredible work.

Adjourn at 6:56 p.m. by Mr. Richard Ferguson

The joint Board of Directors meeting of Amistad Academy and Elm City College Preparatory adjourned to Individual Board Meetings

Amistad Academy
Board of Directors
Wednesday, September 17, 2014
403 James Street, New Haven, Community Room

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order by Melinda Hamilton, Chairman of the Board, at 7:19 p.m.

The following directors and staff were in attendance:

Bill Bouton, Legal Resources - Yes
Katrin Czinger, AA Board - Yes

Sheri Gellman, AA Board - No
Toni Harp, AA Board - No

Lorraine Gibbons, AA Board - Yes
Carolyn Greenspan, AA Board - Yes
Michael Griffin, AA Board - Yes
Melinda Hamilton, AA Board - Yes
Pat Sweet, AA Board - Yes
Caroline Williams, AA Board - Yes

Howard Hill, AA Board - No
Dorsey Kendrick, AA Board - No
Andrew Lachman, AA Board - No
D. Scot Kerr, AF Network Support - Yes
Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes
Robyn Silverman, AF Network Support - Yes

II. Public Comment

We asked for public comment there was none.

III. Board Business

A. Approve minutes of 5/28/14 and 7/31/14 Meetings

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Directors of Amistad Academy hereby approves the 5/28/14 and 7/31/14 Meeting Minutes as drafted.

Moved by: Katrin Czinger
Seconded by: Caroline Williams
All In Favor

B. Approve Financial Report

Mr. Michael Griffin, Treasurer of Amistad Academy Board of Directors, provided the financial report. Mr. Griffin reported that Amistad has a balanced budget. He stressed the importance of full enrollment on October 1, 2014 since full enrollment impacts revenue. Mr. Griffin provided an update on the audit conducted by CohnReznick. He stated that he is eager to see the audit financials and report due to the Board of Directors on October 20, 2014. Mr. Griffin confirmed that the Finance Committee has been working to make sure Achievement First has a strong and adequate Finance Team. Mr. Griffin enthusiastically reported that Jon Schwartz, previously VP of Operations, has transitioned to VP of Finance and reporting to Max Polaner, Chief Financial Officer.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Directors of Amistad Academy hereby accepts the financial report as presented.

Moved by: Melinda Hamilton
Seconded by: Lorraine Gibbons
All In Favor

C. Approve 2014-15 Family Handbook

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Board of Directors of Amistad Academy acknowledging receipt of the Family Handbook as drafted.

Moved by: Katrin Czinger
Seconded by: Melinda Hamilton
All In Favor

D. Approve 2014-15 School Wellness Policy

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Board of Directors of Amistad Academy acknowledges receipt of approves the 2014-2015 School Wellness Policy as drafted.

Moved by: Melinda Hamilton
Seconded by: Caroline Williams
All In Favor

E. Elect representatives to the Board of Directors of Amistad Academy

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Board of Directors of Amistad Academy re-elected Jane Levin, Katrin Czinger, Caroline Williams, and Andrew Lachman as Class II directors with the term limits ending June 30, 2015, June 30, 2015, June 30, 2017, and June 30, 2017, respectively.

Moved by: Katrin Czinger
Seconded by: Caroline Williams
All In Favor

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Board of Directors of Amistad Academy elected Carolyn Greenspan and Patricia Sweet as Class II and Class III directors, respectively, with the term limits ending June 30, 2017, June 30, 2015, respectively.

Moved by: Michael Griffin
Seconded by: Lorraine Gibbons
All In Favor

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Board of Directors of Amistad Academy elected Carolyn Greenspan as Chairman of the Board to the Board of Directors of Amistad Academy.

Moved by: Michael Griffin
Seconded by: Lorraine Gibbons
All In Favor

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Board of Directors of Amistad Academy elected Caroline Williams as Vice Chairman of the Board to the Board of Directors of Amistad Academy.

Moved by: Michael Griffin
Seconded by: Lorraine Gibbons

All In Favor

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Board of Directors of Amistad Academy elected Michael Griffin as Treasurer of the Board to the Board of Directors of Amistad Academy.

Moved by: Michael Griffin
Seconded by: Lorraine Gibbons
All In Favor

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Board of Directors of Amistad Academy elected Lorraine Gibbons as Secretary of the Board to the Board of Directors of Amistad Academy.

Moved by: Michael Griffin
Seconded by: Caroline Williams
All In Favor

Executive Session (Personnel)

Melinda Motion to move into Executive Session at 7:35 p.m.
Seconded by: Carolyn Greenspan
All in Favor

Exited at 8:31 p.m.

IV. Board Discussion

A. Addendum to Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (ED-009)

Adjourn at 8:34 p.m. by Melinda Hamilton