

Approved, 1/21/15

**Amistad Academy  
Joint High School Committee Meeting**

November 19, 2014, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

403 James Street, New Haven

**I. Call to Order & Attendance**

The meeting was called to order at 4:38 pm by Caroline Williams.

The following board members and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

Lorraine Gibbons, AA Board - Yes  
Caroline Williams, AA Board - Yes  
Andrew Lachman, AA Board - No  
Richard Ferguson, ECCP Board - No  
Max Perez, AFBA Board - Yes  
Andrew Boas, AFBA Board - No  
Cornelius Medas, AFBA Board - Yes  
Carolyn Greenspan, AA Board - Yes

William Heins, ECCP Board - Yes  
Patricia Pierce, ECCP Board - Yes  
Chris Bostock, School Leadership - Yes  
Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes  
Michael Kerin, AF Network Support - Yes  
Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes  
Robyn Silverman, AF Network Support - Yes

Guests

Katrin Czinger

Pat Sweet

Laura Saverin

**II. Open Session For Public Comment**

**III. School Report**

Chris Bostock, Principal of AF Amistad High School, provided an update. Mr. Bostock discussed staffing citing the loss of two teachers and the absence of an English Academic Dean. Mr. Bostock confirmed he has since hired one teacher with the second teacher starting in December. Mr. Bostock shared that, "we are stretched thin but the school year is humming." Students and teachers are looking forward to the move to the new campus in January! The second day of class in the new building will be alumni homecoming during which alums return to the school to sit on panels and answer questions for current scholars. In addition, the school's winter exhibition will take place soon after December break and showcase student's artwork and academic achievements. The most exciting event will be the opening ceremony in the Spring.

Mr. Bostock provided an update on school culture stating that overall suspensions have decreased

approximately 50% year over year. He credits this success to strategic decisions around incidents as well as policy and procedure efficiencies of transitioning scholars back into the classrooms. Mr. Bostock also provided an academic update. He noted that the school is working hard to align curriculum to common core standards and in particular, all sciences courses and curriculum are at the college-ready bar. Like in college, students receive a syllabus at the beginning of the year and are held accountable for submitting homework assignments at the college level and on time. Mr. Bostock is working with academic deans to track student learning to ensure students pass AP exams. Overall, Mr. Bostock is happy with the academic program and increasing GPA trends. He confirmed his team has done collaborative research with AF's college team to unpack variations in GPA. Mr. Bostock provided further context that last school year, Amistad High School had very rigorous standards which yielded lower GPA scores. School leaders and teachers are working to align and norm grading practices.

Mr. Bostock provided an update on college readiness. He shared that for the first time, students are applying to California colleges, and other new schools. Mr. Bostock is excited that college lists are becoming more diverse stating that, "There is a lot of potential!" In sum, Amistad High School's goal is to maximize the number of students who graduate in four years and maximize the number of highly selective universities students attend!

#### **IV. Facilities Report**

Michael Kerin, Director of Facilities, provided an update on the new high school building located at 580 Dixwell Avenue in New Haven. Mr. Kerin reported that the project is in its final stages. The facilities team anticipates receiving the temporary certificate of occupancy on December 1, 2014 which will allow the moving process to begin. Although, the movers are scheduled to arrive on December 20, 2014. The classrooms are complete. Mr. Kerin stated that his team is focusing on completing the finishings of the cafeteria, gym, and other back of house tasks. Mr. Kerin displayed pictures of what the new high school will look like. Mr. Kerin lauded the operations team at Amistad High School and praised their collaboration with the facilities team to ensure a seamless transition to the new space. Due to the move, scholars will have a longer December break but teachers will return earlier to set up their classrooms. Mr. Kerin also confirmed that his team is working closely with the building department and regulating agencies to ensure all inspections are approved. Mr. Kerin ended his report by confirming that the project is still under budget and his team has a list of alternates they may be able to provide the school with as the project comes to a close.

#### **V. Board Business**

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from September 17, 2014.

Moved by Carolyn Greenspan

Seconded by Will Heins

All in favor

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the financial report as presented.

Moved by Carolyn Greenspan

Seconded by Will Heins

All in favor

## **VI. Board Discussion**

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22p.m. by Caroline Williams.