

Amistad Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
September 13, 2016
495 Blake Street, New Haven

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order by Carolyn Greenspan at 7:01 pm.

The following directors, constituting a quorum, and staff were in attendance:

Carolyn Greenspan - Yes	Jennifer Connell - Yes
Caroline Williams - Yes	Katrin Czingler - No
Mike Griffin - No	Paul McCraven - Yes
Lorraine Gibbons - No	Khadijah Muhammad - Yes
Andrew Lachman - Yes	Tim Pavlis - Yes
Cassie Crockett - Yes (phone)	Reginald Simmons - No
Daisy Gonzales - No	
Jane Levin - Yes (phone)	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes
Pat Sweet - Yes	Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes

Member of the public: John Krause

II. Open Session for Public Comment

No public comment.

III. Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from 5/18/16 and 7/12/16.

Motion by Caroline Williams
Seconded by Pat Sweet
All in favor

III. Reports

A. Board Chair Report

Carolyn Greenspan had an opportunity to speak with both the elementary and middle school principals

in advance of this board meeting. Zack Vose, Amistad Elementary School Principal, said that the start is the year was very strong. Many teachers have been at the school a long time and they've been focusing on building trust and strengthening the adult culture. They have three Stage Four "Distinguished" teachers.

Attendance has held strong at 99% for scholars. Last week they did "redoing" week where scholars got points for going back and fixing their work. And with the teachers, they did a New Haven scavenger hunt similar to the Greenfield walking tour to connect the teachers and staff with the community.

Katie Poynter, Amistad Middle School principal, shared that over 200 kids went to a Bluefish game, thanks to the help of AFBA board member Dick Kalt. Those who were able to go were the scholars who showed strong academic growth last year. They worked on having positive conversations with scholars who were not able to go, encouraging them to work hard for the next opportunity.

More academic incentives are in place this year. Scholars with a certain GPA are invited to go to a pizza lunch off campus with a dean. The board discussed the idea that budget item could be a nice way for board members to cover costs. Katie invited board members to join those lunches.

Every two weeks each scholar gets a progress report about both behavior and academics.

Katie shared with Carolyn that she only has five new staff members this year compared with 15 last year. Only two of the five new teachers are brand new teachers. The other three have prior teaching experience.

Carolyn reviewed the SBAC results highlighting the growth at the elementary and middle schools.

Carolyn noted the resignation of Dr. Dorsey Kendrick.

Carolyn shared some goals of the Governance Committee that Cassie Crockett put together, such as creating a checklist, recruiting and onboarding new members.

Pat Sweet shared some advocacy updates including a new 501c(4) called CT Forward that has recently been created. She encouraged everyone to reach out to their legislators.

B. Treasurer Report

Carolyn Greenspan gave the financial report. The Finance Committee had a good meeting with Victor De La Paz, the new CFO. October 1st the State will allocate funding based on enrollment.

1. Approve Financial Report

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

Motion by Caroline Williams
Seconded by Pat Sweet
All in favor

IV. Executive Session (optional)

The board did not go into Executive Session.

V. Additional Business

RESOLVED, pursuant to the bylaws of Amistad Academy, the Board of Directors does hereby set the number of members of the Board of Directors at fifteen (15).

Motion by Pat Sweet
Seconded by Jennifer Connell
All in favor

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the Conflict of Interest Policy as presented.

Motion by Pat Sweet
Seconded by Jennifer Connell
All in favor

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm by Carolyn Greenspan
Motion by Jennifer Connell
Seconded by Tim Pavlis
All in favor