

- DRAFT -

Amistad Academy
Joint High School Committee Meeting

January 25, 2016, 4:30pm
580 Dixwell Ave, New Haven

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m. by Carolyn Greenspan. The following board members and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

Caroline Williams, Amistad Board - No	Chris Kunhardt, AFBA Board - Yes
Carolyn Greenspan, Amistad Board - Yes	Cornelius Medas, AFBA Board - No
Reginald Simmons, Amistad Board - Yes (phone)	Dick Kalt - AFBA Board - Yes
Richard Ferguson, ECCP Board - Yes	Morgan Barth, Amistad High School Principal - Yes
Laura Saverin, ECCP Board - Yes	Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes
William Heins, ECCP Board - No	John Furniss, AF Network Support - Yes

Public: n/a

II. Open Session For Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. School Report (Morgan Barth)

Morgan Barth started with an update on college admissions. As of January 1, 1,050 applications were filed by 103 seniors, so far 124 college acceptances (combination early decision/early action, and non-UCONN CSU schools). 62% of seniors have been accepted to at least one 4-year college, 84% of all senior applications have been accepted. Two students were accepted to Yale, one to Wesleyan, one to Union College, one to Lafayette, one to Franklin and Marshall. This year marks the first time there have been scholars who go fully K-12 at AF.

The sophomores and juniors have been working on summer plans. Every student does some sort of summer enrichment program, whether on campus pre-college program, internship, AF enrichment, or summer academy (for those scholars who may need to make up a class).

Several Regional Superintendents and principals did a deep dive on Amistad High yesterday. Everyone felt that the school is looking better, affirming a lot that they've been working on. Mr. Barth feels that they are making strong progress culturally. Academic results are mixed. Have set very high goals for GPA, AP classes, etc. Midterm assessments have had mixed results. Some courses/subjects have gone down slightly, some have raised. Ultimately not pleased, but Mr. Barth feels that fixing the adult culture/making every classroom strong will really affect student achievement. Dick Kalt inquired as to the drop off in GPA in senior year. Not only are those students taking some of the hardest classes, but

they are struggling to maintain momentum after applying to colleges.

There have been some challenges with the *AP For All* movement. By senior year some subjects are only offered in AP, but there have been challenges with getting kids ready for those classes. Next year there will be a small number of alternative placements for students who have a very legitimate need to not be in an APclass. Allowing opt-out would greatly benefit student investment, but participation would drop significantly. Mr. Kalt asked about training alternatives to college. Dacia is very intrigued and has put it on the list for attention in the future. Mr. Kunhardt asked about the relationship between Amistad HS and colleges, particularly surrounding how difficult the Amistad HS experience is. Mr. Barth related that most schools that we work with understand what it means for a scholar to come from Amistad HS.

Typically around this time of year there are 30-40% of students who are Promotion in Doubt, but support picks up significantly (interventions, mandatory homework study hour). Nonetheless, the percentage of students who are failing at least one class is high.

IV. Financial Report (Laura)

Ms. Saverin gave the financial report. HS is still showing a very small deficit (\$4,400).

V. Board Business

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy High School Committee hereby approves the meeting minutes from November 16, 2016.

Motion by Chris Kunhardt
Seconded by Laura Saverin
All in favor

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy High School Committee hereby approves the financial report as presented.

Motion by Chris Kunhardt
Seconded by Laura Saverin
All in favor

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m. by Carolyn Greenspan
Moved by Dick Ferguson
Seconded by Chris Kunhardt