

- DRAFT -

Amistad Academy
Joint High School Committee Meeting

March 22, 2017, 4:30 pm
495 Blake Street, New Haven

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 pm by Carolyn Greenspan. The following board members and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

Caroline Williams, Amistad Board - No
Carolyn Greenspan, Amistad Board - Yes
Reginald Simmons, Amistad Board - Yes

Chris Kunhardt, AFBA Board - Yes
Cornelius Medas, AFBA Board - No
Dick Kalt - AFBA Board - Yes or No

Richard Ferguson, ECCP Board - Yes
Laura Saverin, ECCP Board - Yes
William Heins, ECCP Board - No

Morgan Barth, Amistad High School Principal - Yes
Ken Paul, AF Network Support - No
John Furniss, AF Network Support - Yes

Public: Isis, President of Student Government, Miquel, Vice-President

II. Open Session For Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. School Report (Morgan Barth)

Mr. Barth invited two scholars to speak and share their experiences at the school. Winter sports have just finished (boys basketball made it to you playoffs). They had a Black History Month celebration in mid-March and a Shakespeare company came and performed Romeo and Juliet.

Isis began with a conversation regarding the rally that was held last year regarding teacher diversity and the merit system. Racial diversity has improved but there is still room for improvement. She said she feels that there is still room for more cultural diversity within the curriculum - particularly for Latino students. The merit system has gotten better. There are far fewer complaints and it's not disrupting classroom time/teaching.

Miquel wants to focus on retaining teachers of color. Not having the same teachers year over year is very disruptive to school culture. Isis reiterated that there is a lot of teacher turnover to the detriment of teacher-student relationships. She feels that more time needs to be devoted to advisory to foster a stronger relationship between teachers and students. Miquel added that earlier in the year in advisory did a mental/emotional health check, and that he would like to see more in the way of emotional/mental support. They haven't had the opportunity to talk openly in advisory after that one time.

Isis mentioned that clubs have grown significantly and have many more ways for students to be

engaged. All clubs are student run (with teacher advisors), approved by SGA and then run by the students. Miquel highlighted the weekly emails sent out by Mr. Barth which serve as a school newsletter. Principal to student communication has been good but there's still room for improvement.

Mr. Barth then led a discussion on the state of the school, beginning with a discussion of college persistence. They are increasingly focusing on college persistence rather than simply college matriculation. Mr. Ferguson asked how many kids who have dropped out are able to re-enroll. Mr. Barth explained that he is able to anecdotally say that a number of kids who have dropped out that are still in contact with their advisors and/or planning to re-enroll.

Mr. Barth explained that although college persistence has increased and the number of students who need to take remedial classes in college has dropped significantly, average GPA at Amistad HS is going down due to many factors. They are working to better support students through their challenges especially in AP classes.

Mr. Barth gave the Board the enrollment projections for the next six years. Classes are increasing but expect to level off after next year, however they are already at a limit to how many kids can actually fit in the school.

IV. Financial Report (Laura)

Laura Saverin gave a financial report.

V. Board Business

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy High School Committee hereby approves the meeting minutes from January 25, 2017.

The Committee did not have quorum and did not pass this resolution.

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

The Committee did not have quorum and did not pass this resolution.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 pm by Carolyn Greenspan.