



COMMISSION MEETING

Agenda

**June 9, 2023
1:00PM -3:00PM
Teams Meeting**

Chair, Commissioner Lillie Johnson Edwards

- I. **Public Session: Call to Order – 1:00PM (2 minutes)**
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance (1 minute)**
- III. **Approval of Draft Minutes from the March 24, 2023, Meeting (Attachment III – Pages 2-4) (5 minutes)**
- IV. **Approval of Draft Minutes from the Special Meeting of the Commission on May 17, 2023 (Attachment IV – Page 5) (2 minutes)**
- V. **Budget Discussion and Priorities for Fiscal Year 25 and 26 – Commissioner Rosie Grant, Chair, Finance Committee (5 minutes)**
- VI. **Ideas for Board of Commissioner Retreat/Training: Lavonne Bebler-Johnson (10 minutes)**
 - A. Status of the Review of Bylaws
- VII. **Executive Director’s Report (30 minutes)**
 - A. Summer Institute Update
 - B. Status of Approved Staffing Plan
 - C. Strategic Planning Council Meeting
 - D. Communication Plans for Amistad Commission Launched on May 1st
 - E. Update on Webpage and New Curriculum Site
 - F. Update on MOA with NJEA Partnership and Donation
 - G. Executive Director Top Priorities for Academic Year 2023-2024
- VIII. **Future Agenda Items for the Next Meeting of Commissioners: Dr. Edwards (2 minutes)**
- IX. **Open Public Comments and Remarks: General Public (10 minutes)**
- X. **Adjournment**

The Amistad Commission Quarterly Meeting
Friday, March 24, 2023
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting
Lillie Johnson Edwards, Chair
Minutes

Notice of this meeting was filed with the Office of the Governor, the Secretary of State
State House Press Corps and posted on the Amistad Commission webpage

Commission Members in Attendance:

Lillie Johnson Edwards, PhD
Acting Commissioner Angelica Allen-McMillan designee, Hanifa Barnes, Assistant Commissioner
Patricia A. Atkins, Esq. Andrea Roseborough-Eberhard
Lavonne Bebler Johnson Joyce Ship-Freeman, Vice-Chair
Rosie Grant Senator Troy Singlet designee, Charisse Watts
Fatima Heyward Nyeema C. Watson, Ph.D.
Danielle M. Jones Senator Samuel D. Thompson (R-12), designee
Willian D. Payne Leigh Maris
Tom Puryear

Absent:

Reverend Derrick Green
Anthony J. Iacono, EdD
Khyati Y. Joshi, PhD
Jason J. Redd, JD, M.CRP, BS
Kenyatta Stewart, Esq.
Assemblyman Antwan McClellan-(R-1)
Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, (D-15)

Quorum Confirmed – 14 Present, 7 Absent

Amistad Staff

Patrick Lamy, Executive Director

Iman AQuddus, EPDS3

Trevor K. Melton, EDPS2

Glender Terrell, Administrative Assistant

NJDOE Staff

Kerlyn Espinal, Executive Director

Office of Commissions

Division of External and Legal Affairs

Public Guest

James Harris

Prior to the official start of the meeting, there was a general announcement by Dr. Lamy, Executive Director, that the meeting was being recorded and transcribed.

Dr. Edwards began the meeting officially at 1:03 pm, assured the presence of a quorum and officially called the meeting to order.

Dr Edwards thanked all participants for joining the meeting and read the statement pertaining to the public session of the Commission meeting to ensure compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

A call for attendance was officially taken and recorded by Iman AQuddus.

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Edwards began the meeting with the reading of the Pledge of Allegiance and asked all participants to join. “I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Approval of Draft Minutes from the January 20, 2023

Dr. Edwards asked for approval of the minutes of the January 20th, 2020, meeting of the Commission which were distributed with the meeting materials. Dr. Edwards moved that the Commission approve the minutes. The minutes were moved by Commissioner Watson and seconded by Commissioner Payne for approval with corrections. **Results of the vote was 12 in favor and 2 abstentions.** The minutes were approved contingent on designated edits to clarify the budget year as FY2023

Proposed Budget Adjustments for Fiscal Year 24

Commissioner Rosie Grant presented a preliminary budget for consideration for approval. The proposed budget represents a reallocation of funds that reflect the current appropriation from the State of New Jersey. The proposal reflects a total of \$1,110,000. There was a discussion on each budget line. The Commissioners approved the preliminary budget conditional to further details on each line item. The preliminary budget was moved by Commissioner Payne and seconded by Commissioner Heyward for approval with further detailed line items. **Results of the vote was 11 in favor and 3 abstentions**

Executive Director’s Report (35 minutes)

Dr. Edwards asked the Executive Director, Dr. Patrick Lamy to share a report on the following section of the agenda. Dr. Lamy provide a detailed overview of the 2023 Summer Institute and recorded all the suggestions from the Commissioners. The institute is scheduled at William Paterson University from July 17-20. A revised and near final version of the program for the Summer Institute will be shared at the next Commission Meeting.

The Executive Director reported on a new staffing plan for the Amistad Office. As part of the development of a new strategic plan for the Amistad Commission, the Amistad Office recommended the addition of 6 Regional Coordinators (RC) of the Amistad Commission. The RC will have specific geographic responsibilities designated by northern, central, and southern regions of the state of New Jersey. The RCs will have specific responsibilities for counties located within each region. The addition of the 6 RCs will require a reorganization of the Amistad Office staff. The plan was supported by the Commissioners.

The Executive Director reported on the need for the development of a Strategic Planning Council (SPC). The SPC needs to be established and created by direct invitation from the Executive Director of the Amistad Commission. The group should include representation among all constituents including staff, teachers, Commissioners, and community partners. Dr. Lamy and Dr. Edwards will serve as Co- Chairs of the SPC. There was a brief discussion on the structure of the SPC and strategies to engage external community partners.

Dr. Lamy introduced the new communication plan for the Amistad Office which will be part of the new strategic

plan for mass communication to all teachers, administrators, and municipalities throughout the state of New Jersey. Dr. Lamy announced new partnerships with NJEA, AFT, Trenton Public Schools, the Bugg Foundation, and other organizations. He also announced his upcoming presentation to the State Board of Education at the April 5th meeting next month.

Future Agenda Items for the Next Meeting of Commissioners

Dr. Edwards noted that Dr. Lamy will schedule a meeting to change the June 16 meeting date to June 9 since June 16th is a state holiday. The proposed agenda for the Commission's June 9 meeting will include the following items: MOA with the Department of Education (vote); bylaw revisions (vote); budget projections for FY25 and FY26 (Finance Committee); academic year plan, new website, Summer Institute and other updates on Teacher Resources and Educator Support (ED); personnel updates (Executive Session with the Executive Director); commission orientation and training (Bylaws and Governance).

Open Public Comments and Remarks: General Public

Dr. Edwards invited members of the public to take no more than 1 minute to ask a question or and make suggestions for the Commission and staff to consider in its work. These will be noted in the minutes and presented for staff and Commission consideration. The member of the public was James Harris.

Adjournment

Dr. Edwards thanked Commissioners, the Executive Director, Amistad office staff, and members of the public, for attending the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday May 17, 2023

Teams Meeting

Scheduled 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm Meeting adjourned 1:39 pm

Attending

Commissioners

Kerlyn Espinal, Patricia A. Atkins, Lavonne Bebler-Johnson, Lillie Johnson Edwards (Chair), Rosie Andrea Grant, Fatima Heyward, Danielle M. Jones, Tom Puryear, Joyce Shipp-Freeman (Vice Chair); Bill Payne, Charise Watts (Designee)

Amistad Staff

Patrick Lamy (Executive Director), Iman AQuddus, Trevor K. Melton, Glender Terrell

DOE/AG Staff

Laurie Fichera

Public

None in Attendance

Dr. Edwards delayed the meeting until assured the presence of a quorum.

Dr. Edwards began the meeting officially at 1:10 pm, assured the presence of a quorum and officially called the meeting to order.

Dr. Edwards thanked all participants for joining the meeting of the Amistad Commission. Dr. Edwards read a statement pertaining to the public session of the Commission meeting to ensure compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. The Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon in accordance with the provisions of this act. The Amistad Commission has posted notice of this meeting to be published by having the date and time in place thereof posted in the Department of Education, Secretary of State's Office. The notice was also given to the State House Press Corps and the Governor's Office.

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Edwards began the meeting with the reading of the Pledge of Allegiance and asked all participants to join. "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Voting Item: Change of Commission Meeting Date from June 16th to June 9th

There was a motion to change the date of the Commission Meeting from June 6th to June 9th by Chair Edwards. That motions were seconded by Rosie Grant. There was no discussion the motion was unanimously approved.

Voting Item: Approval of MOA Between DOE and Amistad Commission

There was a motion by Rosie Grant to approve the MOA between the DOE and the Commission. That motioned was seconded by Joyce Ship-Freeman. There was much discussion about the language in the document, particularly in relation to legal services, reporting structure and conflict of interest, and terms and modification. The motion was approved

There was a brief discussion at to why the Commission will not be voting on the acceptance of the \$75,000 donation from NJEA to the Amistad Commission. This item will be addressed at a later meeting of the Commission.

Open Public Comments and Remarks:

There were no comments or remarks from the public.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 1:39pm