



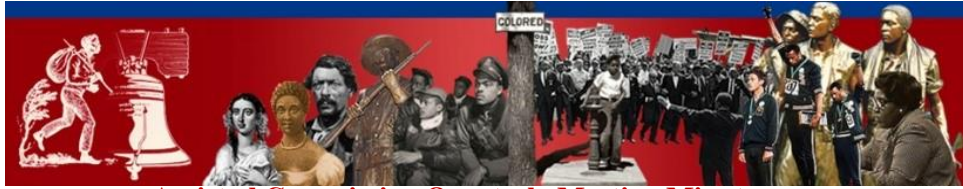
## COMMISSION MEETING

### Agenda

**Friday  
January 24, 2025  
1:00 PM  
Teams Meeting**

- I. **Public Session: Call to Order – (2 Minutes)**
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance (1 Minute)**
- III. **Actions Items: (20 Minutes)**
  - A. Approval of Draft Minutes from the December 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting – **Attachment III-A**
  - B. New Approval of Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2025  
*(Calendar Year 2025: Virtual: January 24, March 21, **June 20**, September 26, December 19) (Motion to change original date of June 20<sup>th</sup> to June 27<sup>th</sup>)*  
Note: Executive Committee meets two weeks prior to Commission Meeting date  
Board Retreat Dates: August 6-7, 2025 in Atlantic City
- IV. **General Updates (15 Minutes)**
  - A. Dana Communication and New Website Update
  - B. Update on Members of Standing Committees
  - C. Discussion on Board Retreat and Bylaws – Lavonne Bebler-Johnson
  - D. NJEA Ghana Trip Collaboration - **Executive Session**
- IV. **Executive Director Report (15 Minutes)**
  - C. Summer Institute 2025 Overview and Registration Process and Board Retreat
  - D. Exemplary Award Program
  - E. Strategic Plan Next Steps
  - F. Staffing Plan Update
  - G. Partnerships and Collaborations
- V. **Open Public Comments and Remarks: General Public (10 minutes)**
- VI. **Adjournment**

## Attachment III-A



### Amistad Commission Quarterly Meeting Minutes December 13, 2024

#### Commissioners

Patricia Atkins, Lavonne Bebler-Johnson, Rosie Grant, Fatima Heyward, Danielle Jones; Antwan McClellan; Jason Redd; Joyce Ship-Freeman (Vice Chair); Andrea Roseborough-Eberhard; Senator Singleton; (Kemani Scott). Khyati Joshi.

#### Amistad Staff

Patrick Lamy, Trevor K. Melton, Iman AQuddus

#### DOE/AG Staff

Amna Toor, Kerlyn Espinal

#### Public

Members of the general Public (1 Guest)

#### Meeting Called to Order

Vice Chair Ship-Freeman began the meeting officially at 1:09 pm with confirmation of a quorum and roll call.

Vice Chair Ship-Freeman thanked all participants for joining the meeting of the Amistad Commission and referenced the statement pertaining to the public session of the Commission meeting to ensure compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

#### Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Ship-Freeman began the meeting with the reading of the Pledge of Allegiance and asked all participants to participate.

#### Approval of Draft Minutes from the September 27, 2024, Commission Meeting

The minutes were reviewed and there was a vote to approve the minutes from the September 27, 2024 meeting of the Commission. There was a motion to approve the minutes. The Commissioners all voted in favor. Motioned by Commissioner Atkins and seconded by Commissioner Bebler-Johnson. All in favor with one abstention from Commissioner Joshi.

#### Presentation by Dana Communications.

Dr. Lamy provided a general overview of the time with the collaboration with Dana Communications which began in March of 2024. Dana Communication conducted a presentation at the Summer Institute and the NJEA Conference in Atlantic City. There was a follow up survey with all the attendees from NJEA to collect more data on how teachers envision utilization of the new website. Dana has also been meeting on a regular basis with a group of teachers that represent every county in New Jersey. Dana Communication presented an overview of their work on the project over the past nine months including a walkthrough of actual components of the new website. They also collected feedback from the Board on additional material to consider for the website.

#### Strategic Planning Adoption

Vice Chair Ship-Freeman introduced the Strategic Plan and opened the floor for discussion. Dr. Lamy provided an overview of the process and the historic nature of the vote that is to occur at the meeting for the Board to officially adopt the content of the Commission's first Strategic Plan.

There was a motion by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Bebler-Johnson. The motioned carried and the plan was officially adopted as of December 13, 2024.

#### Revised Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2025

**The Commission Meeting dates for calendar year 2025 were introduced at the meeting Vice Chair Ship-Freeman. The meeting will remain virtual with the following dates:** January 24, March 21, June 20, September 26, and December 19. The Executive Committee meetings will be two weeks prior to the approved Commission Meeting dates. There was also a discussion on sending out the meeting invitations immediately. Dr. Lamy assured the Board that the meeting invites for both the Commission and the Executive Committee will be sent out within a week. The Board also requested that a reminder was sent out about the Commission Retreat which is scheduled from August 6<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> in Atlantic City. There was a motion by Bebler-Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Atkins to approve and accept the meeting dates. The motioned carried and the dates are officially confirmed for calendar year 2025.

#### Executive Director Report

The Amistad Office team is progressing steadily towards achieving its annual goals for the 2024-2025 academic year. Our primary focus includes launching the new Strategic Plan and the Curriculum Support Website. Additionally, we are developing several new partnerships and collaborations.

**Summer Institute 2025:** Building on the success of the 2023 and 2024 Summer Institutes, the 2025 event will follow a similar structure, addressing the needs of teachers from grades K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Data from 1,138 completed surveys by teachers and administrators will be the blueprint for our agenda for 2025 institute. The staff opened the registration for the 2025 Amistad Summer Institute during the New Jersey Education Association's Annual Convention in November 2024. We are partnering with Stockton University to manage the collection of a \$100 registration fee, per in-person attendee.

**2024 New Jersey Education Association Convention (NJEA) Update:** The Amistad Office had an exhibitor's booth, in addition to conducting four different presentations at NJEA's 2024 Convention. The four sessions provided educators with vital professional development hours and gave the Amistad Commission significant visibility at the event. The Amistad Office also met with NJEA Officials on November 22, 2024, to secure the donation for the potential trip to Ghana in August 2025. The final proposal is under internal review to determine the feasibility of planning the trip for 25-30 (NJEA) educators. The estimated cost per traveler is approximately \$3,500.

**National Committee on Social Studies (NCSS) 2024 Convention:** We had a very successful presentation at the National Council for Social Studies National Conference in Boston on November 23, 2024. New Jersey was positively highlighted the work of the Amistad Commission in infusing African American's contributions in the classrooms of New Jersey. Our session had educators from Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Massachusetts, and other areas of the country.

**New Curriculum Website Launch in January 2025:** The Amistad Office continues to work with Dana Communications to meet our launching of the new Amistad Curriculum Website on January 6, 2025. The main webpage will house the link to the curriculum website, which will serve as a resource for New Jersey educators, (K-12 and college) students and parents.

**Status of Approved Staffing Plan:** The Human Resources Office is in communication with the finalists for the full-time and part-time positions, as well as the three interns. The goal of the Amistad Office is to have everyone on board by mid-January 2025.

**Partnerships and Collaborations:** We are excited to announce several new partnerships and collaborations that will enhance our initiatives:

1. **Dana Communications:** Beyond the development of the Curriculum Support Website, Dana Communications will assist in creating promotional materials and outreach strategies to ensure widespread adoption and utilization of our resources.
2. **New Jersey Education Association (NJEA):** Our ongoing partnership with NJEA includes not only financial support for the Ghana trip but also collaborative efforts to develop professional development programs for teachers across the state.
3. **Local School Districts:** We are forming alliances with several local school districts to pilot new curriculum modules and gather feedback to refine our educational materials.
4. **New Jersey National History Day:** This will allow staff to evaluate and recognize student's project the highlight African American's contributions in U.S. History and World History.
5. **Community Organizations:** Partnering with community organizations such as the New Jersey Historical Society and local cultural centers, we aim to integrate community-based learning experiences into our curriculum.
6. **Lawnside New Jersey' Historical Society:** We are Developing a virtual walk through of the Peter Mott House, with the help of Camden County Technical School. **The tours can be viewed with a link** by all those with access to the Amistad Commission's webpage and website.

**Moving Forward:** The Amistad Office team continues to address both challenges and opportunities to meet the mandate of the Amistad Legislation successfully. This is our moment to truly impact the lives of students, teachers, and educators in New Jersey. With the support of our Board of Commissioners, partners within the Department of Education (DOE), and the Governor's Office, we can accomplish the intent and purpose of the Amistad Legislation.

**Open Public Comments and Remarks: General Public)**

There was only one comment by Guest Mollineaux regarding her impression of the great work of the commission over the past two years. Commissioner Jones offered an invitation to an MLK event in January. There was a comment on 2026 anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in relation to event planning. Trevor announced the process for Commissioners to attend events on behalf of the Commission.

**Adjournment**

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Commissioner Joshi, seconded by Commissioner Atkins. The meeting was adjourned at 2:21pm.