

Achievement First Hartford Academy

Board of Directors Meeting

September 18, 2017, 5:30 pm

305 Greenfield St, Hartford

Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Barry Jacobson. The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

Barry Jacobson, AFHA Board - Yes

Jeffrey Digel, AFHA Board - No

Angela Scott, AFHA Board - No

Marshall Ruben, AFHA Board - Yes

Carol Birks, AFHA Board - Yes

Jose Rendon, AFHA Board - Yes

Ja Hanna, AFHA Board - Yes

David Dee, AFHA Board - Yes

Alice Turner, AFHA Board - No

Hide Inga, AFHA Board - No

Deborah Prince, AFHA Board - Yes

Kerri-Ann T. Thomas, AFHA School Leader - Yes

Sorby Grant, AFHA School Leader - Yes

Ben Cruse, AFHA School Leader - Yes

Emily Banks, AFHA School Leader - Yes

Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes

Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes

Nick Lebron, AF Network Support - Yes

Public: Lisa Tanen-LaFontaine

Open Session for Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approve Minutes

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from 8/01/17.

Motion by Jose Rendon

Seconded by Carol Birks

All in favor

Principal Reports

Kerri-Ann T. Thomas, Principal, AF Hartford Elementary School. Kerri-Ann passed around a document with a certification update showing where each teacher is on their path towards certification. She discussed the sense of urgency and focus on this issue at AF Hartford Elementary School

Kerri-Ann said that they are working on going from good to great.

Sorby Grant, Principal, AF Hartford Middle School. Sorby shared the certification update for her teachers at AF Hartford Middle School. Some teachers have changed content areas or grade levels and several are studying for and taking tests. If those individual pass tests their certification numbers should

be in a good place.

School year is off to the best start since she has been principal and the 5th grade is particularly strong. The 5th grade teachers are some of the strongest in the school and it's exciting to see them with such a well prepared group of scholars. School culture is dramatically better than in the past.

Sorby needs 8th grade math teachers.

Ben Cruse, Principal, AF Summit Middle School. Ben shared an update on certification at AF Summit Middle School. Five additional teachers will be certified by December 1. Those five teachers are waiting on paperwork that should be processed by December 1. The others must take tests or gather paperwork from outside entities (TFA - North Carolina, other States where teachers were certified).

Ben shared that there was some exciting year over year growth in math and they hit all their school culture goals last year. Attendance is at 97.2% which is an improvement over last year where attendance was a particular challenge.

Emily Banks, Principal, AF Hartford High School. Certification is at 78% which means seven teachers are uncertified. Five of the seven need to take tests. They've got tutors and Emily has heard that the tutoring is effective. Marshall Ruben asked about the frequency of tests and whether there is anything the board can do. Emily said the are given every two to three months and Emily said that the board can help by keeping the pressure on.

Emily also shared that the school year is off to a good start and that the disappointing AP results have lit a fire with the teachers.

Committee Breakout Sessions

The board broke out into four groups to discuss specific topics: governance, external relations, finance and principals.

Board Chair Report

The board decided not to vote on the resolution regarding the driving policy at this time to allow time to gather additional information. By Friday, September 22, board members need to send specific questions to Sarah Blanton. Sarah will get responses to the board by Friday, September 29, and the board will hold a vote at a meeting to be scheduled in early October.

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the Corrective Action Plan in response to Finding 2016-001 which has been approved by the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Motion by Jose Rendon

Seconded by David Dee

All in favor

Treasurer Report

Barry Jacobson gave the treasurer's report on the close of FY17 and the year to date financials of FY18.

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

Motion by Marshall Ruben

Seconded by Deborah Prince

All in favor

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm by Barry Jacobson.

Motion by David Dee

Seconded by Deborah Prince