

Approved: April 11, 2013

Achievement First Hartford Academy

Board of Directors Notes

January 23, 2013

In Attendance: Jean LaVecchia (Chair), John Motley, Gretchen Unfried-English, Laura Estes and James Morton.

Others in attendance:

Laina Vlasnik Yip, Director of External Relations, recorded minutes

Pat Sweet, Director of External Relations

Tony Siddall, Senior Director of Governance and Authorizer Relations

Candice Dorman, Associate Director of Advocacy and Parent Engagement

Jean LaVecchia called the meeting to order at 7:50 pm. Ms. LaVecchia asked if there were any public comments, and hearing none, she moved into regular board business.

Please note that quorum was assumed but not actually established, as there were not enough members.

Ms. LaVecchia requested volunteers for the PGP Committee to review principal performance. Laura Estes and Jean LaVecchia volunteered. Ms. LaVecchia stated that Nancy Zwiener also volunteered.

Ms. LaVecchia asked the board if they had a chance to review the meeting minutes from the previous board meeting. Mr. Morton mentioned that he was not marked as present in the previous board meeting. Ms. Unfried shared that her last name is now Unfried-English and requested that future notes reflect her new last name.

Ms. LaVecchia then asked the board treasurer to provide the board with a financial update. Laura Estes asked a question about grant allocations from the previous minutes. Mr. Motley reported that he would follow up with Ms. Estes's question. Mr. Motley reviewed the balance sheet and forecasted financials with the board and answered questions from the board.

Laina Vlasnik Yip provided a report on the progress of the Hartford Charter Renewal. She reported that the application would be submitted in mid-February with a site visit to follow in late February.

Candice Dormon provided a report about an exploratory conversation that took place the previous evening regarding the potential for a new K-8 charter school in Hartford set to open in 2014 with a 5th grade and in the following year, with an elementary school starting with kindergarten. Co-CEO of Achievement First Dacia Toll led the meeting in Hartford. It was attended by Mr. Motley and other school leaders in Hartford and seven parents. Team External Relations will keep the board informed of any progress regarding the potential expansion in Hartford.

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Ms. LaVecchia reported that the joint high school committee plans to meet next week. She also reported that Dr. Sharpe attended the Howard Fuller event held at the Hartford Club at the beginning of January.

Ms. Estes asked about the mentorship program. Mrs. Sweet and Ms. LaVecchia are meeting next week regarding the mentoring experts. Mrs. Sweet reports that they have been thinking about attracting young people who are current college students to boost the mentorship program. Ms. Estes suggested HYPE and the Metro Hartford Alliance. Mrs. Sweet mentioned that she has been in touch with The Governors Prevention Task Force.

Ms. LaVecchia asked for any other new business to discuss.

Ms. Estes asked what the school is doing to target increased results on the internal Achievement First report card. Ms. LaVecchia mentioned that the principals will attend the next meeting and speak specifically about their schools' progress.

Ms. LaVecchia encouraged board members to attend the board meetings and to make a contribution of some kind to encourage 100% giving from the board.

Ms. LaVecchia asked if there is no further business and hearing none she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: _____