

Achievement First Bridgeport Academy

Board of Directors Meeting

January 23, 2013, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Connecticut Boards Joint Session:

Achievement First Bridgeport Academy: Cornelius Medas, Max Perez, Dick Kalt, Ed Raice, Chris Kunhardt, Melissa Ceriale and Andy Boas.

Achievement First Hartford Academy: Jean LaVecchia, John Motley, Gretchen Unfried-English, Laura Estes, and James Morton.

Elm City College Preparatory: Richard Ferguson: William Heins, Patricia Pierce, Laura Saverin, Carolyn Greenspan, Joe Boskovski and Deb Quinsee.

Amistad Academy: Jane Levin , Paul McCraven, Alexander Troy, Caroline Williams, Lisa Bonniefield, Sheri Gellman, Lorraine Gibbons , Michael D. Griffin , Melinda Hamilton, and Howard K. Hill.

Others in Attendance:

Kelonda Maull, Lauren Miller, Reshma Singh, Tony Siddall, Ken Paul, Marc Michaelson, Laina Vlasnik Yip, Rhea Byer-Ettinger, Bill Bouton, Theresa Neff-Webster, Candice Dormon, Sharon Richards, Amy Christie, Chris Bostock, Mary Ann Holland, Genna Weinstein, Amy Helbig, Candice Dormon, Pat Sweet, and Carolina Inciarte.

Ms. Hamilton called the meeting to order at 6:06pm

She welcomed everyone and asked for public comment. Hearing none, she asked Ms. Singh to give everyone an update on Advocacy and Facilities.

Ms. Singh gave an update on advocacy in Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York in 2013. She also discussed Student Recruitment and Expansion efforts for the year. Ms. Singh opened for questions and comments. Mr. Paul gave an update on philanthropy efforts for CT and opened for questions. Ms. Vlasnik Yip presented information on the Howard Fuller events in Hartford and Bridgeport, CT in early January.

Ms. Hamilton thanked Ms. Singh for all her work with the Achievement First Amistad High school project and then asked Mr. Bostock to present his Principal Report.

Mr. Bostock welcomed everyone and introduced himself. He spoke to the board regarding Amistad High's approach and key strategies for progress to college focusing on core academics, CAPT and SAT performance throughout the year. Mr. Bostock gave an update on student attendance this year. Furthermore, he discussed college readiness and the application process and where scholars are applying for college this year. Mr. Bostock gave the board an update on Alumni enrollment and graduation rates. He discussed his priorities for the year including

planning, reading and homework and its importance. Mr. Bostock discussed some challenges this year and there continued focus on special education, increasing student leadership and student culture. He then opened for questions.

Ms. Holland spoke to the board regarding summer internships with Achievement First Amistad High for the year and gave examples of successes and how it helps with college readiness. She asked the board for internship opportunities and for their information. She opened for questions.

Ms. Hamilton then moved to discuss the Achievement First School Report Card and asked Ms. Inciarte to address the boards.

Ms. Inciarte gave background of the Achievement First report card and the performance measurement tool. She explained its importance for the organization and the meaning behind each schools score. Ms. Singh and Mr. Michaelson gave background to Achievement First standards and the high expectations for Achievement First and its internal use. Ms. Singh and Mr. Michaelson opened for questions.

Ms. Hamilton asked each board present to begin their separate board meetings hearing no other questions or comments.

Achievement First Bridgeport Academy individual Board Meeting

Board members in attendance: Cornelius Medas, Max Perez, Dick Kalt, Ed Raice, Chris Kunhardt, Melissa Ceriale, and Andy Boas

Others in attendance: Ken Paul, Rhea Byer-Ettinger, Reshma Singh, Amy Helbig, Genna Weinstein, and Tony Siddall

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:51pm.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Board minutes were approved.

Motion to approve: Max Perez

Seconded: Dick Kalt

The Board voted unanimously to approve the December 6, 2012 Meeting Minutes.

Teacher Recruitment (Amy Helbig)

Amy Helbig gave up an update on the strategy to recruit strong talent for Achievement First Bridgeport Academy Elementary and Middle Schools. She asked board members to pass along names if they have anyone in mind to recruit. She will be in touch with Becca Howlett's information if board members want to share any teacher and school leader referrals and/or



follow up via email with any questions. She explained that recruitment in Bridgeport is a big challenge. Ms. Ceriale asked many positions are you looking to hire this year? The elementary school is still growing, so it will require more positions, but at the middle school she estimated 3-5 positions. Network wide there will be 350 positions open next year. Ken Paul emphasized that AF wants to make every teacher and every board member a recruiter for AF.

Mr. Boas brought up the principal vote and approval. Mr. Boas reminded the group that they discussed Challa Fleming, who is proposed to be the new principal. Three board members met with Ms. Fleming, and the reviews were wonderful. They recommend her highly. Marc Michaelson, Regional Superintendent, joined the conversation and spoke to the concern about creating a backup plan in case Ms. Fleming transitioned out of the principal role for any reason. Mr. Michaelson responded that his team has discussed options, and there are two other people in the network currently who could run the school and there are also people in principal in residence who could step in and run the school capably. He then reminded the board that the school is not great just because of one person. Mr. Raice feels that with a backup plan, the board can go ahead.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors (the "Board") of Achievement First Bridgeport Academy accept and approve Challa Fleming as the new principal (the "Principal") of Achievement First Bridgeport Academy Middle School. Additionally, the Board accepts and approves the terms of the Principal's employment.

The motion was made by Cornelius Medas.

Max Perez seconded.

The Board voted unanimously to approve.

Governance Update

Select Principal Evaluation (PGP) committee (resolution).

Four people volunteered to be part of this team--Chris Kundhardt, Max Perez, Dick Kalt, Melissa Ceriale.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following board members of Achievement First Bridgeport Academy ("AFB"), be and each hereby is, named to serve on the Principal Personal Growth Plan ("PGP") review committee of the board and shall serve a term of one year to review the PGP's for academic year 2012-2013, and shall serve consistent with the by-laws of the entity.

- i. Name: Chris Kunhardt
- ii. Name: Max Perez
- iii. Name: Dick Kalt
- iv. Melissa Ceriale

Motion to approve: Cornelius Medas

Ed Raice seconded

The Board voted unanimously to approve.

Credit Card Approval

Mr. Andy Boas brought up credit card authorization. The discussion revolved around the fact Kate Aufiero is leaving at the end of the month. The question was raised if the board wants to give Soren Gutierrez access to that line of credit that early into the job. Mr. Raice asked what is charged on the credit card, and if \$30,000 sufficient for both academies. Mr. Boas and Mr. Raice would like to get more information this request and resolution. Mr. Raice asked why they don't just do the invoice on expenses. The group felt they should have a finance person answer these questions. Reshma offered to grab Max to answer the board's questions, but the group preferred to have a conference call with Max. They also suggested maybe the board should designate what the credit card can be used for, and Mr. Boas would like for the expense to be approved and then charged. Mr. Boas and Mr. Raice said they would like to be on that phone call.

Financial Update

Mr. Raice let the board know they are on budget. He said they don't have a budget to discuss because they need to re-budget because of changes in the network. The board discussed the DSO transition at the school as well.

Mr. Raice asked for a motion to approve the financials.

Max Perez made the motion.

Cornelius Medas seconded.

The Board voted unanimously to approve.

Fundraising Update

Hartford and Bridgeport have been earmarked as areas to concentrate more on. The Board of Education is receptive. There are a number of people in the city who are highly committed to expansion. AF can't grow in CT unless we get facilities and full funding.

New Schools Update

Mr. Boas and Dacia have been explicit about this. The team had a breakthrough two weeks ago. What is being investigated are facilities that would be appropriate for AF and if the district would be able to provide per pupil operating support. AF needs to get an extension of the charter, an update to the MOU, contracting, ID of new head of school, teach recruitment. The board is actually behind schedule for a school to open 18 months from now. Mr. Paul believes they can do it, and if we don't move towards having a high school in Bridgeport, they are letting Bridgeport scholars and families down.

8:20 p.m. **Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn: Cornelius Medas

Seconded: Dick Kalt

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted: _____