

Approved:

**Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy
Board Meeting Minutes
November 29, 2012**

Mayor Angel Taveras chaired the 2012 Board of Directors Meeting, Julia MacMillan recorded the minutes.

Board Members in Attendance: Mayor Angel Taveras, Macky McCleary, Reverend Jeffery Williams

Guests: Betty Bernal, Jorge Elorza, Toby Shepherd, Drew Allsopp, Daniel Waugh, Esp., Malcolm Farmer, Jacquelyn Mancini

AF Staff: Reshma Singh, Ben Smith, Katie Poynter

Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy Board Meeting

At 7:13pm Ms. Mancini called the meeting to order.

RESOLUTION:

Mr. McCleary moved to elect Mayor Taveras as Chair of the Board of Directors. Reverend Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried with unanimous approval of the Board.

RESOLUTION:

Mr. McCleary moved to elect Mr. Smith as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Board of Directors. Reverend Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried with unanimous approval of the Board.

I. Welcome

Mayor Taveras provided introductory remarks. Mayor Taveras thanked those in attendance and the board members for their willingness to serve on the board.

II. Bylaws

Ms. Mancini explained the corrections that must be made in the bylaws. To be consistent with the charter Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy must be added as an alternate name to Achievement First Rhode Island in the bylaws. Additionally, it has been clarified in Article 5, section 3A, that the Rhode Island Mayoral Academy ("RIMA") will appoint two members to the board. Ms. Singh, Mr. Allsopp, and Mayor Taveras engaged the board in discussion of RIMA's relationship with the school.

RESOLUTION:

Reverend Williams moved to approve the Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy by-laws. Mr. McCleary seconded the motion. The motion carried with unanimous approval of the Board.

III. Presentation of typical board agenda

Ms. Singh explained to the board what a typical agenda would look like and showed the board a sample agenda. Ms. Singh described how Achievement First staff would provide a global update on trends within Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy and around the Achievement First network. The rest of the agenda will be for board business—the Principal’s Report, Finance Update, Resolutions, Facilities Updates, and Follow-Ups. Following the presentation of the typical agenda, Ms. Singh answered questions from various board members. Ms. Singh reported that board meetings will be open to the public, will be posted through the Secretary of State’s office and will meet approximately every two months.

IV. School Updates

Mr. Smith offered updates on board development. Mr. Smith first welcomed the potential board members and also encouraged suggestions for possible board members. Additionally Ms. Singh explained to the board that it will hopefully grow to be between 7-12 members before the beginning of the next school year.

Mr. Smith then reported on community outreach efforts and lottery updates. Mr. Smith reported that AFPMA has been working closely with the city and the Mayor’s office to ensure widespread access to families in high-need communities. Additionally, student recruitment materials and applications will be available soon. Mr. Smith further described how AFPMA will utilize local university students and community members to create street teams that will spend time in communities to raise awareness about the application process. Mayor Taveras provided further insight by explaining to the board that there is a separate lottery for charters, and it is important for charter schools to be proactive about getting parents to apply to charter schools. Ms. Singh explained that as a Mayoral Academy, the school would serve a mix of communities. Those communities are Providence, North Providence, Warwick, and Cranston.

Mr. Smith provided information about renovating a facility in Providence for the school. Significant funds have already been raised to fund the renovation. Many individuals and foundations have shown interest in helping complete the funding needs, though more fundraising will be required.

V. Deep Dive: Achievement First’s Facilities Challenge in Rhode Island

Ms. Singh continued the conversation about facilities and provided more information about the current need for funding. AFPMA has been working closely with the city to obtain a facility. Currently, AFPMA is planning renovation of the former Oliver Hazard Perry building in the Hartford neighborhood of Providence. However, after environmental and other evaluation of the site, it is clear that the building is in need of major, costly renovations. There are environmental hazards, such as asbestos, and basic foundational repairs are needed for children and staff to be in the building safely. Since there is a current moratorium in Rhode Island on facilities spending, it is unclear how much of a reimbursement will be available for the renovations and AFPMA. As a result, Achievement First was forced to fundraise towards those renovations in a very short amount of time, a fundraising effort that was unexpected and challenging for the organization. Through those efforts, Achievement First was able to raise 2 million dollars in support of the 10 million dollars of immediate renovation expenses through private philanthropy. The remaining portion of the required funding for renovations will be secured through commercial and non-profit lenders. Ms. Singh asked the board for ideas about how to best manage the costs and secure the appropriate reimbursements.

VI. Board Business

Ms. Singh reviewed ideal profiles and best practices of the board. Mr. Smith directed the board and guests to review page 8 of the Charter Management Agreement (CMA) to review these responsibilities. The board members then reviewed the CMA to be approved.

RESOLUTION:

Mr. McCleary moved to approve the Charter Management Agreement ("CMA"). Reverend Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried with unanimous approval of the Board.

Ms. Poynter gave the board an overview of the principal selection process and Principal-In-Residence (PIR) program. Ms. Poynter explained that PIR program trains leaders for AF schools. The PIR program works to cultivate internal talent and provide multiple years of experience and training prior to leading a school.

Ms. Poynter explained that AF has identified a candidate in the PIR program to be recommended to the board. Morgan Carter is the current dean at Bridgeport Elementary School in Bridgeport, CT. Ms. Carter will be at the next board meeting in January for the board members to meet her. Additionally, board members can learn about Ms. Carter's work by watching video interviews on the AF website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm by Mayor Taveras.