

DRAFT
Achievement First Bridgeport Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday June 5, 2014, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
AFBA Middle School 529 Noble Avenue, Bridgeport

Board attendance:

Judy Andrews, AFBA Board - Yes
James Bennett, AFBA Board - Yes
Andrew Boas, AFBA Board - Yes
Debra Hertz, AFBA Board - Yes
Dick Kalt, AFBA Board - Yes
Chris Kunhardt, AFBA Board - Yes
Marlene Macaуда, AFBA Board - Yes
Wiley Mullins, AFBA Board - Yes
Max Perez, AFBA Board - Yes
Ed Raice, AFBA Board - Yes
Harold Kamins, AFBA Board - No
Cornelius Medas, AFBA Board - No
Richard Ferguson, ECCP Board - Yes

Michael Kerin, AF Network Support - Yes
Chastity Lord, AF Network Support – Via Phone
D. Scot Kerr, AF Network Support - Yes
Kelonda Maull, AF Network Support - Yes
Marc Michaelson, AF Network Support - Yes
Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes
Katherine Baker, School Leadership - Yes
Challa Flemming, School Leadership - Yes
Soren Gutierrez, School Leadership - Yes
Heather Wachter, School Staff - Yes

Mr. Boas called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm

No one from the public was present and there was no Public Comment:

Mr. Boas asked Ms. Baker to give her principal report.

Bright Spots:

- Ms. Baker was pleased to report that her entire leadership team is returning for the next school year.
- Closing in on academic achievement. She needs 18 students to move their reading levels in the next six days.
- High attendance rates and low attrition.

Growth areas:

- We have experienced a spike in suspensions which was attributed the changes in staff that we've experienced, impacting school culture.
- We are overstaffed for next year to account for any summer attrition and rethinking about how we onboard mid-year hires.

Dick Kalt joined the meeting at 6:15

At the conclusion of Ms. Baker's report, Mr. Boas recognized Max Perez' daughter who is an AF Bridgeport Academy ES teacher who is leaving to attend medical school. Mr. Boas also congratulated Heather Wachter as the new principal of the Elementary School and thanked Kate Baker for being an exceptional leader.

Ms. Baker then gave an overview of her new assignment leading one of the new schools integrating social/ emotional learning into the elementary school model.

Mr. Paul spoke regarding the timeline of implementing the school beginning August 1.

Mr. Boas asked Ms. Flemming to give her principal report

Bright Spots:

- Leadership team is very excited about the upcoming school leader and teacher professional development trainings over the summer.
- Her team is paying close attention on the attrition rate which is hovering right at 5%. Conversations have begun with families whose scholars may not be moving forward.
- 181 scholars are off on end of the year's trips to DC, Boston and other cities. Overall, students who are not attending the trips are learning and the school day is the same.

Growth Areas:

- Ms. Flemming is facing the challenge of having 10 staff vacancies to fill for next year; several of her staff are moving to the new school in Hartford. She is currently recruiting great teachers. Ken Paul mentioned AF will be hiring 350 teachers for next year and explained Bridgeport is the most challenging geography to hire new teachers. He believes the location is challenging vs. New Haven, NY, Hartford or Providence. People are not familiar with Fairfield County.

Other Updates:

- June 19 is AF Bridgeport Academy Middle School Graduation and Challa invited the board to attend.
- She announced to the board that she is expecting her second child and she looks forward to planning for her maternity leave.
- Greatest challenge or disappointment this year was school culture and disrespect to adults from students. Students not treating teachers like platinum. Next year's priority is student investment.
- Mr. Boas discussed plans to fill existing upper grades with students. Ms. Flemming spoke to this in reference to teacher staffing.
- Soren Gutierrez and the Board discussed the new common core aligned test that replaced the CMTs. He expressed some logistical challenges and looks forward to next year's testing.
- Mr. Gutierrez is looking forward to using Google to access student work and access more Chromebooks (75 more) so each student will eventually have one. Each cart contains 30 Chromebooks and the cart is \$10,000.

- Soren spoke about student typing skills and mentioned that scholars have a typing club and on average they are $\frac{2}{3}$ to goal.
- Soren will email Dick Kalt the Model number & Specs for the Chromebooks needed

Mr. Boas congratulated Kate Baker on her new role and congratulated Katrice Bullock for all her accomplishments and wishes her the best in Memphis. Katrice wasn't able to attend this meeting.

Approval of Minutes of April 3, 2014 meeting

Mr. Boas asked the Board to approve minutes from the April 3 meeting.

a. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Directors of Achievement First Bridgeport Academy hereby approves the Minutes of the April 3, 2014 meeting as presented.

Moved by: Max Perez

Seconded by Chris Kunhardt

All In Favor

Financial Reports (Ed Raice)

1. Review and Accept YTD Financials

- Mr. Raice spoke to the board on YTD financials and let the board know the balance sheet is in great shape. The board reviewed the budget together line by line. Mr. Raice opened for questions.
- Mr. Kerin spoke to the board on the construction process for the elementary school. Phase one will be completed by July of 2014 and phase two for the edition will be completed by June of 2015.
- A remediation plan is in place for the land and it will be 100% safe for everyone to be on.
- Mr. Boas thanked the facilities team for all their work. Ken Paul thanked Max Perez for all his work getting it done and approved from the city of Bridgeport.
- Mr. Raice spoke to having police help w/safety during bus drop-off and pick-up during construction. This may be requested for the school year.

Michael Kerwin left at 7:30pm.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Directors of Achievement First Bridgeport Academy hereby accepts the YTD Financial report dated 4/30/14 as presented.

Moved by: Dick Kalt

Seconded by: Chris Kundhart

All In Favor

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Directors of Achievement First Bridgeport Academy hereby approves the financial budget as recommended by the Finance Committee and prepared by Achievement First for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Moved by: Deb Hertz
Seconded by: Marlene Marcuada
All In Favor

Board Discussion:

Chastity Lord spoke to the Board on the restructuring of the external facing teams at Achievement First.

- She gave an update on the reorganization across teams and the internal shifts of work, new positions and geographic focus.
- She spoke to the budget staying the same. Mr. Ken Paul spoke to the importance of having someone in each geography to live and breathe their environment and community.
- The Board discussed parent engagement on a deeper level for understanding how to reach parents on the importance of positive behavior and parent involvement. Ms. Judy Andrews let the board know they have 99% attendance for Back to School Night and other events and expressed parents are involved.

Mr. Kerr gave background to the current Board Engagement Survey. This shows the most up to date board attendance, contact information, annual giving and more per board member. He asked the board to let him know if there are any updates or changes needed.

Board Retreat Planning

Mr. Kerr let the board know the July 21 date will change for the Board retreat. He asked the board to think about what they would like to learn more about for the retreat and what they want to create a solution for. Board members wrote down their ideas and provided them to Mr. Kerr for planning purposes.

Judy Andrews left the meeting at 8:05pm
Heather Wachter left the meeting at 8:08pm

Board Business:

Authorization to sign the Healthy Food Certificate

Mr. Boas asked the Board to review and approve the Healthy Food Certificate.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Directors of Achievement First Bridgeport Academy hereby authorizes the Board Chairman to certify that we will meet

the standards specified in Section 10-215e of the Connecticut General Statutes for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

Moved by: Ed Raice
Seconded by: Chris Kunhardt
All In Favor

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Moved by:: Wiley Mullins
Seconded by: Dick Kalt
All in Favor

Minutes Taken By: Kelonda Maull, External Relations Coordinator