

Draft Minutes

**Achievement First Rhode Island, Inc.
DBA Achievement First Mayoral Academies
Boards of Directors**

Thursday, March 17, 2015, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
370 Hartford Ave, Providence

The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Mayor Elorza.

Betty Bernal, AFRI Board - yes	Esla Dure, RIMA-yes
Jorge Elorza, AFRI Board - yes	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - yes
Brian Gallogly, AFRI Board - yes	Elizabeth Winangun, AF Network Support - yes
John Igliozi, AFRI Board - yes	Morgan Carter, School Leadership - yes
Marta Martinez, AFRI Board - yes	Kevin Lohela, School Leadership - yes
Macky McCleary, AFRI Board - yes	Ben Smith, School Leadership - yes
Norman McCulloch, AFRI Board - yes	Hadley Kornacki, AF Network Support - No
Soraida Morales, AFRI Board - yes	

II. Open Session For Public Comment

No public comment.

III. Reports & Discussion

Mayor Elorza opened the meeting and talked about how important attendance is for board members. He thanked everyone for being in attendance and said he expects 100% attendance at every meeting.

A. Principal Reports

Ms. Morgan Carter, Principal of Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy provided a school report. Ms. Carter highlighted two key bright spots. First, student attendance is improving after a very challenging winter. Ms. Carter cited snow levels and snow days as deterrents for student time out the classroom. Second, the 2015-16 school year student lottery yielded more applicants for AFPMA than seats. Ms. Carter and the entire school are looking forward to welcoming scholars and their families at the orientation session. Ms. Carter also discussed teacher and staff recruitment as a focus area. The school leadership has shifted some teacher assignments to accommodate a gap left by a kindergarten teacher's maternity leave. As a supplement, the leadership is working closely with the kindergarten teachers and providing targeted professional development sessions to ensure academic achievement.

Ms. Carter asked the Board to refer talented teachers, leaders, and operation professionals to AFPMA. Ms. Carter also provided an update on family engagement. Several families attended the Project Hope rally at the Rhode Island State House. AFPMA Family Leadership a committee is hosting s financial fitness workshop on Thursday. In addition, we are starting family orientation sessions for the 2015-16 school year this Saturday.

Mr. Kevin Lohela, Principal of Achievement First Illuminar Mayoral Academy, provided a report. As the founding Principal of a new AF school, Mr. Lohela has the honor of naming the school. Mr. Lohela presented the name and described his reasoning for selecting the Spanish word "Illuminar." He stated that, "AF Illuminar will unleash the light inside our students and show their inner brilliance." Mr. Lohela stated that he has already started the hiring process to fill the school's many open positions. He interviewed two highly qualified candidates for the Director of School Operations (DSO) role. After a series of interviews, there will be a finalist interview day for Academic Deans next week. Mr. Lohela also described the desired applicant pool for teaching positions and illustrated that applications for teaching positions are lower than anticipated.

B. Achievement First Recruitment (Hadley Kornacki)

Ms. Hadley Kornacki, Associate Director of Achievement First Recruitment, called into the meeting to explain the various way in which AF recruits and retains talented teachers and staff.

C. Community Engagement Report (Elizabeth Winangun)

Ms. Elizabeth Winangun, Associate Director of Community Outreach, reported on outreach strategies employed for both AF Providence Mayoral schools. She provided the exact number of student applications we received from each Providence geography we serve.

D. Operations Report (Ben Smith)

Mr. Ben Smith, DSO of Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy, provided an update regarding co-location cost savings plan for the 2015-16 school year. He highlighted that due to nearly 100% occupancy of the entire building between the two schools the cost savings will benefit the City of Providence as well. Mr. McCleary applauded the co-location model and indicated it may be a good growth model for AF moving forward. Mr. Smith asked the Board for recommendations of other vacant school buildings in Providence that AF should consider leasing as AF Illuminar grows to accommodate more students and grades. Windmill and St. Barths were mentioned.

E. Financial Report (Betty Bernal)

Mr. Brian Gallogly and Ms. Betty Bernal reported that AFPMA's finances and cash flow are on target. Mr. Gallogly stated that, "we are in good shape given where we are in the year." The school received more Title I funds than anticipated so the target amount of philanthropy will be reduced for this school year. It was also noted that in next year's budget there is an increase in expenses for technology, specifically for the purchase of additional Chromebooks for classrooms.

F. Appointment of Committees & Committee Assignments (Mayor Elorza)

Mayor Elorza discussed the Board's committee structure. There are currently three committees: Finance, Governance, and Principal. The Mayor announced that the committee structure will remain the same until board membership grows to at least 11 members. In addition, every current Board member is also a member of the Governance committee. Mayor Elorza asked each board member to nominate at least one new board member to the committee at the next meeting. Ms.

Sarah Blanton, Associate Director of Development, shared that Reshma Singh is interested in serving on the Board.

IV. Board Business

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from February 5, 2015 and February 23, 2015.

Motion to approve: John Igliozi, Second: Macky McCleary, all in favor, motion approved.

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the financial report as presented.

Motion to approve: Brian Gallogly, Second: Betty Bernal, all in favor, motion approved.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm by Mayor Elorza.