

Approved 3/17/15

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

Thursday, February 5, 2015, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
370 Hartford Ave, Providence

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 pm by Brian Gallogly

Christine Lopes, RI-CAN - No

Michael Magee, RIMA - No

Elsa Dure, RIMA - Yes

Betty Bernal, AFRI Board - Yes

Brian Gallogly, AFRI Board - Yes

Marta Martinez, AFRI Board - No

Macky McCleary, AFRI Board - Yes

John Igliazzi, AFRI Board - Yes

Norman McCulloch, AFRI Board - No

Angel Taveras, AFRI Board - No

Mayor Jorge Elorza, AFRI Board - Yes

Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes

Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes

Elizabeth Winangun, AF Network Support - Yes

Robyn Silverman, School Leadership - Yes

Ben Smith, School Leadership - Yes

Guests:

Kevin Lohela, Principal Candidate

Soraida Morales, Board of Director Candidate

Sheila Dormody, Director of Policy of the City of Providence

II. Open Session For Public Comment

No public comment

III. Discussion.

A. Welcome Mayor Elorza

The Board welcomed Mayor Jorge Elorza. Mayor Elorza thanked the Board for their generous welcome and shared that he is committed to the success of Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy.

B. School Report

Mr. Ben Smith, Director of School Operations of Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy provided the School Report. Mr. Smith confirmed that Principal Carter would have loved to attend the

meeting but was attending Achievement First's School Leader Summit in Stamford, Connecticut this evening. In his report, Mr. Smith highlighted student engagement through active discourse in the classroom and described the student centered approach. Mr. Smith shared his concern for the instructional time lost due to recent school snow days but confirmed that school leadership is thinking more strategically about student's math and reading data. Teachers and leaders are gathering data in shorter cycles and analyzing results to best tailor lessons and ensure student achievement. In regards to school culture, Mr. Smith shared that the 100th day of school celebrating is coming up and students will dress up to look like they are 100 years old. Former Board Chair Taveras will attend and receive an honor for his service to the school. All are welcome to attend.

Mr. Smith informed the Board of Directors that due to funding challenges at the state level for charter schools, Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy will host an event on March 4th to highlight the support for education reform.

Mr. Gallogly asked for an update on school security. Mr. Smith detailed a recent event at the school and confirmed that a discussion about a perimeter fence and a potential full time security guard will be included in future meetings with Team Facilities. Mr. Smith confirmed that the school is committed to providing the safest environment for students.

Mr. Ken Paul, VP of Development, announced Mr. Smith's increased roles and responsibilities relating to the new school opening. Mr. Smith shared that he has started thinking about the potential for cost savings including joint professional development sessions for teachers and more. In the long term, AF still envisions AF Providence Mayoral Academy, K-8, to occupy the building at 370 Hartford Ave. In a two year timeframe, we hope to have a permanent space for the second school.

Ms. Sarah Blanton, Associate Director of Development, clarified for the Board of Directors that the approval of the opening of the school has already been established as part of the original charter.

C. Presentation and Discussion with Kevin Lohela

Mr. Kevin Lohela, Achievement First Illuminar Mayoral Academy Principal Candidate, presented to the Board of Directors a summary of his career in education reform over the past ten years beginning in The Bronx, New York. He attributes his success in the classroom to the relationships he forged with students, families, and community members. As part of his vision for a great school, Mr. Lohela emphasized the importance of positive school culture and insights from Priscilla Vail's *Emotion: the On Off switch of Learning*. In short, Mr. Lohela "doesn't want children just to like school, but to love it!"

Mr. McCleary shared that the student population in Providence is a different than other cities. Mr. McCleary asked how student population and demographics have factored into Mr. Lohela's thinking. Mr. Lohela responded by sharing that he believes any school should reflect the community it serves and that the name of a school sends an important message. Should he be elected as Principal, he would select a school name in Spanish to reflect the community. In addition, he believes all school

communication should be available in both English and Spanish.

Mayor Elorza asked how parent relationships inform Mr. Lohela's thinking. Mr. Lohela shared his theory for success with parents will in large part stem from positive interactions with parents and include updates on how well students are doing. He believes that the expectation of a phone call home should be a discussion of a a good and not bad topic.

D. Financial Report

Mr. Gallogly provided the financial report. He confirmed that CohnReznick did a thorough job and he is very happy with the financial standing of the organization. He shared that the Rhode Island Dept. of Education would prefer AF to follow a specific format of the chart of accounts. Currently, Achievement First's Finance team uses a standard chart of accounts for Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy and all other AF schools. The Finance team has provided the state with complimentary schedules to the satisfaction of the Dept. of Education. Going forward, the Finance team will use the Rhode Island Dept. of Education preferred format of chart of accounts for Achievement First Rhode Island, Inc.

IV. Executive session

Ms. Bernal motioned to move to executive session. Mr. Gallogly Seconded. All in favor.
Mr. Gallogly motioned to exit. Ms. Bernal Seconded. All in favor

V. Discussion continued

Mayor Elorza discussed his goal to lead a high functioning board. He envisions a board that is engaged, present, active, and well-informed. He would like to revisit how often the board meets, the number of standing committees, and the vehicle through which members can add an agenda item. Mr. Elorza also discussed election of a Secretary.

VI. Business

Resolution 1:

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby elects Mayor Jorge Elorza as Chairman of the Board to the Board of Directors of Achievement First Rhode Island.

John Igliazzi moved
Betty Bernal seconded
All in Favor

Resolution 2: RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby elects Soraida Morales as the Parent Representative of Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors.

John Igliazzi moved
Macky McCleary seconded

All in Favor

Resolution 3:

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors moves to vote on the following resolutions as a block.

Brian Gallogly moved

Macky McCLeary seconded

All in Favor

Resolution 4: RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors approves the following resolutions:

Macky McCLeary moved

Betty Bernal seconded

All in Favor

Resolution A:

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from December 22, 2014.

Resolution B:

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors of hereby approves the report of the independent auditors CohnReznik prepared in relation to the fiscal year ended 6/30/14 for Achievement First Rhode Island, Inc.

Resolution C:

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

Resolution D:

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby elects Kevin Lohela as Principal of Achievement First Providence Elementary School #2.

Achievement First Providence Elementary School #2 subsequently renamed Achievement First Illuminar Mayoral Academy.

Adjourn

At 7:10 p.m. Ms. Bernal motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gallogly seconded. All in Favor.