

Achievement First Bridgeport Academy

Board of Directors

Wednesday, January 21, 2015, 6:30 – 7:15 pm
AF Amistad High School, 580 Dixwell Avenue, New Haven

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 6:50 pm by Andy Boas.

Andrew Boas, AFBA Board - Yes	James Bennett, AFBA Board - Yes
Debra Hertz, AFBA Board - Yes	Dick Kalt, AFBA Board - Yes
Harold Kamins, AFBA Board - No	Florisca Carter, School Leadership - No
Chris Kunhardt, AFBA Board - Yes (phone)	Challa Flemming, School Leadership - No
Marlene Macaуда, AFBA Board - Yes	Soren Gutierrez, School Leadership - No
Cornelius Medas, AFBA Board - No	Heather Wachter, School Leadership - No
Wiley Mullins, AFBA Board - No	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes
Max Perez, AFBA Board - Yes (phone)	Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes
Ed Raice, AFBA Board - Yes	Laurie Bussmann, AF Network Support - Yes
	Scot Kerr, AF Network Support - Yes

II. Discussion and Business

Mr. Boas asked the board to review the minutes of the prior meeting.

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Bridgeport Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from November 17, 2014.

Moved: Mr. Kalt
Seconded: Ms. Hertz
All in favor

Mr. Boas asked Mr. Raice to give a report on the financial statements.

Mr. Raice reported that the audit was completed on time, and the checklist has been completed on a regular basis. The only note on the audit management letter comment concerned teacher certification.

Budget forecast is on target and the balance sheet is healthy. Lastly, the elementary school construction project is on budget and on schedule. The contingency fund is being utilized for additional site remediation. The state grant of 850k has not yet been paid, but is expected.

Mr. Boas asked the board to accept the Audited Financial Statements

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Bridgeport 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 Bridgeport Academy, Inc.

Moved: Ms. Hertz

Seconded: Ms. Macaуда

All in favor

Lastly, Mr. Boas asked the board to approve the interim financial statements

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

Moved: Mr. Bennett

Second: Mr. Kalt

All in Favor

Laurie Bussmann, VP/Operations joined the meeting at 7:05 pm. Mr. Boas asked Ms. Bussmann to give a report on teacher certification. Ms. Bussmann indicated that there has been significant improvement, between 15% - 25% across schools. Achievement First has been providing incentives to teachers to complete the requirements of certification. In Bridgeport the certification percentage has increased from 50% to 62%.

Ms. Bussmann explained that the tests teachers must take are in both general education and specific subject matter areas. Administrators must complete additional tests. Ms. Bussmann also highlighted systematic changes and improvements like making the certification requirement part of all offer letters.

Mr. Bennett suggested that Ms. Bussmann analyze the cost of non-certification to AF and repurpose potential savings to invest in a training program. Ms. Bussmann responded that in fact we have a partnership in NY called RELAY that we expect to bring to CT in the next year.

The board had a general discussion about hiring and teacher retention during which Mr. Bennett suggested that AF do follow-up interviews with the teachers that left mid-year.

Additionally, the board discussed inviting Team Human Capital and Team Recruit to come to the next meeting to give a presentation on recruitment, training and retention.

Gregory Prince with Pathways to College joined the meeting at 7:19 pm. After a brief introduction by Ken Paul, Mr. Prince introduced himself to the board. He was the president of Hampshire College and is currently on the board of Friendship Academy in Washington, DC. Mr. Prince spoke to the challenge of being well known for teacher development and as a result loses staff to other schools. Mr. Prince made the point that in the long term it is good to be recognized as training the best.

Mr. Boas and the board thanked Mr. Prince for his insights.

Mr. Boas and Board members signed documents related to the Food Service Program and School Leader Appreciation. Mr. Boas asked if there were any other questions.

Hearing no other business, Mr. Boas adjourned the meeting at 7:34 pm.