

Achievement First Bridgeport Academy

Board of Directors

Thursday, April 2, 2015, 6:00 – 7:30 pm
AF Bridgeport Middle, 529 Noble Avenue, Bridgeport

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 6:20 pm by Andy Boas.

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

Guests:

Kate Baker, Founding Principal
Max Kultov, Regional Superintendent

Public: Carol Boas

II. Open Session For Public Comment

No members of the public present.

III. Reports & Discussion

A. Principal Reports

Mr. Boas asked Challa Flemming, Principal of Achievement First Bridgeport Middle School (AFBA MS,) to give her principals report. Ms. Flemming reported that the school community is excited for the Amistad High School Commencement where the founding cohort of AFBA MS students will graduate from high school. They are also looking forward to the first class of 4th graders to matriculate to the middle school. In addition, High School matriculation is forecasted at 80 percent.

Ms. Flemming reported that she's been visiting the elementary school and that students are

beginning to recognize her. Fifty-Four scholars made the Dean's list last quarter, the highest in school's history, and were celebrated at the Dean's List Breakfast.

Ms. Flemming discussed positive staff retention expectations. Currently 70 percent of teaching staff has committed to next year. Teachers are given the opportunity to provide feedback to the planning for next year, which is more strongly engaging them. Loss attrition is on track to be below 5 percent, the lowest in the school's history.

Ms. Flemming address some of the school's growth areas. Focus remains on suspension and removals, with the goal being fewer than 10 removals per day. Attendance is slightly below AF goal. The final growth area is in curbing disrespect to teachers.

Mr. Boas asked Mr. Soren Gutierrez, Director of School Operations at AFBA MS, to give an update on operations. Mr. Gutierrez discussed the school's schedule and entrance into its busy season.

Ms. Heather Wachter, Principal of Achievement First Bridgeport Elementary School, provided a report on the school's growth areas. Ms. Wachter discussed the culture of feedback for teachers at the school. Following February break, the students had an extended two day break which provided teachers with the opportunity to engage in core classroom taxonomy professional development.

Ms. Wachter explained that the implementation of common core and school culture combined to dampen 3rd and 4th grade student achievement. In response, the school has received additional support from AF Network Support resources (Crystal Ward, Director of Student Culture) and substitute Culture Dean, Christina Perez.

Ms. Wachter discussed Bright Spots at AFBA ES including for the fifth consecutive year AFBA students in grades 1 and 2 are exceeding Fountas and Pinnell benchmarks levels. In other exciting news, K-2 Math is on track to attain goal by year end. Ms. Wachter was also excited to report the success of the kindergarten Greenfield pilot that occurred for three weeks. Key elements of the pilot included small group learning and leveraging teacher expertise. Even though the pilot was for a short time period, Ms. Baker, Director of Kindergarten at Elm City College Preparatory Elementary School, reported that students were able to move to meaningful self directed learning.

Mr. Paul added that the pilot class's achieved superior performance on the interim assessment immediately following the pilot. In addition, students in the middle school's Greenfield pilot class also achieved high scores on their IAs. Ms. Baker highlighted the lower number of discipline issues in week 2 and 3 of the pilot.

Mr. Medas asked how the school is dealing with the challenges of common core. Ms. Wachter explained that the lower grades are adapting more quickly. Ms. Wachter told the board that they hosted a family math night to educate families on common core math standards.

B. Teacher Certification (Laurie Bussmann)

Mr. Boas asked Laurie Bussmann to give an update on the teacher certification. Ms. Bussmann confirmed that there has been an enormous effort to track teacher certification and help teachers gain certification. Currently, 85 percent of elementary and middle school teachers are certified. School leadership is working to forecast the percentage of teachers that will return next school year and what impact that will be on overall teacher certification.

C. PGP Review (Andy Boas)

Mr. Boas reported that Sarah Blanton will propose dates for the Professional Growth Plans meetings and all board members are welcome to participate in the process.

D. Board Giving (Andy Boas)

Mr. Boas reminded board members that many of our largest funders require board to have 100% giving participation. He reminded and asked members to fulfill that requirement.

E. Summer Internships (Sarah Blanton)

Ms. Blanton discussed plans for summer internship programs and encouraged board members to think about opportunities they might be able to generate for our scholars.

F. Summer Retreat (Andy Boas)

Ms. Blanton asked board members to please let her know if they have any extended vacation plans during July and August to assist her in planning for the summer board retreat.

G. Predevelopment Agreement with Shiloh CDC in Bridgeport (Andy Boas)

Carl McCluster formed the Faith Community Development Corporation, and has asked Achievement First to participate in pre-development of a project which could potentially include a future AF school. Mr. Boas suggested that during the business portion of the meeting, he will ask the board to approve \$15,000 of funding toward the pre-development effort.

Separately, Lisa Desfosses, VP/Facilities has been in discussion with the Archdioceses regarding the property on Jewett Avenue. Preliminary bids have been presented for a 77,000 sq. ft. building on 5 acres of land. Mr. Boas indicated that it is a prime building and property if it can be secured at an affordable price.

H. Financial Report (Ed Raice)

In Mr. Raice's absence, Mr. Boas gave the financial report. He congratulated the directors of operations for managing the budgets so well, which are running slight surpluses. He also reported

that the building project at the elementary school has gone well.

IV. Board Business

A. Previous Meeting Minutes

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Bridgeport Board of Directors hereby approves the Joint AF Connecticut meeting minutes on January 21, 2015

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Bridgeport Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from January 21, 2014.

Moved: Cornelius Medas

Second: Wiley Mullins

All in favor

B. Financial Report

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

Moved: Chris Kunhardt

Seconded: Dick Kalt

All in Favor

C. MOU with Faith Community Development Corporation

The Board of Directors (the "Board") of Achievement First Bridgeport Academy, Inc., a Connecticut non-stock corporation (the "School"), at a duly constituted meeting of the Board held on April 2, 2015, do hereby (i) approve and adopt the following resolutions, effective as the date hereof, and (ii) direct that these resolutions be recorded among the minutes of the proceedings of the School.

WHEREAS, the School and the Shiloh Community Development Corporation ("SCDC") desire to pursue a highly cooperative effort to develop the property located at 1340 Main Street, 1346 Main Street, 1354 Main Street, 1362 Main Street, and 137 Housatonic Avenue in Bridgeport, Connecticut (the "Development Property") to create a downtown development that contributes to the spiritual, educational, social and economic growth for the community (the "Project");

WHEREAS, the School has entered into a certain predevelopment agreement (the "Predevelopment Agreement") with SCDC, attached hereto as Exhibit A, with respect to certain predevelopment activities in connection with the Project;

WHEREAS, the Board desires to begin conducting due diligence with respect to the Development Property;

WHEREAS, the School also desires to purchase the building and property commonly known as 238 Jewett Avenue in Bridgeport, Connecticut (the "Acquisition Property");

WHEREAS, the Board desires to begin conducting due diligence and negotiating the terms of the sale

of the Acquisition Property;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Predevelopment Agreement and such further agreements, assignments, instruments, consents and any other documents ancillary to the Predevelopment Agreement necessary, proper and/or advisable in the determination of any officer of the School or the Board's designee (each a "Proper Representative");

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School is hereby authorized and directed to conduct due diligence in connection with the potential development of the Development Property and the potential purchase of the Acquisition Property;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School is hereby authorized and directed to negotiate the terms of sale of the Acquisition Property;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any Proper Representative be, and hereby is, jointly or severally, authorized and directed, at any time and from time to time, to do all such things and acts and to execute and deliver all such applications, documents and instruments in writing and to expend such fees for and on behalf of the School as may be necessary or advisable in order to give effect to and, generally, carry out the intent of these resolutions, in the name and on behalf of the School, on such terms and conditions and in such form deemed necessary or desirable and approved by such Proper Representative, with such changes, modifications and amendments thereto as such Proper Representative may in such person's discretion approve, which approval shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery of such applications, documents and instruments in writing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all actions heretofore taken by any Proper Representative, for and on behalf of the School in connection with the foregoing resolutions, shall be and hereby are ratified and approved, and that the authority given hereunder shall be retroactive and any and all acts hereunder performed prior to the passage of these resolutions are hereby ratified and approved.

Moved: Marlene Macaуда

Second: Cornelius Medas

All In Favor

Mr. Boas thanked school leadership and staff for their participation, and asked for the board to enter executive session with Achievement First network staff. The board voted unanimously to enter executive session at 7:28 pm to discuss personnel issues.

The board voted to exit executive session at 7:55 pm.

No further action being required, and no discussion to be had, the board adjourned at 7:56 pm.

