

Achievement First Hartford Academy

Jumoke Academy

Joint High School Committee Meeting

November 16, 2015, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

AF Hartford Academy High School, Conference Room
305 Greenfield Street, Hartford, CT

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

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm by John Motley.

Todd Cooper, Jumoke Academy Board - Yes
Melanie James, Jumoke Academy Board - Yes
Thomas Smith, Jumoke Academy Board - No
Justin Pistorius, Jumoke Academy - No
Nichelle Woodson, Jumoke Academy - Yes
Frank Williams, Jumoke Academy - Yes
Troy Monroe, Jumoke Academy - No

Marshall Ruben, AFHA Board - No
John Motley, AFHA Board - Yes
Barry Jacobson, AFHA Board - Yes
Emily Banks, School Leadership - Yes
Nick Lebron, AF Network Support - Yes
John Furniss, AF Network Support - Yes
Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes
Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes

II. Open Session For Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Reports

A. Principal Report

Ms. Emily Banks reported that half the senior class has submitted college applications already with six or seven having applied early decision. Scholars are applying to schools that have high six-year graduation rates and seem like good academic, financial and social matches.

The freshman class, coming off some disappointing SBAC results, is rising to the occasion. Student GPAs are much stronger than last year (two and a half times as many students with above a 3.5GPA). There is a strong, very motivated cohort. Two and a half times the number of freshman have qualified for summer programs.

Ms. Banks feels particularly strong about the practices in place in the AP courses especially in five of the seven AP courses.

Ms Banks said that daily attendance has been at all time low. The network goal is 97 percent and AF

Hartford High was at 95 percent today, the Friday prior was 93 percent. These numbers have never been so low. Some of the scholars have significant health concerns but she expressed concerns about a handful of scholars who she feels are in crisis. Ms. Banks shared the strategies the school is using to try to support these scholars and get them back on track. The school is trying to leverage Hartford Promise, which has an attendance component, to incentivize scholars to come to school.

Mr. Motley inquired about attendance at Jumoke Academies and Ms. Nichelle Woodson said that attendance has been around 97 or 98 percent and Mr Frank Williams reported that it hasn't been an issue at principal meetings.

Ms. Banks' other concern centers around teacher attendance and teacher fatigue. A few initial check ins with teachers have been less positive than in the past and she anticipates greater turnover at the end of this school year. The feedback she's getting is around intensity and exhaustion. Mr. Barry Jacobson brought up the four weeks of teacher training. Mr. Ken Paul reported that, from the Day of Practice, there was acknowledgement of two challenging summers - first with Big Steps and the more recent with the extra weeks of training. He further explained the increasing demand for charter school teachers has created greater challenges around identifying and hiring talent. Therefore, there needs to be an increased emphasis on maintaining talent over multiple years.

B. Financial Report

Mr. John Motley gave the financial Report for AF Hartford High School.

IV. Board Business & Discussion

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Hartford Academy Joint High School Committee hereby approves the meeting minutes from September 22, 2015

Motion to approve: Barry Jacobson

Second: John Motley

All in favor

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Hartford Academy Joint High School Committee hereby approves the financial report as presented.

Motion to approve: Barry Jacobson

Second: Todd Cooper

All in favor

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 by John Motley.