

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

Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 5:30 – 7:00 pm  
AF Providence Mayoral Academy Elementary School, 370 Hartford Ave, Providence

**I. Call to Order & Attendance**

The meeting was called to order at 5:40pm by Brian Gallogly.

The following directors and staff were in attendance:

Mayor Jorge Elorza, AF Rhode Island Board – No	Andrea Summers, School Leadership – Yes
Brian Gallogly, AF Rhode Island Board – Yes	Kevin Lohela, School Leadership – Yes
Reshma Singh, AF Rhode Island Board – Yes (phone)	Karla Villar, School Leadership - yes
Macky McCleary, AF Rhode Island Board – Yes (phone)	Ben Smith, AF Network Support – Yes
Sandy McCulloch, AF Rhode Island Board – Yes	Elizabeth Winangun, AF Network Support – Yes
Soraida Morales, AF Rhode Island Board – Yes	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support – Yes
John Iglioizzi, AF Rhode Island Board - No	Ken Paul, AF Network Support – Yes (phone)

**II. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**III. Board Business**

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from 12/2/15.

Moved by Sandy McCulloch  
Seconded by Macky McCleary  
All in favor

Macky McCleary gave the financial report and both DSOs described ways in which they helped reduce costs.

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

Moved by Sandy McCulloch  
Seconded by Macky McCleary  
All in favor

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the Emergency Action Plans for AF Providence Mayoral Academy Elementary School and AF Illuminar Mayoral Academy Elementary School.

Moved by Sandy McCulloch

403 James Street  
New Haven, CT 06513  
203 773 3223



335 Adams Street, Suite 700  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
718 623 2660

#### IV. Reports and Discussion

##### 1. Principal Reports (Morgan Carter and Kevin Lohela)

###### **AF Illuminar Mayoral Academy**

Andrea Summers, Director of School Operations, shared the attendance rates of AF Illuminar. Currently the attendance is at 97.7% which meets the network goal of 97% but is under the school's goal of 98%.

The fifth FLC meeting where families shared their AF stories – what brought them to AF, what they are proud of, and why they are happy to be part of the AFIMA team and family. That meeting had the highest turnout.

After sixteen days out of school for winter break, the first two weeks were spent in a “culture relaunch” helping kids (and teachers) get back in the groove of school. The first round of Interim Assessments (IAs) were disappointing compared to the network average. However, comparing the results from January 8<sup>th</sup> to January 15<sup>th</sup>, there was significant growth so Mr. Lohela felt good about the potential for improvement despite still feeling dissatisfied with where they are.

Based on the AF Organizational Health Survey, AFIMA tied for first place across the network of 30 schools.

The board discussed the idea of recording the stories that families have shared at the FLC meeting. Taking recordings could be powerful at hearings when people can't always show up.

###### **AF Providence Mayoral Academy**

Ms. Morgan Carter was unable to attend the meeting and Karla Villar, Director of School Operations, gave the school report in her absence.

Karla Villar reported about school culture and the very low rates of removals each day at AF Providence Mayoral Academy.

AF Providence Mayoral Academy brought the Superintendent and members of the administration to AF's recent Data Day. Ms. Villar discussed ways in which AF is planning on sharing resources going forward.

In an effort to be more culturally responsive, the school is running a pilot program to talk about issues of diversity. As of now, having had the first meeting on a recent Saturday, there is a small group of families but they received lots of good feedback. Ms. Carter will have two breakfasts with parents to be sure she hears directly from families so they can implement changes that our families want. Meanwhile, the FLC has been trying to figure out how to reach families that are harder to reach through social opportunities like soccer, bringing in competition to the activities they've been doing.

##### 2. Community Outreach Report (Elizabeth Winangun)

403 James Street  
New Haven, CT 06513  
203 773 3223



335 Adams Street, Suite 700  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
718 623 2660

Elizabeth Winangun shared an exciting list of legislators, senators, members of the Governor's office and community leaders who are scheduled to be visiting the schools. The Parent Ambassadors are helping host and they are making an effort to pair legislators with parents from their districts.

Reverend Mercedes, who had been in this building doing social services before we moved in, is hosting a conference with 80 Latino ministers and elected officials. He's been working closely with Dan McKee and is a strong supporter of school choice.

The schools are receiving lots of lottery applications. To date there have been 700 applications entered into Schoolmint by families themselves which is a significant increase over last year. In addition, Elizabeth has 300 more to enter in that she got from the school department. The numbers come out to at least six or seven applications for each kindergarten seat.

There is an AF Ambassadors meeting on Saturday. Christine Lopes Metcalfe from RICAN is coming to talk about the process of how things work at the State House.

Sandy McCulloch asked about renewing AF's relationship with Pablo Rodriguez. Ben Smith said that an AF teacher spoke on his show, Latino Public Radio, a few years ago. He's on the RIMA board and is very effective. Elizabeth will work on reconnecting.

The Providence Superintendent is very interested in having AF's Principal in Residence (PIR) program come to Providence. Talking with RI Foundation to provide support staff member.

### 3. Policy Discussion

Christine Lopes Metcalf, ED of RI-CAN, gave an update on the last (very busy) legislative session which saw two bills that would have been detrimental to AF's ability to grow.

The 2016 session started January 6<sup>th</sup>. Both of the bills from the previous year were introduced and scheduled for hearing last week.

The State of the state address will be given on February 2<sup>nd</sup> which will obviously include the introduction of the budget. If there are remedies in her address, it may slow down these bills.

The board engaged in a conversation with Christine about the potential impact of these bills on Achievement First. A critical distinction to make in understanding potential impact is that of expansion versus growth. Every year, AF is *growing* but AF is not *expanding* the number of seats that were approved.

Sandy McCulloch spoke about district – charter partnerships and the need for better, more consistent and deliberate messaging focusing on the positives of the collaborations.

Ben Smith made the point that it is critical for the board to consider ways to leverage new, different and influential voices to the debate.

**7:00 pm          Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

403 James Street  
New Haven, CT 06513  
203 773 3223



335 Adams Street, Suite 700  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
718 623 2660