

Achievement First Rhode Island, Inc.
(d.b.a.) Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy

Board of Directors Meeting

March 30, 2016, 5:30 – 7:30 pm
370 Hartford Avenue, Providence

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 5:35pm by Mayor Jorge Elorza.

Jorge Elorza, AFRI Board - Yes

Brian Gallogly, AFRI Board - Yes

Macky McCleary, AFRI Board - Yes

Soraida Morales, AFRI Board - No

Reshma Singh, AFRI Board - Yes

Norman McCulloch, AFRI Board - Yes

John Igliazzi, AFRI Board - Yes

Kevin Lohela, School Leadership - Yes

Morgan Carter, School Leadership - No

Karla Villar, AF Providence Mayoral Academy - Yes

Andrea Summers, AF Illuminar Mayoral Academy - Yes

Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes

Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes

Elizabeth Winangun, AF Network Support - No

II. Open Session For Public Comment

No public comment.

III. Reports

A. Principal Reports

1. AF Providence Mayoral Academy (Morgan Carter)

Morgan Carter was unable to attend so Karla Villar gave the school report.

Academically, AF Providence Mayoral Academy saw improvement in test scores from the second to the third Interim Assessment (IA) with particular strength in second grade math which saw the second highest scores in the entire AF network and was a 12 percent improvement over last year.

PARCC is approaching and right now the school is working on their mock assessments. They are realizing how very high the bar is and learning many lessons in this year one.

The school is working on giving scholars lots of “at bats” and opportunities to work with tutoring groups. They had a parent PARCC night where the school shared with parents tips about how to help reduce anxiety, what to expect, how to help their kids with homework. The kids have been very invested in the

prep. They've also been engaging families through the Project Hope rally which saw high numbers. One AF Providence Mayoral Academy scholar made a speech at the rally!

Attendance is at 97 percent.

AFPMA is in the middle of hiring for next year. They are working through figuring out how to staff the way they want under the budget constraints.

Tomorrow is a new family orientation event where the principal and deans give the presentations. This first session has a lot of siblings of current scholars. All families are invited to attend a session and our teachers provide child care. During the child care portion, they use the STEP test to determine what academic supports will be necessary. After that, families are signed up for Family Chats where the school sits down with each family, sign a family contract. These are on Saturdays.

Sarah Blanton will email Karla and Andrea to find out specific dates and times for the family chats and will communicate to the board and Lily so that board members can attend.

2. AF Iluminar Mayoral Academy (Kevin Lohela)

Kevin Lohela acknowledged the great trailblazing that AFPMA has done. They benefit from co-location with AF Providence Mayoral Academy significantly.

Attendance is at 97.4 percent. The goal is 98 percent. While they are above the network goal, they are still strategizing for how to get to the 98 percent goal (especially during the winter months). Macky McCleary flagged that in the absence of a truancy issue, it may always be difficult to reach the final percentages. They do not distinguish between absent and absent with cause. The Board had a discussion about what percentages are realistic (how much will be illness, what is unnecessary absenteeism, etc) and the value of considering month by month averages so that the winter illness months do not take away from the more successful healthier months.

Family engagement

- Pre-rally party to dig deep into the anti charter bills and find ways for families to help support our schools
- Family reading night last Wednesday. Taught parents, at a deep level, what questions to ask their children, how to they support their reading at each level. Parents read and teachers would give real time feedback to model it. It was a basic overview but parents requested a more frequent and more specific workshop.

Mayor ELorza mentioned Providence Talks. He would like to put the new leader of Providence Talks in touch with our schools to help younger children up to age three. Lily will work on getting everyone connected.

Kevin Lohela discussed specific academic discussed the school's Measures of Academic Progress which showed significant growth from the fall to the winter (in a comparative test across all AF schools). Kevin MAP (Measures of Academic Progress). He shared that the first grade is closer to reaching the end of year math goals than kindergarten which is largely driven by a strong math specialist. In reading, they are on target to hit end of year goals at the proficiency level. In the fall, almost all students were below grade level but by cycle three there was significant progress with some students learning more than one grade level.

The testing that is being reported is done internally at AF and the leadership team audits the results and observe the testing itself to ensure that testing is normed.

Mayor Elorza lauded the noble and ambitious goals of the school, but wanted to make the point that the schools should be setting goals that are also meaningful and attainable. Mayor Elorza has made it a top priority to address summer learning. He would love to engage with AF with that effort.

The staff has 100 percent staff retention for year two. Everyone self reported that they intend to stay. They are nearly hired for next year. The Leadership Team is fully staffed for next year.

B. Board Chair Report (Mayor Jorge Elorza)

Mayor Elorza reminded the Board that they are expected to give and requested that all board members give before the next meeting.

Sandy McCulloch described a new venture started with local leaders in February called, Get Smart Rhode Island. They are an independent 501c(3) organization.

C. Community Outreach (Elizabeth Winangun)

The Project Hope rally was very successful and the lottery brought in large numbers. There are hundreds of families sitting on the waitlist. The Mayor inquired about ways we've stayed connected with families on the waitlist.

IV. Board Business

Resolution 1: RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from 1/20/16.

Moved by: John Igliozi

Seconded: Macky McCleary

All in Favor

Macky McCleary gave the financial report. Both schools are currently running slight surpluses on their budgets largely because of Title I funds. Karla Villar, DSO for AF Providence Mayoral Academy, shared

with the board that there are some facilities costs (major roofing issues) that will offset the surpluses. Brian Gallogly raised the question about reimbursement from the State for capital projects.

Macky McCleary suggested that the RI Infrastructure Bank, which allows for major energy upgrades (just released in January), may be worth looking into.

Resolution 2: RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the financial report as presented.

Moved by: Macky McCleary

Seconded: John Iglizzi

All in Favor

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01pm by Mayor Elorza.