

Achievement First Connecticut Board of Directors Annual Retreat

Thursday, August 13, 2015

noon – 5:00pm

Elm City College Prep Middle School, 794 Dixwell Ave, New Haven, CT

I. Call to Order & Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 12:20 pm by Carolyn Greenspan.

The following board members and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

AF Bridgeport Academy	AF Hartford Academy	Amistad Academy	Elm City College Prep	Achievement First
Andrew Boas - Yes	John Motley - Yes	Carolyn Greenspan - Yes	Richard Ferguson - No	Dacia Toll - Yes
Ed Raice - Yes	Lankford Wade - No	Caroline Williams - Yes	William F. Heins - Yes	Ken Paul - Yes
Max Perez - No	Colleen Palmer - No	Michael D. Griffin - Yes	Laura Saverin - Yes	Sarah Blanton - Yes
Wiley Mullins - No	Nyema Pinkney - No	Lorraine Gibbons - Yes	Lystra Richardson - Yes	Megan Tokarski - Yes
Marlene Macaуда - Yes	Angela Scott - Yes	Howard K. Hill - No	Genevieve Walker - Yes	Jenna Blashek - Yes
Harold Kamins - No	Barry Jacobson - Yes	Dorsey Kendrick - Yes	Carlos Torre - No	Marc Michaelson - Yes
Chris Kunhardt - Yes	Marshall Ruben - No	Andrew Lachman - Yes	Patric Gregory - Yes	Morgan Barth - Yes
Dick Kalt - Yes		Katrin Czinger - No	Sean Williams - No	Jeff Sudmyer - Yes
Debra Hertz - Yes		Jane Levin - No	Stephanie Ma - Yes	Shannon Garfield - Yes
James Bennett - Yes		Pat Sweet - Yes	Patricia Pierce - Yes	Adam Kendis - Yes
Lauren Patalano - No		Daisy Gonzales - Yes	Sharon Oster - Yes	Amy Christie - Yes
Cornelius Medas - Yes		David Katzman - Yes	Marnie Halsey - Yes	Ken Paul - Yes
		Reginald Simmons - Yes	Kaitlyn Stasik - No	Megan Tokarski - Yes
		Cassie Crockett - Np	Magaly Cajigas - Yes	
		Toni Harp - No		
		Jennifer Connell - Yes		
		Tashia Mills - No		

II. Open Session For Public Comment

No public comment.

III. Dacia Toll Presentation

Ms. Dacia Toll reviewed highlights from the 2014-15 school year and presented AF's organizational priorities for 2015-16 and the Arc of the Year. Top highlights included SBAC test preparation, continued reduction in suspension rates, 100 percent college acceptance rates at AF Brooklyn High and Amistad High and results of advocacy efforts. Ms. Toll also discussed AF Greenfield.

Ms. Toll explained AF's organizational priorities for the 2015-16 school year including: 1) Student Thinking and Engagement 2) Strong Response to Student Data & Work 3) Vibrant School Culture 4) College-Ready Bar 5) Talent Practices and Pipeline. Ms. Toll also outlined the Arc of the Year which focuses on answering the essential questions:

RIGOR | Are all students grappling with content aligned to the college ready bar?

FOCUS | Are all students focused on the work of the lesson from start to finish? Is the tone positive?

INVESTMENT | Would students stay if they had the choice to leave?

THINKING | Does instruction unleash the intellect of scholars? Are students doing the lift?

FEEDBACK | Are students rapidly improving the quality of their work based on clear, actionable feedback?

IV. Board Governance Update

The Governance Committee of Amistad/Elm City College Prep discussed their recent work including a review of the charter bylaws, the committee's 2015-16 priorities. Ms. Pat Sweet thanked Ms. Marnie Halsey for her steadfast commitment towards improved practices and updating governing documents.

V. AF through College

Adam Kendis, Network Director of College Success, moderated a panel of five Amistad High School alumni who are currently in college. Students shared their personal experiences and Mr. Kendis described the evolution of the college readiness program at AF's four high schools.

VI. School Culture

Shannon Garfield, Senior Director of Special Services, presented on the priorities and strategies that will be used to ensure vibrant, joyful school cultures in the 2015-16 school year. Ms. Garfield simulated a classroom environment and engaged the Board of Directors in a series of precise directions.

VII. Individual Board Breakout Sessions with Regional Superintendents

Regional Superintendents Marc Michaelson, Morgan Barth, and Jeff Sudmyer, joined by Dacia Toll and Shannon Garfield, met with the boards of their schools and discussed individual school performance and school leadership within the context of network academic achievement and school culture.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 by Dick Ferguson.



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