

Achievement First Bridgeport Academy
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 6:45 – 7:45 pm
AF Amistad High School, 580 Dixwell Avenue, New Haven

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 6:45 pm by Chris Kunhardt at 7:14 p.m.

Chris Kunhardt, AFBA Board - Yes

Ed Raice, AFBA Board - No

Max Perez, AFBA Board - No

Cornelius Medas, AFBA Board - Yes

Debra Hertz, AFBA Board - Yes

Dick Kalt, AFBA Board - Yes

Harold Kamins, AFBA Board - No

James Bennett, AFBA Board - Yes

Marlene Macauda, AFBA Board - Yes

Wiley Mullins, AFBA Board - No

Laurie Bussmann - AF Network Support - Yes

Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes

Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes

Catherine Dumas, AF Network Support - Yes

II. Open Session For Public Comment

There are no members of the public present.

III. Reports and Discussion

A. Joint High School Committee Report (Chris Kunhardt)

Ms. Claire Polcrack, AF Amistad High School's principal is great. It is her first year running the school following six years of teaching at Amistad High. Claire inherited the #2 ranked school in the state, and has stepped up to the task.

The board discussed the college success program. All scholars take a course from 9-12th grade and work closely with the college success staff who are also involved in counseling them after they graduate. AF is also working to connect alumni on college campuses with one another, especially older students with younger.

B. Board Engagement: Committees and Workshops (Chris Kunhardt)

At the last board meeting, Chris mentioned to the board and many of the board members individually that they are looking for more engagement across Bridgeport Board.

There will be a dinner at Debra's home to discuss how we can get more engaged. Cathy Dumas and Sarah Blanton from Network Support will attend.

Chris mentioned that Cathy will be speaking with the principals and will come up with list of how the Board can become more engaged over time.

Everyone on the board is invited to join the principal committee. This provides an opportunity to get to know the principals in small informal group settings. Chris reached out to Challa Flemming at the Middle School for dates to get together. He will also reach out to Christina Pares at the Elementary School. The board may also want to have deans there. The board will work on coming up with a good format (e.g. walk throughs of the school).

Everyone has been added to the newsletters from Christina Pares and Challa Flemming. Chris indicated that he enjoys reading through the school letters to get a feel for the schools. Dick Kalt and Jim Bennett mentioned that they were not getting regular school newsletters.

Sarah scheduled series of meetings/teleconferences with the network, approximately 1½ hours during which several Network Support teams (e.g. Partnerships, Special Education, Community Engagement) will give an update about what they are doing at the network level and encourage the board to become engaged in activities. These meetings will be in New Haven, but may also have video conference and tape the meetings. Cornelius Medas stated that he would like to be involved with community engagement.

C. School Leader Appreciation (Chris Kunhardt)

School Leader Appreciation Week will happen in early March. This is an opportunity for the Board to make some kind of gesture to support the school leaders at the elementary and middle schools. In the past, such gifts as framed photos of scholars or framed letters to leaders were given. Chris suggested that the board should do something modest, but a little more creative.

The board will reach out to Sarah for ideas regarding how to show appreciation for the school leaders. Chris mentioned that this is something that can be discussed at the February 4th meeting at Debra's home.

D. Finance Committee Report (Chris Kunhardt)

Chris Kunhardt gave the Finance Committee Report and shared that both schools are close to being on budget.

Chris Kunhardt referenced two documents that were passed around. First is a letter from the auditors for the board to review. No action is required. The second document is about deep-dive workshops during which AF Network Teams will present on a variety of topics.

IV. Executive Session - Personnel

The board made a motion to enter Executive session at 7:40 pm.

Motion by Chris Kunhardt

Seconded by Debra Hertz

Moved out of Executive session at 8:03 p.m. by Debra Hertz

Seconded by Cornelius Medas

All in favor

V. Board Business

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Bridgeport Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from November 19, 2015.

Moved by Marlene Macaudo

Seconded by Cornelius Medas

All in favor

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

Moved by Dick Kalt

Seconded by Cornelius Medas

All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Bridgeport Board of Directors hereby approves an amendment to the Fiscal Policies and Procedures requiring that any expenditures equal to or exceeding \$10,000 must be approved by the Principal and the Board's Treasurer or Chair.

FURTHER RESOLVED, Achievement First and its designees are hereby, jointly and severally, authorized and directed, in the name of AF Hartford, to update the Fiscal Policies and Procedures as needed in order to effectuate the foregoing resolution.

Moved by Debra Hertz

Seconded by Dick Kalt

All in favor

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Bridgeport Board of Directors hereby approves the Conflict of Interest Policy as presented.

Moved by Marlene Macauda
Seconded Debra Hertz
All in favor

Adjourn

Moved by Debra Hertz
Seconded by Cornelius Medas
The meeting was adjourned at Chris Kunhardt at 8:18 p.m.