

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

**Board of Directors Meeting**

November 9, 2016

Providence Public Library

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 5:41pm by Mayor Jorge Elorza.

Jorge Elorza, AFRI Board - Yes	Kevin Lohela, School Leadership - Yes
Brian Gallogly, AFRI Board - Yes	Morgan Carter, School Leadership - Yes
Macky McCleary, AFRI Board - Yes	Andrea Summers, AF Illuminar Mayoral Academy - No
Norman McCulloch, AFRI Board - Yes (phone)	Karla Villar, AF Providence Mayoral Academy - No
Soraida Morales, AFRI Board - Yes	Elizabeth Winangun, AF Network Support - No
Reshma Singh, AFRI Board - Yes	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes
John Igliozzi, AFRI Board - No	Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes
Ben Smith, AFRI Board - Yes	

**II. Open Session For Public Comment**

No public comment.

**III. Board Business**

**RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from September 27 and September 29, 2016.**

Moved by Reshma Singh

Seconded by Brian Gallogly

All in Favor

**IV. Reports and Discussion**

Mayor Elorza shared where he stands on the expansion plans. He stated his support of the original expansion plan so that current scholars can go through to high school and graduate from an AF school. He added that he will review the fiscal impact of an additional K-8 because they are working on several initiatives within Providence Public Schools.

**A. Principal Reports**

**Morgan Carter, Principal of AF Providence Elementary**, shared with the board the positive academic momentum from quiz to quiz. Across the AF network, scholars take weekly quizzes and the results of those quizzes are analyzed at both the school and network level. AF Providence has seen some especially strong second grade reading results during the last testing cycle.

The staff took a mini organizational health survey which they will repeat later in the school year to track results. Of note, she cited that 92% of staff agreed or strongly agreed that AFPMA has a culture of reflection and growth. 90% noted that within the past couple weeks, a coach, dean or manager has helped them identify strengths and growth areas. 86% of the staff reported that the school creates a welcoming environment given their cultural or ethnic background.

The day prior to the board meeting, they had a professional development day and celebrated these strengths. In examining the data, there are discrepancies between new and returning teachers so they held a small Town Hall meeting to talk about how to make improvements especially for new teachers.

Attendance is currently 97.7%.

Morgan spoke about the overall feel of the school and said that if you walk around, the kids are happy and focused. They are looking towards additional leadership team support for 3rd grade.

Upcoming events: Family feast and Report Card Night. Both events are expected to be attended by a vast majority of families.

**Kevin Lohela, principal of AF Illuminar**, shared that the proficiency rates for the scholars is lower than they would like but in examining the data closely, it is clear that many scholars are one level below proficiency and are not far behind where they should be.

Kevin then framed a conversation about how the typical patterns for students and their trajectories on test data, year over year is to see students drop, making less than the needed progress in order to stay on track or reach the proficiency levels of the next grade. In contrast, AF Illuminar scholars are showing the opposite pattern:

- 53% of Kindergarteners are at or above the 50th percentile (5% are at or above the 90th percentile)
- In 1st grade, 81% of scholars are at or above the 50th percentile (10% are at or above the 90th percentile)
- And in 2nd grade, 85% are at or above the 50th percentile (28% were at or above the 90th percentile)

On the mini, organizational health survey 97% of teachers said they were learning and developing in their role and 97% feel positive about working at AF Illuminar. Staff attendance is higher than 99% and scholar attendance is 98%. Out of school suspensions have been reduced by 95%.

The top priority for the school right now is leveraging staff culture to deliver on ground breaking achievement for kids.

Mayor Elorza asked about technology and whether there is a 1-1 ratio of student to computer. AF Illuminar has computers for about two thirds of the scholars. Mayor Elorza asked about whether it would help to have more. Kevin responded that while he doesn't think it's the key lever it would be nice.

**B. Community Outreach (Elizabeth Winangun)**

Elizabeth Winangun is attending the public hearing and did not give a report

**C. Board Chair Report (Mayor Jorge Elorza)**

Mayor Elorza created the opportunity for the board to discuss the topic of AF's expansion application.

He also made a request to board members to consider making a gift at the end of the calendar year rather than the end of the fiscal year.

Mayor Elorza asked Macky McCleary and Ben Smith about the process of recruitment and nomination of new board members. Macky and Ben spoke about a desire for 11 board members, an odd number with enough individuals to fill out committees. They are planning to set up a matrix to identify skills, strengths, characteristics and priorities.

**D. Finance Committee Report (Macky McCleary)**

Macky McCleary gave the financial report.

**V. Additional Board Business**

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

Motion by Reshma Singh

Seconded by Ben Smith

All in favor

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01pm by Brian Gallogly.