

**Achievement First Rhode Island  
Board of Directors Meeting**

June 13, 2017, 5:30 pm – 7:00 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 5:55pm by Mayor Jorge Elorza.

Jorge Elorza, AFRI Board - Yes

Brian Gallogly, AFRI Board - No

Macky McCleary, AFRI Board - Yes

Reshma Singh, AFRI Board - Yes (phone)

Norman McCulloch, AFRI Board - No

John Iglizzi, AFRI Board - No

Soraida Morales, AFRI Board - Yes

Ben Smith, AFRI Board - Yes

Maryellen Butke, AFRI Board - Yes

James Wiley, AFRI Board - Yes

Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes

Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes

Elizabeth Winangun, AF Network Support - Yes

Victor De La Paz, AF Network Support - Yes

Morgan Carter, School Leadership - No

Kevin Lohela, School Leadership - Yes

Karla Villar, School Leadership - No

Andrea Summers, School Leadership - No

Public: K. Percy Ballah, Robert Luciano, Lily Gutterman, Jillian Scott

**II. Open Session for Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**III. Business**

**RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby elects the following individuals with one year terms ending June 30, 2018 and does, effective June 13, 2017, set the number of members of the Board of Directors at twelve (12).**

**Mr. Robert Luciano, Director**

**Mr. K. Percy Ballah, Director**

Moved by Governance Committee

Seconded by James Wiley

All in favor

**RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from 3/29/17.**

Moved by Ben Smith

Seconded by Maryellen Butke

All in favor

#### IV. Reports

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

#### **AF Illuminar Elementary School**

Kevin Lohela reflected on how proud he is of the teachers, team, families and scholars.

##### Academic Achievement

- They have hit 5 of 6 end of year reading goals for K-2 (first grade advanced reading is three percentage points below the goal of 60%)
- In every grade they reached proficiency goal
  - 92% of kindergarteners are end of year proficient
  - 100% of 1st graders are end of year proficient
  - 97% 2nd graders are proficient
- At the advanced level, they reached goal in kindergarten and 2nd grade
  - Kindergarten: 42%
  - 1st grade: 57%
  - 2nd grade: 72%
- Kevin pointed out a key takeaway is that as students stay with the program, they reach increasing levels of advancement.
- The second grade has been at the top of the AF network consistently
- Math: the data is still out. They just took the culminating assessment.

##### Staff culture and Hiring

- Almost fully staffed for next year
- They lost two teachers of 36 going into year three. In both cases, the decision was mutual to move on.
- Because they are growing to 3rd grade next year, they are hiring for a new grade team.
- Made two offers today. If those are accepted, classroom positions will be fully filled.
- Two associate teacher positions are still available.
- Next year they will have grade level leaders for the first time.

Scholar attendance is 97%

Suspensions are 2.5%

Kevin is very excited about the ELL achievement. The bar was raised this year to align the test with Common Core. Statewide, in RI, 95% of students who are designated ELL had scores that went down on the test year over year (because the bar was raised) and only 1% improved. In contrast, 60% of Illuminar students improved.

Ben Smith asked about the biggest challenge Kevin anticipates with growing to third grade. Kevin thinks it comes down to staff culture and teacher retention. Kevin referenced a comment Macky made in a prior meeting that 100% retention isn't ideal and a certain amount of turnover is a sign of a strong

organization.

### **AF Providence Mayoral Academy Elementary School**

Morgan Carter was unable to attend the board meeting because of a dinner with her first year teachers. Elizabeth Winangun gave the report and shared the following updates:

End of year academic data is still coming in and when it arrives she will share.

The 4<sup>th</sup> grade graduation is tomorrow! We are SO PROUD of our founding class and can't wait to celebrate them and their families.

#### **Staff Culture**

- Feeling some great momentum with our Year Five returning teammates heading into next year. Have been doing a lot of Year Five planning and reflecting during Friday PD and it is creating good momentum and energy.
- #1 school priority next year = strong team culture
- Still have 5-6 positions we are hiring for open, but lots of interviews coming up this week and next week.

Attendance is 97%

#### **Scholar Culture**

- 7% of scholars with 1+ suspensions
- Field Day was amazing
- Talent Show was beautiful and completely kid-centered

#### **Top priorities moving forward**

- Hiring great talent for our Y5 team
- Starting Year Five strong

#### **B. Board Chair Report**

**RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby ratifies the re-election of all current Directors with a one year term limit ending June 30, 2018:**

Mayor Jorge Elorza

Brian Gallogly

John Igliozi

Norman McCulloch

Macky McCleary

Soraida Morales

Reshma Singh

Ben Smith

Maryellen Butke

James Wiley

Moved by Maryellen Butke

Seconded by Macky McCleary

All in favor

**RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby affirms the following leadership slate:**

Mayor Jorge Elorza, Chair

Brian Gallogly, Vice-Chair

Ben Smith, Treasurer

Reshma Singh, Secretary

Moved by Macky McCleary

Seconded by James Wiley

All in favor

**RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby accepts the Family Handbook as drafted.**

Moved by Ben Smith

Seconded by Soraida Morales

All in favor

**RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the Dependent Care Assistance Program to go into effect at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year.**

Moved by Maryellen Butke

Seconded by Macky McCleary

All in favor

**RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the following individuals to serve as Truancy Officers to serve in an authorized capacity on behalf of the scholars of AF Rhode Island.**

Molly Rintz, LCSW

Julie Singer-Leavitt, LICSW

Moved by Macky McCleary

Seconded by James Wiley

All in favor

#### C. Charter Renewal Update

Ben Smith updated the board on the charter renewal visit and meeting with the board. Most questions from the State were about governance and the relationship between the board and schools and the board and the network.

#### D. Community Outreach Report

Elizabeth Winangun shared that AFRI is forging a partnership with Rocky Hill School which is providing scholarships for 24 kids for camp this summer in June and July.

AFRI is also soon to sign an MOU with a Brown University class where Brown students will work on family engagement with AFRI.

#1 priority is identifying a facility for Illuminar in the next 2-4 weeks. Lisa Desfosses, VP of Facilities, has visited over 30 buildings. The biggest challenge is existing legislation that prohibits having a school on a site that has any harmful vapors that could possibly come up through the ground. Macky McCleary recommended following up on some possible sources of funding to support remedying.

Following the Community Outreach Report, Mayor Elorza had to leave and asked Mack McCleary to lead the rest of the meeting in his absence.

**E. Treasurer Report (Macky McCleary)**

Victor De La Paz, Achievement First CFO, gave an overview of how AF engages schools in their budgeting process. Looking ahead to next year, having 200 kids all in one building will lead to efficiencies.

One hundred 5th graders will be going into the middle school under the Greenfield model. Jennifer Lindsay gave an overview of the Greenfield model and a typical day.

Macky highlighted that the major difference worth noting in the budgets is the new division of cost for the middle school.

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

Moved by James Wiley

Seconded by Ben Smith

All in favor

**RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the financial budget as recommended by the Finance Committee and prepared by Achievement First for the 2017-18 fiscal year.**

Moved by James Wiley

Seconded by Ben Smith

All in favor

**RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby ratifies the re-appointment of CohnReznik to perform the financial audit of the 2016-17 fiscal year.**

Moved by Maryellen Butke

Seconded by James Wiley

All in favor

**RESOLVED, the Fiscal Policies Manual dated in May 2017 is approved. Be it further resolved, proposed revisions or changes will be brought to the full board on at least an annual basis, more frequently as required, for approval.**

Moved by Ben Smith  
Seconded by Maryellen Butke  
All in favor

**WHEREAS, AF Rhode Island previously authorized a line of credit in the form of credit cards with Elan Financial Services (“Elan Credit”);**

**WHEREAS, AF Rhode Island is interested in improving the terms and conditions associated with its line of credit and credit card services; and**

**WHEREAS, Bank of America has offered AF Rhode Island a line of credit in the form of credit cards with better terms and conditions (“Bank of America Credit”) in the form of the agreement substantially similar to the draft agreement attached;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that AFRI desires to convert its credit cards from Elan Financial Services to Bank of America for the purposes of improving the terms and conditions of its credit cards;**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AF Rhode Island be, and hereby is, authorized to open the Bank of America Credit of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) per school and close the Elan Credit;**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Directors of AF Rhode Island and his/her designee(s), be, and hereby are, jointly and severally, authorized and directed in the name and on behalf of AF Rhode Island to take all measures necessary to open the Bank of America Credit and close the Elan Credit;**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any such actions as are required or appropriate pursuant to the foregoing are hereby authorized, including the authority to enter into, execute and deliver such documents and take such action as may be necessary or appropriate in order to effectuate the foregoing. Any and all actions previously taken by AF Rhode Island in connection with the transactions contemplated by these resolutions be, and hereby are, adopted, ratified, confirmed and approved in all respects.**

Moved by Maryellen Butke  
Seconded by James Wiley  
All in favor

#### **IV. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm by Macky McCleary.

Motion by Percy Ballah  
Seconded by Robert Luciano  
All in favor