

Achievement First Hartford Academy

Board of Directors Meeting

November 13, 2017, 5:30 pm

305 Greenfield St, Hartford

Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 5:32pm by Barry Jacobson. The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

Barry Jacobson, AFHA Board - Yes	Kerri-Ann T. Thomas, AFHA School Leader - Yes
Marshall Ruben, AFHA Board - No	Sorby Grant, AFHA School Leader - Yes
Angela Scott, AFHA Board - Yes	Ben Cruse, AFHA School Leader - Yes
Carol Birks, AFHA Board - No	Emily Banks, AFHA School Leader - Yes
Jose Rendon, AFHA Board - Yes (phone)	Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes
Ja Hanna, AFHA Board - Yes	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes
David Dee, AFHA Board - Yes	Nick Lebron, AF Network Support - No
Alice Turner, AFHA Board - Yes	Dacia Toll, AF Network Support - Yes
Hide Inga, AFHA Board - Yes	Laurie Bussmann, AF Network Support - Yes (phone)
Deborah Prince, AFHA Board - No	

Public: Lisa Tanen-LaFontaine

Open Session for Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approve Minutes

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from 9/18/17 and 10/17/17.

Motion by Angela Scott
Seconded by David Dee
All in favor

Elect New Director

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby elects Lisa Tanen-LaFontaine to the Board of Directors with a three year term ending June 30, 2019.

Motion by Hide Inga
Seconded by Ja Hannah
All in favor

Principal Reports

Kerri-Ann T. Thomas, Principal, AF Hartford Elementary School. AF Hartford Elementary is at 60% certified. If all paperwork clears, the school will be at 74% and if those who need to pass tests pass all their tests, they would be at 100%. AF Hartford Elementary has no staff members who are unlikely to achieve certification.

AF Hartford Elementary has the lowest suspension rate in all CT and RI elementary schools and among the lowest in the network.

Following a successful year last year, Kerri-Ann compared results year over year. Overall, AF Hartford Elementary fall 2016 results were at or near the bottom of the network results for elementary at each grade and subject level. This fall, 2017, all results are better than last year and growth has also grown and improved.

AF Hartford Elementary is one of only two schools in the AF network to hit all academic goals. In addition, AF Hartford Elementary School had the most significant turnaround growth at an AF school ever.

Sorby Grant, Principal, AF Hartford Middle School. Currently, AF Hartford Middle is at 81% certified. There are four individuals who are still working on testing and paperwork but she is confident they will be certified by the deadline.

AF Hartford MS suspension numbers are down significantly.

The fifth grade cohort continues to be strong and competitive across the entire AF network. The 6th and 7th grades are in the middle of the pack across the network. The eighth grade has been strong. The biggest concern in grades 6-8 in math. Sorby has been teaching some math classes.

Ben Cruse, Principal, AF Summit Middle School. AF Summit is at 74% certified (26/35 staff) so they need seven additional people in order to reach 90%. Several individuals took tests in late October, so they will hear before December 1 (assuming the State processes in the typical timeframe). Two staff are scheduled to take tests today and tomorrow.

AF Summit has only suspended two scholars this year and they are feeling good about that.

Academically, science and writing have been great for almost all grades. They are struggling in literature and math. Struggling at the start of the year for 5th grade has been typical, with no feeder school. Scholars are making above average growth (compared to other AF schools) but the absolute results are still lower than they would like.

Emily Banks, Principal, AF Hartford High School. Currently, AF Hartford High School is at 88% certified. Of the five individuals who are not yet certified, one is simply waiting for the State to process paperwork, others have to take tests.

The AF Hartford HS's suspensions have been for incidents where discretion is not available. They had to suspend.

Academically, several AP courses are doing well with the exception of AP Biology. In general, science has been weak as has reading (despite strong results in literature).

Laurie Bussmann spoke with the board about strategies for getting the AFHA charter to 90% certified, including the option of using the "long term sub" designation and other alternatives to traditional certification. She also discussed the backlog of 800 certifications at the State.

AF will go in front of the State Board in January or possibly February.

Barry asked about the success of tutoring. Laurie said that tutoring has been very expensive. It has been helpful but there are still people who continue to struggle.

Committee Reports

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the amended and restated Bylaws as presented.

Motion by Alice Turner

Seconded by Hide Inga

All in favor

Treasurer Report

Barry Jacobson gave the financial report identifying highlights from the forecasts which go through September.

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the financial report as presented.

Motion by Hide Inga

Seconded by Ja Hannah

All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby adopts the updated Board Designated Reserve Policy as presented.

Motion by Angela Scott

Seconded by Lisa Tanen-LaFontaine

All in favor

Board Chair Report

Barry Jacobson led a discussion about the consolidation of the two AF Hartford Middle Schools. The board brainstormed ideas for communicating with families and shared those ideas with Dacia Toll, AF's Co-CEO who joined the meeting at 6:40pm.

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby elects Marshall Ruben to serve as Treasurer.

Motion by David Dee

Seconded by Lisa Tanen-LaFontaine

All in favor

WHEREAS the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors has reviewed, considered and vetted the relevant facts and circumstances concerning the subject of these Resolutions;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors approves the plan to merge Achievement First Summit Middle School and Achievement First Hartford Academy Middle School (the "schools") beginning in the 2018-19 school year, and provided that all existing students of the schools shall be guaranteed a seat at the merged school.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby authorizes and directs Achievement First Network Support and the schools to take and carry out such action as required in connection with the foregoing Resolution.

Motion by Angela Scott

Seconded by Alice Turner

All in favor

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm by Barry Jacobson.

Motion by David Dee

Seconded by Angela Scott