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## **Achievement First Hartford Academy**

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

March 19, 2018, 5:30 pm

305 Greenfield St, Hartford

#### **I. Call to Order & Attendance**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by Barry Jacobson. The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

Barry Jacobson, AFHA Board - Yes

Marshall Ruben, AFHA Board - Yes (phone)

Angela Scott, AFHA Board - Yes

Jose Rendon, AFHA Board - Yes

Ja Hanna, AFHA Board - Yes

David Dee, AFHA Board - No

Alice Turner, AFHA Board - Yes (phone)

Hide Inga, AFHA Board - No

Deborah Prince, AFHA Board - Yes

Lisa Tanen-Lafontaine - No

Kerri-Ann T. Thomas, AFHA School Leader - Yes

Sorby Grant, AFHA School Leader - No

Ben Cruse, AFHA School Leader - Yes

Emily Banks, AFHA School Leader - No

Fatimah Barker, AF Network Support - Yes (phone)

Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes

Public: Annette Armstrong

#### **II. Open Session for Public Comment**

Annette Armstrong spoke about the importance of advocacy and the fight for fair funding. She shared that she has done lots of letter writing and is planning fundraisers to raise money and awareness of the importance of fair funding. With the closure of Families for Excellent Schools, she is looking for others to stand with her fighting for our scholars.

#### **III. Approve Minutes**

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from 11/13/17, 01/03/18 and 02/05/18.

Motion by Angela Scott

Seconded by Deborah Prince

All in favor

#### **IV. Principal Reports**

##### **Kerri-Ann T. Thomas, Principal, AF Hartford Elementary School.**

Kerri-Ann T. Thomas shared the KPI Report (Key Performance Indicators) which shows strong school culture and academic data. Teacher certification is good. Academically, they are doing well as they are seeing year over year gains in some grades. Ms. Thomas shared that she thinks Raven Suttles, the

Elementary School principal for next year, is going to be great.

**Ben Cruse, Principal, AF Summit Middle School.**

The intent to return surveys have been distributed to current families. Of those who have returned the forms, 95% are indicating they plan to return. The focus going forward will be on the 4th grade families and their intent to enroll in the merged middle school. Currently, there are 86 scholars in the 4th grade.

Ben Cruse shared that the entire AF Summit leadership team is coming back and he's hired a former principal as the new STEM dean. The AFHA MS leadership team is transition into different positions - two are returning to the classroom to teach, another is becoming a dean at another AF school. 85% of teachers who would receive an offer to return are going to return (from both middle schools).

**Emily Banks, Principal, AF Hartford High School.**

Barry Jacobson gave a report from Vanessa Massiah who is acting principal during Emily Banks' maternity leave. Teacher Certification is going well. The school has started Crescendo which is an intense push towards end of year testing. The schools is still working on providing incentives for attendance.

**V. External Relations Update**

Fatimah Barker, AF's Chief External Officer, joined the meeting to talk about external relations in light of staffing changes and the closure of Families for Excellent Schools. FES has a staff member on site at the AF Hartford Schools two to three times a week so, for parents like Annette Armstrong who are very engaged, they are feeling the impact significantly because there is no longer someone present.

Families will be invited to advocacy days and Ambassadors meetings this spring.

**VI. Treasurer Report**

Barry Jacobson review the finance report and shared that the school overestimated the revenue for special education in their projections for this year. Going forward they will focus on improving projections for that line item. In addition, the State has decided not to fund 77 seats.

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

Motion by Deborah Prince  
Seconded by Marshall Ruben  
All in favor

**VII. Board Chair Report**

Barry Jacobson shared that he had had lunch with Lisa Tanen-Lafontaine, Sarah Blanton and Amanda Pinto, Director of Marketing and Communications. The group discussed the importance of parents as advocates and Barry is tasking the External Relations Committee to set up a meeting before the end of

the school year to engage with parents.

Barry has invited Richard Sugarman from Hartford Promise to the May meeting to talk about his work.

**VIII. Executive session**

The board entered executive session at 6:30 pm. Motion by Jose Rendon. Seconded by Angela Scott. The board exited executive session at 6:42 pm. Motion by Angela Scott. Seconded by Jose Rendon.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm by Barry Jacobson.

Motion by Angela Scott

Seconded by Deborah Prince