

**Achievement First Hartford Academy**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**

May 14, 2018, 5:30 pm  
305 Greenfield St, Hartford

**I. Call to Order & Attendance**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm 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 - No
Angela Scott, AFHA Board - Yes	Ben Cruse, AFHA School Leader - Yes
Jose Rendon, AFHA Board - Yes	Emily Banks, AFHA School Leader - No
Ja Hanna, AFHA Board - No	
David Dee, AFHA Board - No	Victor De La Paz, AF Network Support - Yes
Alice Turner, AFHA Board - Yes	Fatimah Barker, AF Network Support - Yes
Hide Inga, AFHA Board -	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes
Deborah Prince, AFHA Board - Yes	Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes
Lisa Tanen-LaFontaine - Yes	Katie Rosa Moher, AF Network Support - Yes

Public: Mike Ferguson, Richard Sugarman, Linda Merlin

**II. Open Session for Public Comment**

Mike Ferguson introduced himself.

**III. Approve Minutes**

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from 3/19/18.

Motion by Angela Scott  
Seconded by Debbie Prince  
All in favor

**IV. Principal Reports**

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

Kerri-Ann shared a data report with the board and identified areas where end of year goals have already been met and growth areas where they need to focus. State testing started today and will end on May 25th. Raven Suttles, Kerri-Ann's successor, will be full time working at AF Hartford Elementary on May 21st.

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

School culture is very strong at AF Summit Middle School. They are pushing hard to reach their double

digit academic gains. They have a small amount of hiring left to do for the merged middle schools. They are working hard to encourage all 4th graders to matriculate to the merged middle school.

Victor De La Paz, AF's CFO, shared AF's perspective on growing the size of the middle school considering the programmatic and financial implications.

**Karen Prager, Dean of College, AF Hartford High**, gave a presentation to the board about the college process and outcomes from the 2017-18 school year. She highlighted the financial match from UCONN and ECSU through Hartford Promise (matching the \$5K) which has been a huge help for AF Hartford High scholars. CCSU provides a housing stipend while University of Hartford and University of St. Joseph provide free housing.

Looking ahead, AF Hartford High continues to consider Early Action/Early Decision as a primary strategy, focusing on colleges with high graduation rates, generous financial aid packages while also considering options where test scores are optional.

Senior Signing Day will take place at the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts on Wednesday, May 23rd.

#### **V. Hartford Promise**

Richard Sugarman and Linda Merlin joined the board meeting from Hartford Promise which is in its third year - now serving 397 scholars. The scholarship is based on four criteria:

1. Live in Hartford
2. Attend public school in Hartford
3. 93% attendance
4. 3.0 GPA

The scholarship can be used for anything that the college bills the student for and can be used at any college or university (not for-profit). It is "last dollar money" meaning that after all other scholarships and financial aid is established, then Hartford Promise covers the remaining gap up to \$5,000 per year.

They are working on creating partnerships with colleges to do matching gifts or housing stipends. They also partner with Hartford high schools and have established relationships at AF Hartford High.

This year, AF has 23 Hartford Promise scholars. On average, 14 percent of Hartford Public School graduating seniors are Hartford Promise scholars but AF Hartford High is close to 50 percent.

#### **VI. External Relations Update**

Alice Turner gave an update about the work of the External Relations Committee. They are looking to schedule meetings with families of current students at the elementary, middle and high schools.

Fatimah Barker, Chief External Officer, gave an overview of the network level efforts to engage families.

## **VII. Treasurer Report**

Victor De La Paz, Chief Financial Officer, walked the board through the financial report including the year-to-date financials and the proposed FY19 budget.

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

Motion by Angela Scott  
Seconded by Debbie Prince  
All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the financial budget as recommended by the Finance Committee and prepared by Achievement First for the 2018-19 fiscal year.

Motion by Debbie Prince  
Seconded by Lisa Tanen-LaFontaine  
All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby ratifies the re-appointment of CohnReznik to perform the financial audit of the 2017-18 fiscal year.

Motion by Alice Turner  
Seconded by Debbie Prince  
All in favor

## **VIII. Board Chair Report**

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby affirms the following leadership slate:

Barry Jacobson, Chair  
Marshall Ruben, Treasurer  
Angela Scott, Secretary

Motion by Alice Turner  
Seconded by Jose Rendon  
All in favor

## **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm by Barry Jacobson.

Motion by Debbie Prince  
Seconded by Lisa Tanen-LaFontaine