

-Draft-

Achievement First Hartford Academy

Board of Directors Meeting

September 17, 2018, 5:30 pm

305 Greenfield St, Hartford

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm by Barry Jacobson. The following board members, constituting a quorum, were in attendance:

Barry Jacobson - Yes

Marshall Ruben - No

Angela Scott - Yes (phone)

Jose Rendon - Yes (phone)

Ja Hanna - Yes

David Dee - Yes

Alice Turner - Yes

Hide Inga - No

Deborah Prince - Yes

Lisa Tanen-LaFontaine - Yes

Raven Obas, AFHA School Leadership - Yes

Ben Cruse, AFHA School Leadership - No

Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes

Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes

Victor De La Paz, AF Network Support - Yes

Blake Bergeron, AF Network Support - Yes

Fatimah Barker, AF Network Support - Yes (phone)

Public: Patsy Mundy

II. Open Session For Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Approve Minutes

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from July 31, 2018.

Motion by Jose Rendon

Seconded by David Dee

All in favor

IV. Reports and Discussion

A. Principal Reports

Raven Obas, AF Hartford Academy Elementary School Principal, shared with the board her priorities for the school year and they progress they're making. During the month of

September, they are working on establishing and implementing attendance incentives and maintaining a strong emphasis on developing positive school culture. They are making adjustments to the behavior management system, prioritizing incentives over consequences.

Ms. Obas is making a point of standing at the door and greeting parents and students in the morning. This has allowed her to get a better sense of how parents are feeling and to gather important feedback. She's working on ensuring her team has strong parent outreach this year and works on building strong relationships with families.

Teacher certification is also a push they are working on.

B. Joint High School Committee Report

Barry Jacobson gave the Joint High School Committee Report and shared the news that AF Hartford Academy High School was ranked the number three high school in CT by US News & World Reports. An accomplishment to be proud of.

Ms. Banks shared with the Committee that suspensions are down, AP participation and pass rates are up, The ninth grade doubled in size this year because it was fed by two AF middle schools and Ms. Banks believes they have a strong cohort of ninth grade teachers.

Ms. Banks has requested Board support in identifying a location for Senior Signing Day.

C. Chief Financial Officer Report

Victor De La Paz, Achievement First's Chief Financial Officer, gave an update on how the prior fiscal year ended. On an unaudited basis, the AF Hartford Elementary had a balanced budget, while surpluses and deficits at the Middle and High schools offset one another.

Mr De La Paz discussed enrollment for the current school year and the FY20 budgeting process which is starting earlier this year.

The Board discussed ways attract more Junoke students to AF Hartford Academy High School.

D. External Affairs Committee Report

The External Affairs Committee discussed several topics including parent engagement, ways to support student recruitment and AF's marketing strategy. They emphasized the need to think beyond education when engaging with parents and consider all of their concerns. When we ask things of parents, we should try to give something back given the limits on their time.

Committee advocated for meeting with a focus group of the most engaged parents to discuss what's worth addressing in general parent surveys.

The board discussed the possibility of engaging AF alumni to present to parents. The External Affairs Committee will prepare additional recommendations for the next meeting.

E. Board Chair Report

Barry Jacobson did not have any additional business to discuss.

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm by Barry Jacobson.

Motion by David Dee

Seconded by Ja Hanna

All in favor