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## **Achievement First Bridgeport Academy**

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

September 27, 2018

AFBA Middle School

529 Noble Ave, Bridgeport CT

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Chris Kunhardt. The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

Chris Kunhardt, AFBA Board - Yes	Christina Ellington, AFBA School Leadership - Yes
Dick Kalt, AFBA Board - Yes	Simon Obas, AFBA School Leadership - Yes
Marlene Macaуда, AFBA Board - Yes	Samantha Lucky, AFBA School Leadership - Yes
Debra Hertz, AFBA Board - Yes	Florisca Carter, AFBA School Leadership - Yes
James Bennett, AFBA Board - No	Natasha Noel, AFBA School Leadership - No
Kimberly Bruce, AFBA Board - Yes	
Michael Strambler, AFBA Board - Yes	Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes
Ruben Felipe, AFBA Board - Yes	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes
Ebrima Jobe, AFBA Board - Yes	Sarah Claybaugh, AF Network Support - Yes
Dennis Bradley, AFBA Board - Yes	

Public: Katherine Gallagher, AF Bridgeport Elementary Teacher, Jaime Perri, Executive Director, Horizons, Briana Harris, AF Network Support

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

Jaime is the new Executive Director at Horizons at Sacred Heart University. She expressed her interest in partnering with AF to serve AF Bridgeport Academy scholars. Horizons at Sacred Heart ran a pilot program two years ago AFBA Elementary where the AFBA scholars were in their own class. This past summer, the AFBA scholars were integrated into the program (no longer a pilot program).

Briana Harris, Director of Seminar Partnerships at AF Network Support, joined the meeting by phone to talk about the AP Capstone program. Each class is designed to give students time to focus for a week on a specific subject, conduct research, and give a presentation. The subject will be immigration and the projects will take place during the fourth quarter.

There are opportunities for board members to volunteer, be a guest speaker, provide office

space for presentations, or make professional connections within the subject area.

The program will be piloted at either AF Amistad or AF Brooklyn HS.

### **III. Elect New Member**

RESOLVED, the AF Bridgeport Board of Directors hereby elects Katherine Gallagher to the Board of Directors to serve as the Teacher Representative with a two year term ending June 30, 2020.

Motion by Debra Hertz

Seconded by Michael Strambler

All in favor

### **IV. Approve Minutes**

RESOLVED, the AF Bridgeport Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from July 13 and July 31, 2018.

Motion by Michael Strambler

Seconded by Dick Kalt

All in favor

### **V. Reports and Discussion**

#### **A. Principal Reports**

Simon Obas, AF Bridgeport Middle School Principal, described a strong start to the year where they are focusing heavily on school culture for the first six weeks.

Results from the staff org health survey were very positive. Staff morale is high and Mr Obas feels that the chemistry among teachers and the leadership . Tomorrow is first 2x2 staff feedback where staff will give each other feedback on how they are doing.

Mr Obas shared that the focus this year is on instructional excellence. AF Network Support has been helpful in sending network level leaders to work with the AFBA MS leadership team, two of whom are new this year. The school has also strengthened the coaching support for teachers.

School culture is good. Compared to the prior year, there are fewer detentions fewer in school suspensions and fewer out of school suspensions.

Parental engagement has also been good. 90% of parents came to back to school night.

Mr. Obas discussed SBAC results briefly, noting double digit increases in year over year

performance. And while he is excited about growth, the absolute scores still not where they should be.

Christina Ellington, AF Bridgeport Elementary School Principal, reflected on the 2018 SBAC results where 4th grade math and ELA outperformed DRG-A schools.

AF Bridgeport org health survey results were very positive with 100% said they felt they were successful in developing students, 98% said they are learning and growing in their role and 95% feel positive about school.

Attendance is strong. Students did not seem to experience the same “summer slide” that has happened in the past. Ms. Ellington speculated that this may have been related to a strong summer homework packet, a new reading program, and a new dean taking over K-2 reading program. It may also be related to the strong start to this year.

#### **B. Joint High School Committee Report**

Chris Kunhardt gave HS Committee Report. AF Amistad High School is off to a good start, but the school has had teacher departures that have required some staffing adjustments. Mr Barth, AF Amistad High School Principal, does not anticipate additional departures.

Student enrollment is high and space is a bit tight in the physical space.

#### **C. Chief Financial Officer Report**

Victor De La Paz, Chief Financial Officer, gave financial report. The AFBA audit should be complete within the next two months.

Right now for FY19, the primary driver is enrollment which is set on October 1. Full financials will be provided at the November board meeting.

AF Bridgeport has been approved for a loan forgiveness grant.

The FY20 Budget process has already started and there is an effort to find \$1M-\$1.2M in CT.

#### **D. Board Chair Report**

Chris Kunhardt has set up a regular monthly calls with school leaders.

#### **VI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm by Chris Kunhardt.

Motion by Debra Hertz  
Seconded by Marlene Macauda  
All in favor