

**Achievement First Rhode Island**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
October 11, 2017, 5:30 pm  
370 Hartford Avenue, Providence

The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

**I. Call to Order & Attendance**

The meeting was called to order at 5:41pm by Mayor Jorge Elorza.

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|---|--|
| Jorge Elorza, AFRI Board - Yes          | Dacia Toll, AF Network Support - Yes (phone) |
| Brian Gallogly, AFRI Board - Yes        | Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes (phone)   |
| Macky McCleary, AFRI Board - No         | Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes      |
| Reshma Singh, AFRI Board - No           | Elizabeth Winangun, AF Network Support - Yes |
| Norman McCulloch, AFRI Board - No       | Lisa Desfosses, AF Network Support - Yes     |
| John Igliozzi, AFRI Board - Yes (phone) | Morgan Carter, School Leadership - Yes       |
| Soraida Morales, AFRI Board - Yes       | Kevin Lohela, School Leadership - Yes        |
| Ben Smith, AFRI Board - Yes             | Libby Miller, School Leadership - Yes        |
| Maryellen Butke, AFRI Board - No        |  |
| James Wiley, AFRI Board - Yes           |  |
| Robert Luciano, AFRI Board - Yes        |  |
| Percy Ballah, AFRI Board - yes          |  |

Public: Lily Gutterman

**II. Open Session for Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**III. Business**

**RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from 6/13/17.**

Moved by Brian Gallogly  
Seconded by James Wiley  
All in favor

**IV. Reports**

**A. Principal Reports**

**AF Providence Mayoral Academy Elementary School, Morgan Carter**

Morgan Carter reported that quizzes are going well and the scholars are consistently performing at the top of the network. Where some of the academic achievement markers aren't strong, they have systems in place. 3rd and 4th grade academics need improvement.

Hispanic Heritage month has been marked by great celebrations: culture dress day, a dance, show and tell.

The start of the year was strong and Morgan feels great about the teachers that were hired. The mindsets are in the right place and staff culture is strong.

Student average daily attendance is 97.3% and the goal is 98%.

#### **AF Illuminar Elementary School, Kevin Lohela**

Kevin shared that this school year marks one year away from being fully scaled. They have 53 staff members and the org health data that he shared reflects great mindsets and a strong adult culture.

The school has almost 400 scholars. Attendance is at 98.3%. Prior to this school year, they had collaborative and action oriented meetings with families that had the most tardies and absences last year and they feel the results have been great.

Family satisfaction data was outstanding with 99% of families agreeing that the teachers at the school love my child, 100% feel welcome when walking into the school, among other data points.

Academic achievement is strong. Kevin spoke of an academic dean who is particularly strong. In addition to the traditional academic subjects, AF Illuminar is also prioritizing and excelling with Drama, Physical Education and Art.

Hispanic Heritage Month has been lots of fun - staff and scholars have enjoyed the programming.

One year ago, the associate teacher cohort had no people of color in it. This year 60% of the associate teachers are people of color. They set a goal of at least half (50%) and they reached that goal.

Mayor Elorza applauded the continued success at the scale.

#### **AF Providence Mayoral Academy Middle School, Libby Miller**

Libby Miller shared that the Co-CEO, Doug McCurry visited AF Providence Middle School and gave very positive feedback. The staff culture is strong and teachers have worked hard to norm and be consistent with scholars.

Academic highlights:

- First round of Dream Teams. Kids really own the preparation for the meetings.
- 60% are at the advanced level according to the "Paceline"
- Strong culture of literacy
- They are working with parents on how to help support their children with this new model
- Scholars are loving their enrichment: sports and robotics

- There have been no out of school suspensions
- Teachers are consistent, focusing on being positive and affirming
- Promotion is based on whether scholars are on pace, as opposed to reaching a certain grade level. The pace advances as the year advances. Scholars have opportunities to go deeper

The big challenges they have faced thus far in the school year have been with scholars and families in the adjustment from elementary to middle school. There is a lot more feedback on the merit and demerit system and they've had several meetings with families on the "why" of the system and how sweating the small stuff pays off. Libby is optimistic they are making progress.

#### B. Board Chair Report

Dacia Toll, co-CEO, participated by phone to share with the board the decision to seek one or more planning years for a third Mayoral Academy. Facilities continue to be a significant challenge and the focus right now is finding AF Illuminar a permanent home.

**RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby agrees to seek one or more planning years prior to the opening of Achievement First Mayoral Academy #3.**

**FURTHER RESOLVED, Achievement First and its designees are, jointly and severally, authorized and directed, in the name of AF Rhode Island, to submit documents needed to seek charter revisions from the charter authorizer in order to effectuate the foregoing resolution.**

Moved by Brian Gallogly

Seconded by James Wiley

All in favor

#### C. Community Outreach Report

Lisa Desfosses, VP, Facilities, participated in the meeting by phone and gave an update on the progress towards finding a building for AF Illuminar.

#### D. Treasurer Report (Ben Smith)

Ben Smith gave the financial report but because Mayor Elorza had to depart, the board did not vote on the resolution to approve the financial report.

Prior to adjournment, James Wiley brought up the issue of creating a dashboard of information the board could review prior to the meeting.

### IV. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34pm by Brian Gallogly.

Motion by Ben Smith

Seconded by James Wiley

All in favor