

Achievement First Bridgeport Academy

Board of Directors Meeting

November 14, 2017, 6:00 pm

AFBA Middle School

529 Noble Ave, Bridgeport CT

Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by Chris Kunhardt. The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

Chris Kunhardt, AFBA Board - Yes

Dick Kalt, AFBA Board - Yes

Marlene Macaуда, AFBA Board - Yes

Debra Hertz, AFBA Board - No

James Bennett, AFBA Board - No

Kimberly Bruce, AFBA Board - Yes

Ruben Felipe, AFBA Board - Yes (phone)

Ebrima Jobe, AFBA Board - Yes

Michael Strambler, AFBA Board - Yes

Heather Wachter, AFBA Board - Yes

Simon Obas, AFBA MS School Leadership - Yes

Christina Ellington, AFBA ES School Leadership - Yes

Natasha Noel, AFBA MS School Leadership - No

Florisca Carter, AFBA ES School Leadership - Yes

Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes

Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes

Open Session For Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approve Minutes

RESOLVED, the AF Bridgeport Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from September 28, 2017.

Motion by Marlene Macaуда

Seconded by Mike Strambler

All in favor

Reports and Discussion

Christina Ellington, Principal, AF Bridgeport Elementary School. AF Bridgeport Elementary has reached the goal of 90% certified but Christina took a moment to share with the board the complexity of the certification process and the ways in which everyone has gotten more knowledgeable.

Christina shared that the Org Health survey data last year wasn't as strong as she would have liked, especially toward the end of the year after she'd been at Amistad Elementary so much. This fall the data of this year is the highest of all CT schools with 100% of teachers saying they feel positive about working in the school. The question around envisioning staying at AF for 5+

years went up 20 points. The primary concern they're hearing from teachers is that the hours are long and there is never enough time. During the turnaround year, there had been extra staffing but once the school started doing well, there was a hard stop for hiring and the staffing model tightened. Teachers are really feeling that change.

AF Bridgeport Elementary lost a small number of staff in August and then there were some additional losses in September, then one staff member went on medical leave and another on maternity leave.

School culture is on track. There has been one out of school suspension.

They're feeling good about academic data. 3rd and 4th grade is on the right track (similar to last year) being near the top of the AF network. K-2 reading goals are not quite where they want them to be.

Attendance is at 98% (3rd in the network).

Wednesday, November 22nd at 6:30am the AFBA Elementary School teachers are served breakfast if any board members want to join and help serve.

Simon Obas, Principal, AF Bridgeport Middle School. Simon shared the Org Health results which improved 11% over last year (the highest improvement in the network). While they are celebrating significant growth, year over year, some of the absolute results still need improvement. Adult culture is in a positive place. The art teacher recently left due to family issues (moved to Kansas).

The eighth grade is the strongest grade for student culture: classrooms are rigorous, kids are being pushed, behavior is strong. Seventh grade is struggling and the work to undo habits is a daily effort. Suspensions are below the "DNE" (do not exceed) requirement from the state. They are being strategic to avoid out of school suspensions. In January, they are going to roll out a strong character education system.

Interim Assessments have shown some bright spots where AF Bridgeport Middle School students are outperforming other AF Connecticut grades/subjects.

Teacher certification is at 65% right now. Everyone has taken tests and now it's a matter of waiting. Laurie Bussmann shared that AF will go before the State in January or February so as certifications continue to come in, as they are each day, they will help the percentage.

Chris Kunhardt requested an update on final decisions around measures taken to reach 90%.

AFBA MS Holiday party is Friday, December 15th, at 6:30pm at Knowlton Art Studios, 305 Knowlton St.

Joint High School Committee Report

Chris Kunhardt shared with the board that the actual Joint High School Committee meeting is Wednesday (tomorrow) but he reported out on a call with Jeff Sudmyer, Regional Superintendent for Amistad HS.

Morgan Barth, principal of Amistad HS, will stay in the role for an additional year. The school currently has an enrollment of 630 and is likely to grow. There is discussion about how to handle the size of the school with respect to facilities, budget, leadership.

Treasurer Report

Dick Kalt gave the financial report highlighting a small deficit projected at the Middle School and a slight surplus at the Elementary School.

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

Motion by Ebrima Jobe

Seconded by Heather Wachter

All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Bridgeport Academy Board of Directors hereby adopts the updated Board Designated Reserve Policy as presented.

Motion by Dick Kalt

Seconded by Marlene Macaуда

All in favor

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm by Chris Kunhardt.

Motion by Dick Kalt

Seconded by Marlene Macaуда