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Achievement First Bridgeport Academy

Board of Directors Meeting

May 24, 2018

AF Bridgeport Middle School

I. 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 (phone)

Marlene Macaуда, AFBA Board - Yes

Debra Hertz, AFBA Board - Yes (phone)

James Bennett, AFBA Board - Yes

Kimberly Bruce, AFBA Board - Yes

Ruben Felipe, AFBA Board - No

Ebrima Jobe, AFBA Board - Yes

Michael Strambler, AFBA Board - No

Heather Wachter, AFBA Board - Yes

Christina Ellington, AFBA School Leadership - Yes

Simon Obas, AFBA School Leadership - Yes

Florisca Carter, AFBA School Leadership - No

Natasha Noel, AFBA School Leadership - Yes

Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes

Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes

II. Open Session For Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Approve Minutes

RESOLVED, the AF Bridgeport Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from March 22, 2018 and April 23, 2018.

Motion by Marlene Macaуда

Seconded by Dick Kalt

All in favor

IV. Reports and Discussion

Principal Reports

Simon Obas, Principal, AF Bridgeport Middle School, shared that SBAC testing is complete. He is confident that AFBA Middle will see strong growth. The school implemented interventions for scholars who needed additional support, held Saturday and after school tutoring, pep rallies and engaged parental support for the SBAC tests. Survey results were very positive and scholars reported that they felt prepared. Simon asked Oprah to show a quick video in support of the scholars and she did it. Simon was at the Van Jones show where Oprah was a guest so during a commercial break, he asked and she obliged!

The Org Health data has improved significantly, especially around the question of staff morale. Simon spoke about how, going into his second year as principal, he is excited to bring staff morale even higher.

There are 15 more days of school and Simon shared his reflections on how proud he is of the school. He spoke about hiring for next year and the strength of the returning staff.

In August, AFBA Middle will do lockdown training.

Commencement is June 15th at 12:30pm at AFBA Middle and will last one hour.

Christina Ellington, AF Bridgeport Elementary, talked about the preparation and support for scholars leading up to the SBAC testing. There was a lot of support. The school has had issues of internet bandwidth during testing in the past, but this year there were very few issues.

Org health results were good and Christina feels proud. 98% of teachers said that they feel they are learning and developing in their role which Christina attributes to the strong Deans on her leadership team. Areas where results decreased from fall to spring were focused in certain grade levels and were not spread across the entire school. This allowed the leadership team to meet and reflect with those grade teams and strategize about solutions.

The elementary school is fully staffed for next year with 90% teacher retention. They have multiple maternity leaves in the fall of next school year.

Dick Kalt asked about how the school leaders feel about the tight budgets for next year. Natasha Noel, AFBA Middle DSO shared ways in which they've cut their budget. The field trip budget was significantly cut from last year to this year and that number held steady for next year's budget. Chris Kunhardt encouraged school leaders to reach out when they have technology needs because board members may have access to gently used laptops, Chromebooks or other technology.

Joint High School Committee Report

Chris Kunhardt gave the Amistad High School update. AP for All was implemented last year. This year 300 students took 800 AP exams. Teacher retention is strong. Student morale is good but it is a stressful time and students are working very hard. The Committee talked about school safety. Principal Morgan Barth feels comfortable with the school security. The Committee talked about budget and space issues.

Board Chair Report

RESOLVED, the AF Bridgeport Academy Board of Directors hereby ratifies the re-election of the following Directors with the specified terms below.

Marlene Macauda, June 30, 2021

Ebrima Jobe, Parent Representative, June 30, 2020

Motion by Jim Bennett

Seconded by Heather Wachter

All in favor

Ebrima Jobe and Marlene Macaуда abstained.

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

Chris Kunhardt, Chair

Dick Kalt, Vice-Chair and Treasurer

Marlene Macaуда, Secretary

Motion by Ebrima Jobe

Seconded by Jim Bennett

All in favor

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the State of Connecticut requires boards of education or governing authorities to certify that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction that are not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

AND WHEREAS, this certification must include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.

AND WHEREAS, the board of education or governing authority may allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. (An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held.)

RESOLVED, the AF Bridgeport Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Board Chair to certify that AF Bridgeport Elementary and Middle School meet the standards specified in Section 10-215e of the Connecticut General Statutes for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

Motion by Dick Kalt

Seconded by Marlene Macaуда

All in favor

RESOLVED, AF Bridgeport Board of Directors hereby approves Javier Dimas to sign claims for reimbursement of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs.

Motion by Jim Bennett

Seconded by Marlene Macaуда

All in favor

Treasurer Report

Victor De La Paz, Achievement First CFO, gave an overview of the budget process and the proposed FY19 budget before the board, as well as the year to date financials.

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

Motion by Jim Bennett

Seconded by Ebrima Jobe

All in favor

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

Motion by Heather Wachter

Seconded by Marlene Macauda

All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Bridgeport Academy Board of Directors hereby ratifies the appointment of CohnReznick to perform the financial audit of the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Motion by Jim Bennett

Seconded by Marlene Macauda

All in favor

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm by Chris Kunhardt.

Motion by Heather Wachter

Seconded by Marlene Macauda

All in favor