

Achievement First Hartford Academy
Board of Directors Meeting

November 5, 2018, 5:30 pm
305 Greenfield St, Hartford

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 5:48 pm by Barry Jacobson. The following board members, constituting a quorum, were in attendance:

Barry Jacobson - Yes	
Marshall Ruben - Yes	Raven Obas, AFHA School Leadership - No
Angela Scott - Yes	Ben Cruse, AFHA School Leadership - Yes
Jose Rendon - Yes (phone)	
Ja Hanna - Yes	Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes
David Dee - No	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes
Alice Turner - Yes	Blake Bergeron, AF Network Support - Yes
Hide Inga - Yes (phone)	Fatimah Barker, AF Network Support - Yes (phone)
Deborah Prince - Yes	
Lisa Tanen-LaFontaine - No	

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 September 17, 2018.

Motion by Jose Rendon
Seconded by Angela Scott
All in favor

IV. Elect New Director

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby elects Patsy Mundy to the Board of Directors with a three year term ending June 30, 2021 and pursuant to the bylaws of AF Hartford Academy, the Board of Directors does, effective November 5, 2018, set the number of members of the Board of Directors at eleven (11).

Motion by Jose Rendon

Seconded by Deborah Prince
All in favor

V. Reports and Business

A. Principal Reports

Ms. Raven Obas, AF Hartford Academy Elementary School Principal, was out sick and was unable to attend the board meeting.

Mr. Ben Cruse, AF Hartford Summit Middle School Principal, shared with the board that the school is doing very well, especially considering the pressures of the merger of AF Hartford Middle and AF Summit Middle going into the 2018-19 school year. AF Hartford Summit Middle School is consistently hitting its attendance goals and staff have worked hard to create a strong culture base in the beginning of the school year. Mr Cruse also shared that suspensions have been low and that enrollment remains strong.

B. Joint High School Committee Report

Barry Jacobson gave the Joint High School Committee Report, sharing that AF Hartford High is performing well across a number of non-academic measures, including scholar attendance, suspensions, and choice attrition.

He shared that students are showing promising improvement on SAT practice tests. He also noted that school performed well on a nationally normed student investment survey.

He also reported that Principal Emily Banks stated that shifts on the leadership team have caused momentary workload redistributions, which the team is working to address. Finally, he shared that AF Hartford High has hired a new Dean of College and college counselor for the 2018-19 school year.

C. Finance Committee Report

Barry Jacobson gave the Finance Committee Report, sharing that the elementary school is projecting a slight deficit, the middle school is projecting a surplus, and the high school is projecting a deficit. Deficits have been caused by lower than expected enrollment, and will be addressed through some cost-saving measures and increased philanthropy.

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the finance committee report.

Motion by Jose Rendon
Seconded by Angela Scott

All in favor

D. External Relations Committee Report

Ja Hanna gave the External Relations Committee Report. He shared that the committee has focused on how to best engage parents in the Hartford community and share information about AF. The committee discussed hosting focus groups with highly engaged families to learn more about parents' perspectives on AF. The committee also discussed how to update AF Hartford Academy's marketing based on parent feedback.

The committee hopes to work closely with an advocate at the Northeast Charter School Network to achieve its community relations goals and drive student recruitment efforts.

E. Board Chair Report

Barry Jacobson gave the Board Chair Report, offering his perspectives on the AF Hartford Academy Charter Renewal Hearing on 11/1. He was moved by the many parents, teachers, and students who spoke in support of AF Hartford Academy at the hearing. Other board members who attended the hearing echoed his sentiments.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm by Barry Jacobson.

Motion by Ja Hanna

Seconded by Alice Turner

All in favor