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Achievement First Bridgeport Academy

Board of Directors Meeting

March 11, 2019

529 Noble Ave, Bridgeport

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

Dick Kalt, AFBA Board - Yes

Marlene Macaуда, AFBA Board - Yes

Debra Hertz, AFBA Board - Yes

James Bennett, AFBA Board - Yes

Kimberly Bruce, AFBA Board - Yes

Michael Strambler, AFBA Board - Yes

Ruben Felipe, AFBA Board - Yes (phone)

Ebrima Jobe, AFBA Board - Yes

Katherine Gallagher, AFBA Board - Yes

Christina Ellington, AFBA School Leadership - Yes

Simon Obas, AFBA School Leadership - Yes

Florisca Carter, AFBA School Leadership - Yes

Natasha Noel, AFBA School Leadership - Yes

Shannon Garfield, AF Network Support - Yes

Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes

Sarah Claybaugh, AF Network Support - Yes

Public: n/a

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 November 15 and December 10, 2018.

Motion by James Bennett

Seconded by Debra Hertz

All in favor

IV. Reports, Discussion and Board Business

A. Principal Reports

Simon Obas, AF Bridgeport Middle School Principal, shared that this year the school is stronger academically. There are several grades and subjects where AF Bridgeport Middle School scholars are performing among the top grades and subjects across the AF network. They will

have the second round of mock exams in the near future.

The school has increased the number of interventions as they approach the SBAC exams. Saturday tutoring is also now being offered. The school will host an Avengers-themed exam season.

If you walk into the school at any time, there is strong instruction and learning happening. Student culture is stronger than last year. Suspensions and restraints are down which Mr. Obas attributes to stronger relationships between teachers and scholars. There has also been a lot of mindset work with both adults and scholars. Natasha Noel, Director of School Operations, spoke about teacher certification numbers.

Christina Ellington, AF Bridgeport Elementary School principal, shared that in the last couple of weeks, they have had a chance to announce the six AF Bridgeport Elementary School teachers advancing to higher levels of recognition through the five stages of the Teacher Career Pathway.

Ms. Ellington is particularly proud of K-2 reading results, as this has been a major commitment during her time as principal. There has been tremendous growth and she is very proud.

The school has also benefited from having police support outside in the morning during school drop off and afternoon when parents pick up their children. It has helped create a safer space for students on the two way street where the school is located. Unfortunately, due to budget constraints, AF Bridgeport Elementary will not be able to afford this next year given the cost.

Teacher retention is expected to be strong.

AF Bridgeport Elementary is in “crescendo” which is the period of time leading up to the SBAC exams. Because AF Bridgeport Elementary has had strong results in the past, they are keeping consistent strategies and practices to help students do their best.

Dick Kalt asked if the speakers/PA systems were fixed and Florisca Carter reported that the system was repaired.

B. Joint High School Committee Report

Shannon Garfield, Regional Superintendent, gave an update on Amistad High School. Emery Sykes, Amistad High School’s interim principal, has an extremely high standard for what she expects from students as well as how adults interact with each other and with students. Every

decision Ms. Sykes makes is about what's best for kids. Fundamentally, Ms. Sykes has stepped into a situation where trust has been lost. School culture far from where it needs to be, but she continues to step up and out with grace. Ms. Garfield gave specific examples of ways in which Ms. Sykes has engaged scholars and parents to reexamine some of the school rules and set new expectations.

Having not had a Parent Leadership Committee (PLC) meeting all year, Amistad High School had one recently.

The board discussed the challenges that are manifesting at the high school around middle school identity and the cities the scholars are from. They also discussed with Mr Obas, the new AF values, especially AF's commitment to racial equity.

Executive Session - Personnel Discussion of Principal Hires

The board entered executive session at 7:34 pm. Motion by Dick Kalt. Seconded by Marlene Macauda. The board exited executive session at 8:45 pm. Motion by Dick Kalt. Seconded by James Bennett.

The board entered executive session at 8:51 pm. Motion by Marlene Macauda. Seconded by Debra Hertz. The board exited executive session at 9:06 pm. Motion by Debra. Seconded by Marlene.

C. Finance Committee Report

Dick Kalt gave the financial report including year to date financials, the balance sheet and the FY18 audit.

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

Motion by Debra Hertz
Seconded by Marlene Macauda
All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Bridgeport Academy Board of Directors hereby accepts the report of the independent auditors CohnReznik prepared in relation to the fiscal year ending 6/30/18.

Motion by Debra Hertz
Seconded by Marlene Macauda
All in favor

V. Additional Board Business

RESOLVED, the AF Bridgeport Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the updated authorized signers on the *ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs*.

Motion by Debra Hertz

Seconded by Marlene Macauda

All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Bridgeport Academy Board of Directors hereby approves Simon Obas as the principal of Achievement First Amistad High School, effective July 1, 2019.

Motion by Debra Hertz

Seconded by Dick Kalt

All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Bridgeport Academy Board of Directors hereby approves Annedrea Coleman as the principal of AF Bridgeport Middle School, effective July 1, 2019.

Motion by Debra Hertz

Seconded by Marlene Macauda

All in favor

As an addendum to this motion, the board insists that Achievement First provide adequate support for Annedrea Coleman to be a successful principal.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm by Chris Kunhardt.

Motion by Marlene Macauda

Seconded by Dick Kalt

All in favor