

- Draft Minutes -

**Achievement First Rhode Island
Board of Directors Meeting**

March 27, 2019, 5:30 pm

370 Hartford Avenue, Providence

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 pm by Mayor Elorza. The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

Jorge Elorza, AFRI Board - Yes

Brian Gallogly, AFRI Board - Yes

Macky McCleary, AFRI Board - Yes

Reshma Singh, AFRI Board - No

John Igliozi, AFRI Board - No

Soraida Morales, AFRI Board - Yes

Ben Smith, AFRI Board - Yes

Maryellen Butke, AFRI Board - Yes

James Wiley, AFRI Board - Yes

Robert Luciano, AFRI Board - Yes

Percy Ballah, AFRI Board - Yes

Jorge Cardenas, AFRI Board - Yes

Kevin Lohela, AFRI School Leadership - No

Aja Davis, AFRI School Leadership - Yes

Ashia Parks, AFRI School Leadership - Yes

Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes

Elizabeth Winangun, AF Network Support - Yes

Public: Adrienne Tharp

II. Public Comment

Adrienne Tharp, AF Illuminar Elementary parent, shared that she believes the social emotional learning has been a wonderful addition.

III. Approve Minutes

RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from January 30, 2019.

Motion by Maryellen Butke

Seconded by Ben Smith

All in favor

IV. Reports and Business

Percy Ballah, parent representative, talked about a collaboration between the parents and school during black history month. Hundreds of parents lined the hallway as an African Drumming group drummed to celebrate the teachers who walked down the hallway receiving high fives and cheers from the parents.

A. Principal Reports

Aja Davis, AF Providence Elementary School principal, shared that scholar culture is in a stronger place this year than last. They are integrating aspects of the social emotional work that AF Illuminar is doing. They are focusing on the mantra: be nice, be kind, be safe. Scholars are really embracing that and are using the language with each other in hallways and it has become part of the school's identity.

Mayor Elorza shared that the City is launching a kindness initiative and wants find ways to collaborate.

Black History Month highlighted black excellence with a theme of Black Royalty. This month they are focusing on Women's History Month. Rosetta stone is launching after break. They received a grant for all three AFRI schools which covers dinner, childcare so that parents have access to English language instruction.

Ashia Parks, AF Providence Middle School principal, shared that there have been gains in fifth grade. Scholar attendance is 97%. Kids like being in school and the Director of Operations has been leading the way ensuring that all kids who can be in school are. Removals are down significantly.

Black History Month celebrations partnered with local organizations to provide programming around drumming, dance, story-telling, after school and on weekends. During Women's History Month they are looking at influential women in history and today while tying Compass habits to what they're learning about women leaders from morning motivation. With the AF network moving to new Core Values and a commitment to racial equity, AF Providence Middle is talking about implicit bias with scholars.

This is the second week of Crescendo preparing for the State test. Kids are working on strengthening habits - self-talk, self-monitoring, quality of work. I can. I will. RICAS testing is late April, early May.

Kevin Lohela, AF Illuminar Elementary principal, began with a reflection on the impact of the social emotional learning work they're doing. School is happy and focused. The student council is very active. Attendance of all three AFRI schools are among the top five schools in the AF network (36 schools in total).

Teacher retention looks good and Mr. Lohela noted that they are done growing. Next year, there will be no new teachers because they are expecting all Teachers in Residence (TIR) to be full time teachers.

The school is on track with academic goals. Mr. Lohela shared a piece of writing done by a fourth grade scholar.

100% of leadership team returning next year. Mr. Lohela will be taking three weeks of paternity leave following spring break and the school will be led by the founding dean who will be interim principal.

Working to ensure a smooth transition from elementary to middle school. Mr. Lohela shared that three staff members will go up to AF Illuminar Middle School as founding leaders.

B. Executive session

The board entered executive session at 6:23pm to discuss the principal candidate for AF Illuminar Middle School. Motion by Macky McCleary. Second by James Wiley. The board exited executive session at 6:30pm. Motion by Maryellen Butke. Second by Macky McCleary.

C. Board Chair Report

The board briefly discussed the candidacy of Andrew Walker, as well as the performance of the existing principals, Mr. Lohela, Ms. Parks and Ms. Davis.

RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves Andrew Walker as principal of AF Illuminar Mayoral Academy Middle School effective July 1, 2019.

Motion by Macky McCleary

Second by Ben Smith

All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors has discussed and reviewed the performance of the AF Rhode Island Principals intending to return for the 2019-20 school year and the compensation packages as proposed by Achievement First, and hereby approves the renewal of the following principals, with final compensation packages to be incorporated in the FY20 Budget to be reviewed and approved in May 2019:

- Kevin Lohela, Principal, AF Illuminar Elementary School
- Aja Davis, Principal, AF Providence Elementary School
- Ashia Parks, Principal, AF Providence Middle School

Moved by Percy Ballah

Seconded by Ben Smith

All in favor

Sarah Blanton briefly previewed the following resolutions regarding LED lighting in the two school buildings.

WHEREAS, Achievement First Rhode Island, Inc. ("AFRI") currently leases that certain real property commonly known as 370 Hartford Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island (the "Hartford Ave Property");

WHEREAS, AFRI desires to improve energy efficiency and the cost of electricity at the Hartford Ave Property;

WHEREAS, AFRI has received a proposal from RISE Engineering. (the Contractor) and National Grid (the Utility) to improve energy efficiency and the cost of lighting at the Hartford Ave Property through an incentive program for thirty six thousand sixty-one dollars (\$36,061.00) and loan for one hundred eleven

thousand nine hundred thirty-nine dollars (\$111,939.00) at a zero (0%) percent interest rate, to be repaid in 60 monthly installments paid through the electric bill;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, AFRI is hereby authorized and directed to enter into a certain loan agreement (the "LED Loan Agreement") with the Utility for one hundred eleven thousand nine hundred thirty-nine dollars (\$111,939.00) per the Standard Agreement attached as Exhibit A;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFRI is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all such documents as may be required by RISE engineering including, but not limited to, certain loan agreements substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit B, any and all such documents required to effectuate the foregoing;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any officer of AFRI (each an "Authorized Person") be, and hereby is, jointly or severally, authorized and directed, at any time and from time to time, to do all such things and acts and to execute and deliver all such applications, documents and instruments in writing and to expend such fees for and on behalf of AFRI as may be necessary or advisable in order to give effect to and, generally, carry out the intent of these resolutions including, without limitation, to execute and deliver any instruments and documents required in connection with the LED Loan Agreement, in the name and on behalf of AFRI, on such terms and conditions and in such form deemed necessary or desirable and approved by such Authorized Person with such changes, modifications and amendments thereto as such Authorized Person may in such person's discretion approve, which approval shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery of such applications, documents and instruments in writing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all actions previously taken by any Authorized Person in furtherance of the foregoing resolutions are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Moved by Maryellen Butke

Seconded by James Wiley

All in favor

WHEREAS, Achievement First Rhode Island, Inc. ("AFRI") currently leases that certain real property commonly known as 85 Garfield Avenue, Cranston, Rhode Island (the "Garfield Property");

WHEREAS, AFRI desires to improve energy efficiency and the cost of electricity at the Garfield Property;

WHEREAS, AFRI has received a proposal from RISE Engineering. (the Contractor) and National Grid (the Utility) to improve energy efficiency and the cost of lighting at the Garfield Property through an incentive program for twenty seven thousand one hundred thirty-two dollars (\$27,132.00) and loan for eleven thousand two hundred eight dollars (\$11,208.00) at a zero (0%) percent interest rate, to be repaid in 36 monthly installments paid through the electric bill;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, AFRI is hereby authorized and directed to enter into a certain

loan agreement (the "LED Loan Agreement") with the Utility for eleven thousand two hundred eight dollars (\$11,208.00) per the Standard Agreement attached as Exhibit C;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFRI is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all such documents as may be required by RISE engineering including, but not limited to, certain loan agreements substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit D, any and all such documents required to effectuate the foregoing;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any officer of AFRI (each an "Authorized Person") be, and hereby is, jointly or severally, authorized and directed, at any time and from time to time, to do all such things and acts and to execute and deliver all such applications, documents and instruments in writing and to expend such fees for and on behalf of AFRI as may be necessary or advisable in order to give effect to and, generally, carry out the intent of these resolutions including, without limitation, to execute and deliver any instruments and documents required in connection with the LED Loan Agreement, in the name and on behalf of AFRI, on such terms and conditions and in such form deemed necessary or desirable and approved by such Authorized Person with such changes, modifications and amendments thereto as such Authorized Person may in such person's discretion approve, which approval shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery of such applications, documents and instruments in writing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all actions previously taken by any Authorized Person in furtherance of the foregoing resolutions are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Moved by Maryellen Butke

Seconded by James Wiley

All in favor

D. Treasurer Report

Ben Smith gave the treasurer report noting surpluses. James Wiley inquired about two to four year financial projections.

RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the financial report as presented in Exhibit E.

Moved by James Wiley

Seconded by Maryellen Butke

All in favor

A motion was made by Ben Smith and seconded by Maryellen Butke to approve the resolution attached as the final page of these minutes. The resolution was unanimously approved.

E. External Relations Update

Elizabeth Winangun shared the extremely high number of applications for open seats in the lottery.

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm by Brian Gallogly.

Motion by Maryellen Butke

Seconded by Ben Smith

All in favor