

- Draft Minutes -

Achievement First Rhode Island

Board of Directors Retreat

December 11, 2019, 5:30 pm

85 Garfield St, Cranston

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 pm by Mayor Jorge Elorza. The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

Jorge Elorza, AFRI Board - Yes

Macky McCleary, AFRI Board - No

Reshma Singh, AFRI Board - No

John Igliazzi, AFRI Board - Yes

Soraida Morales, AFRI Board - Yes

Ben Smith, AFRI Board - Yes

Maryellen Butke, AFRI Board - No

James Wiley, AFRI Board - No

Robert Luciano, AFRI Board - Yes

Percy Ballah, AFRI Board - Yes

Jorge Cardenas, AFRI Board - No

Kevin Lohela, AFRI School Leadership - Yes

Cassidy McKee, AF Network Support - Yes

Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes

Elizabeth Winangun, AF Network Support - Yes

Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes

AF Staff and School Leaders Joining the meeting by phone: Victor De La Paz, Andrew Malone, Ashia Parks, Andrew Walker.

Approximately twenty five members of the public joined the meeting, largely families from AF Providence Middle School.

II. Public Comment

Several parents and AF Providence Middle School scholars spoke about concerns with the school.

III. Accept Resignation and Set Number of Directors

Brian Gallogly communicated his resignation on November 22, 2019 to Mayor Elorza via email expressing his pleasure for having served and his best wishes for continued success.

RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby accepts the resignation of Brian Gallogly and does, effective December 11, 2019, set the number of members of the Board of Directors at eleven (11).

Motion by John Igliazzi

Second by Ben Smith

All in favor

IV. Approve Minutes

RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from October 7, 2019.

Motion by John Igliazzi

Second by Percy Ballah

All in favor

V. Reports and Business

A. Principal Report

Kevin Lohela gave a report on AF Illuminar Elementary School. Attendance is 98 percent, student attrition is 0%, suspensions are very low and teacher retention is very high. Org health results are the strongest they have ever been and student achievement, based on RICAS and interim assessments, is strong.

Andrew Walker, principal of AF Illuminar Middle School, gave a report about school culture, the focus on belonging (both scholars and teachers), and the ways in which the schools proactively address student concerns.

Aja Davis was sick and was unable to attend the meeting.

Ashia Parks, principal of AF Providence Middle School, began her report by addressing issues of school culture, especially those named during public comment. The school is not currently meeting her vision of excellence nor is she surprised by the public comments.. She expressed the desire for partnership with families and for support from the network

The board asked whether there was a way in which they could help. Ms. Parks said she welcomed help and support and invited the board to the town hall meeting in January with families.

B. Treasurer Report

Ben Smith shared that, on an operating basis, the four schools are in good financial shape.

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

Motion by John Igliazzi

Second by Soraida Morales

All in favor

The philanthropy need for AF Rhode Island this fiscal year is \$1.2MM and the two resolutions before the board would reduce the current year philanthropy by \$500K by using board designated reserves. The balance sheet will be used in the short term while AF builds a reliable donor base in Rhode Island. Board

members expressed their appreciation for having this discussion so early in the fiscal year and want to revisit at the next board meeting, scheduled for February 5, 2020. John Iglizzi made a motion to postpone voting on the following two resolutions until the next board meeting. Seconded by Percy Ballah. All in favor.

RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the budget amendment, as presented in Request 1 of the Executive Summary of the Financial Materials.

RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the requested use of board designated reserves, as presented in Request 2 of the Executive Summary of the Financial Materials.

C. Board Chair Report

Andrea Summers, Regional Director of Operations, gave an overview of the Wellness Policy which lays out the importance of healthy food. It was approved by RIDE and requires approval by the board. This is the first year the board is approving this policy because AFRI is now a School Food Authority.

RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the Wellness Policy as presented.

Motion by John Iglizzi

Second by Soraida Morales

All in favor

Elizabeth Winangun shared that the operations team at AF Illuminar Middle School would like the opportunity to serve as truancy officers, as they are most close to the attendance process.

RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the following individuals to serve as Truancy Officers to serve in an authorized capacity on behalf of the scholars of AF Rhode Island.

Katya Rodriguez, MEd - Student Services Manager

Ruby Lazo, MEd - Office Coordinator

Ezra Gonzalez, MEd – Director of School Operations

Motion by John Iglizzi

Second by Percy Ballah

All in favor

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm by Ben Smith.

Motion by Percy Ballah

Seconded by Robert Luciano

All in favor