

- DRAFT -

**AF Hartford High School
Joint High School Committee Meeting**

May 11, 2020, 5:00 pm

Zoom Video Conference

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm by Patsy Mundy. The following board members, constituting a quorum, were in attendance, along with Jumoke and Achievement First Staff:

Patsy Mundy, AFHA Board - Yes

Alice Turner, AFHA Board - Yes

Myron Stewart, Jumoke Board - Yes

Frank Williams, Jumoke Academy - Yes

Ben Cruse, AF Hartford High School Principal - Yes

Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support

Ken Paul, AF Network Support

Troy Monroe, Jumoke Academy

II. Open Session for Public Comment

There was no public comment

III. School Report

Mr. Ben Cruse shared updates on remote learning. Most juniors and seniors have Chromebooks they took home on the last day they were in class, and the school has been distributing Chromebooks by dropping them off at scholar's homes or by shipping them.

He shared that there is flexibility in the school schedule given that many scholars have responsibilities during the day. All Zoom classes are recorded so students who are not able to attend the live classes can watch the recording and submit work in the evening, thus getting credit for attendance. Attendance has been good but the scholars who struggled with attendance pre-COVID are the same scholars who are struggling during this pandemic. The school is actively working to engage all scholars.

To keep things fun, they are doing "midday humor" where they send out video clips, often poking fun at Mr. Cruse. They are doing a parade around the city for seniors and setting up birthday lawn signs made by teachers.

Advisory meets twice a week. Staff meetings also happen twice per week. Teacher retention is strong. One teacher is leaving to return to graduate school and one other teacher is going to teach at AF Hartford Summit Middle School. All other teachers are returning. The school is fully hired.

Mr. Cruse discussed the challenges around a grading system because of the varying difficulties scholars are facing in completing their work. The policy and philosophy is to weigh heavily on the first half of the year. Summer Academy (remote) will be available giving scholars who need it the opportunity to make

up two credits.

Mr. Cruse highlighted the work of the college team in using this time to get ahead with college recommendation writing and college essays. All juniors already have two letters of recommendation and have completed a draft of their college essay.

Mr. Cruse shared the list of colleges where the seniors plan to attend. There is one scholar who plans to attend a life skills program after graduation.

They are planning a social distance graduation on June 5th in a parking lot near the Bushnell.

III. Approve Meeting Minutes

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from September 9, and November 11 2019.

Motion by Alice Turner

Seconded by Myron Stewart

All in favor

IV. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:33pm by Patsy Mundy.

Motion by Alice turner

Seconded Myron Stewart

All in favor