

- DRAFT -

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

September 14, 2020, 4:30 pm

Zoom Video Conference

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 4:43 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	Laneka Thomas, AF Hartford High School Principal
Alice Turner, AFHA Board - Yes	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support
Myron Stewart, Jumoke Board - Yes	Shannon Garfield, AF Network Support
Frank Williams, Jumoke Academy - Yes	Troy Monroe, Jumoke Academy

II. Open Session for Public Comment

There was no public comment

III. School Report

Ms. Laneka Thomas gave an overview of the summer training and start to the school year. She shared quotes from staff about optimism and hope for the school year, as well as specific lesson feedback and the opportunity to practice using technology. The growth areas that were named from last year are being addressed deliberately by the team to better serve scholars.

The top priorities for the school year are (1) student and staff safety, (2) student experience – classroom environment and (3) adult culture.

Attendance has been above 90% since the first day (when it was 89%). The attendance team has been working hard to get kids into their remote classes and today attendance was 96%. Core classes in the morning and early afternoon are mandatory. There is also live advisory twice per week. The other three days per week there are one on one check ins. Scholars are taking live electives – theater, dance. They are not recorded videos. Late afternoon there is independent work time, with an adult on Zoom available for extra help (office hours/study hall). Ms. Thomas has already hosted two town halls to hear from students. The seniors have been struggling with their senior year being this way so the school is responding and the energy is turning around. They are demonstrating tremendous fortitude, in Ms. Thomas' opinion.

97% of scholars are using school-issued Chromebooks. The rest are using their own technology

and there are two scholars who are still engaging with the school around technology.

The current reopening plan is to reopen on 10/5. 22% of families have communicated that they need in-person instruction. The plan is to have as few staff as needed in the building.

Regarding the safety plan, there will be temperature checks daily, scholars will remain in the same classroom with teachers rotating. Masks, frequent handwashing, and six feet social distancing will be required.

Staff retention has been good. Ms. Thomas noted two departures and the specific new hires the school has made. Once paperwork is confirmed, 90% of staff will be certified which leaves two teachers who still need to be certified. 44% of staff identify as people of color.

Ms. Thomas shared the AP courses that are offered and noted that the school is offering one additional AP course this year (AP Computer Science). AP performance from last year has improved in terms of the number of exams passed per student.

The college office is working hard to connect with every senior and family to talk about their post high school plans. 85% of those meetings have taken place already. The first draft of their college essays are due at the end of this week.

III. Approve Meeting Minutes

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Hartford Academy Joint High School Committee hereby approves the meeting minutes from May 11, 2020.

Motion by Alice Turner

Seconded by Myron Stewart

All in favor

IV. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm by Patsy Mundy.

Motion by Alice Turner

Seconded by Myron Stewart

All in favor