

- Draft Minutes -

**Achievement First Rhode Island
Board of Directors**

Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 5:30 pm
Zoom Video Conference

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, AF Rhode Island and Achievement First staff were in attendance:

Jorge Elorza - Yes	Donavan Tracey, AFRI School Leadership
Macky McCleary - Yes	Aja Davis, AFRI School Leadership
Reshma Singh - Yes	Andrew Walker, AFRI School Leadership
John Igliazzi - No	Kevin Lohela, AFRI School Leadership
Ben Smith - Yes	Mindy Rice, AFRI School Leadership
Maryellen Butke - Yes	Salvador Pellerano, AFRI School Leadership
James Wiley - Yes	
Charles Lombardi - No	

Achievement First staff and guests: Sarah Blanton, Cassidy McKee, Ken Paul, Eduardo Del Valle, Jesse Balis-Harris, Kiah Hufane. Jillian Fain and Derek Osterman

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Approve Minutes

RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from February 1, 2021.

Motion by Maryellen Butke
Seconded by James Wiley
All in favor

IV. Reports and Business

A. Principal Q & A

Mindy Rice, AF Promesa Elementary School principal, spoke about student attrition and the families who opted for a school with in-person learning when AF wasn't offering it. They are working to ensure strong family partnerships.

Offer letters have gone out to current school leaders so principals are clear on which deans are

returning. Teacher offer letters will be sent out by the end of the month.

There will be summer learning opportunities for students at no cost.

Sal Pellerano, Regional Director of Operations, addressed questions about vaccinations and the confidence that a significant percentage of staff are either already vaccinated or are scheduled.

B. Proposed Executive Session – Personnel discussion regarding principal renewal offers for 2021-22 school year

The board entered executive session at 5:52 pm to have a personnel discussion regarding principal renewal offers for the 2021-22 school year and also real estate updates related to the high school and AF Illuminar and invited Sarah Blanton, Ken Paul, Kiah Hufane, Jesse Balis-Harris, Eduardo del Valle, Cassidy McKee, Faisal Jawaid, Derek Osterman, Salvador Pellerano to join.

Motion by Ben Smith

Second by Reshma Singh

All in favor

The board exited executive session at 6:30 pm.

RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors has discussed the performance of the AF Rhode Island Principals intending to return for the 2021-22 school year and the compensation package as proposed by Achievement First, and hereby approves the renewal of the following principals, with a final compensation package to be incorporated in the FY22 Budget to be reviewed and approved in May 2021:

- Mindy Rice, Principal, AF Promesa Elementary School
- Donovan Tracey, Principal, AF Providence Middle School
- Andrew Walker, Principal, AF Illuminar Middle School

Motion by Maryellen Butke

Seconded by James Wiley

All in favor

C. Treasurer Report

Ben Smith gave the financial report noting that all schools are on budget. The balance sheet is strong. The board discussed federal funding that is available to AFRI. The PPP loan forgiveness application was submitted. AF has responded, with a letter, to the pending legislation related to offsetting the PPP funding with a reduction of per-pupil funding.

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

Motion by Ben Smith

Seconded by Maryellen Butke

All in favor

V. Adjourn

Prior to adjourning, Mayor Elorza opened the floor to a discussion about the moratorium and shared his concerns. Elizabeth Winangun has moved on from AF and is now working on the Governor's team and Cassidy McKee shared how AF hopes to engage on these issues. Jillian Fain is available from the Mayor's team to support the cause. Jillian shared some strategies moving forward to maximize impact.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm by Mayor Elorza.

Motion by Maryellen Butke

Seconded by James Wiley

All in favor