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**AF Hartford Academy  
Board of Directors**

Monday, March 29, 2021, 5:30 pm

Zoom Video Conference

**I. Call to Order and Attendance**

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 pm by Patsy Mundy. The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First staff were in attendance:

Patsy Mundy - Yes	Raven Obas, AFBA School Leadership
Bildade Augustin - Yes	Emily Wojtusik, AFHA School Leadership
Ja Hannah - Yes	Laneka Thomas, AFHA School Leadership
Alice Turner - Yes	Christina Ellington, AF Network Support
David Dee - Yes	Michael Hendricks, AF Network Support
Lisa Tanen-LaFontaine - Yes	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support
Celina Whitmore - No	Ken Paul, AF Network Support
	Faisal Jawaid, AF Network Support
	Neil Shah, AF Network Support

**II. Open Session for Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**III. Approve Minutes**

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from February 3, 2021.

Motion by Lisa Tanen-La Fontaine

Seconded by Billie Augustin

All in favor

**IV. Reports and Discussions**

**A. Principal Reports**

Ms. Raven Obas, principal of AF Hartford Elementary School, shared updates about the March reopening and how they have prioritized safety and choosing joy. Students and staff are excited to be back in the building and have reported feeling safe with the safety protocol that is in place.

She shared updates on reading levels and math assessments, the two content areas they've prioritized. Administering remote assessments is challenging but the participation rates have been improving. Ms. Obas reviewed areas where there are skill gaps and discussed how they are reviewing data with teachers. She noted that they are seeing growth, especially when students are in the building, but it is not at the pace of an ordinary school year.

She reviewed attendance and how it has been trending upwards. Daily attendance ranges from 90-93%. The attendance committee has been working to partner with families around chronic absenteeism.

Ms. Obas shared that 100% of the leadership team is returning and she anticipates 100% staff retention.

No students are being retained.

The board discussed student recruitment and potential community partnerships.

Ms. Laneka Thomas, AF Hartford High School Principal, updated the board on the March reopening. 21% of students are attending in-person learning. There is ongoing synchronous instruction, but not live instruction for those students who attend in person.

She shared attendance rates, GPA data and interim assessment results – both absolute results and year over year comparisons. She shared data around the number of students who are failing classes and discussed the interventions and responses for students who are struggling academically. The leadership team did a student by student audit to best understand how to support their success which included scheduling changing, tutoring, spring break classes, and increased communication with students and families through advisory.

Ms. Thomas shared that teachers and staff report they are most satisfied when they can come to the building and connect with students. There is uncertainty about the 2021-22 school year but there is excitement about the visioning process and the direction the network is heading. Two members of the leadership team are leaving at the end of this school year – one is getting promoted to a network director role and another who is departing AF Hartford High. Teaching staff retention is 85% and she shared that she feeling strong about the team returning for next year.

Graduation will be in person, but exact plans have not yet been set.

Ms. Thomas discussed the hard work that the senior class has put into their work and their plans for their futures, and the college counseling supports for the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

Ms. Emily Wojtusik, AF Summit Middle School principal, updated the board that all staff members are back in the building (except those with accommodations) and have reported feeling good about being together again. Some students are coming for in-person learning 2-days per week and others attend 4-days per week.

She shared whole school and grade level attendance and highlighted scholars who have perfect attendance. Enrollment is 405, above the goal, and attrition is very low.

Ms. Wojtusik shared that the organizational health results were up, year over year, in every question. Last summer, the leadership team decided to focus on team morale and a culture of team and family and were pleased to see strong results in those areas.

She shared pass/fail rates by grade and noted that students will not be retained unless the family requests it. Ms. Wojtusik said there is no mandatory summer school. They will need to take end of year data to determine 2021-22 supports and interventions.

One leadership team member is moving to Texas and that role is being filled by someone who is currently serving in that role to cover a maternity leave. They hired a dean of school culture, the role Ms. Laneka Thomas had had before leading AF Hartford High School. Teacher offer letters recently went out. She shared the low numbers of anticipated departures and the strength of the Teachers in Residence (TIRs) who are able to fill these positions.

## **B. Joint High School Committee Report**

Patsy Mundy briefly noted that Jumoke Academy is facing similar challenges with math instruction.

## **C. Board Chair Report**

The board entered executive session to have a Personnel discussion regarding principal renewal offers for 2021-22 school year at 6:48 pm and invited Christina Ellington, Michael Hendricks, Shannon Garfield and Sarah Blanton to join. Motion by Billie Augustin. Second by Lisa Tanen-La Fontaine.

The Board exited executive session at 7:14 pm. Motion by Lisa Tanen La Fontaine. Second by David Dee.

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors has discussed the performance of the AF Hartford Academy 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:

- Raven Obas, Principal, AF Hartford Academy Elementary School
- Emily Wojtusik, Principal, AF Hartford Summit Middle School
- Laneka Thomas, Principal, AF Hartford High School

Motion by Ja Hannah

Seconded by David Dee

All in favor

#### **D. Treasurer Report**

Faisal Jawaid, AF's Controller, gave the financial updated including year to date forecasts, opportunities for federal stimulus funds, and the balance sheet.

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the financial report as presented.

Motion by David Dee

Seconded by Lisa Tanen-La Fontaine

All in favor

#### **V. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm by Patsy Mundy.

Motion by Lisa Tanen-La Fontaine

Seconded by Ja Hannah

All in favor