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AF Hartford Academy

Board of Directors

May 10, 2021, 5:30 pm

Zoom Video Conference

I. Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 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 - No	Laneka Thomas, AFHA School Leadership
Alice Turner - Yes	
David Dee - Yes	
Deborah Prince - Yes	Michael Hendricks, AF Network Support
Lisa Tanen-LaFontaine - Yes	Neil Shah, AF Network Support
Celina Whitmore - No	Xanthe Jory, AF Network Support
Jessica Glover - Yes	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support
Erwin Hurst - Yes	Ken Paul, AF Network Support

II. Open Session for Public Comment

There was no public comment but Patsy Mundy invited the board candidates, Jessica Glover and Erwin Hurst, to introduce themselves.

III. Approve Minutes

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from March 29, 2021.

Motion by Lisa Tanen-LaFontaine

Seconded by David Dee

All in favor

IV. Elect New Directors

The board members who had an opportunity to engage with the board candidates prior to this meeting spoke about their impressions and recommendation of both Jessica Glover and Erwin Hurst.

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors elects Ms. Jessica Glover to serve as a Parent Representative with a three year term ending June 30, 2024, and does, pursuant to the bylaws of AF Hartford Academy, effective May 10, 2021, set the number of members of the Board of Directors at nine (9).

Motion by Alice Turner

Seconded by Bildade Augustin

All in favor

V. Reports and Discussions

A. Principal Reports

Raven Obas introduced herself to the new members and began her presentation of AF Hartford Elementary School and the school's academic growth. Students and teachers are enjoying being back in the building.

She shared some of the academic supports for the 2021-22 school year, including a dedicated intervention block, prioritized math and reading, and new reading and math programs. Social distancing measures will be maintained next year. They will minimize transitions with possible lunch in classrooms. Scholars will not share materials.

Teachers have been happy and have appreciated the way the network has prioritized safety and a sense of belonging. There was only one resignation during the year.

Ms. Obas updated the board on student recruitment efforts including a YMCA tabling opportunity which led to additional applications. They are continuing to build partnerships in the community. The staff will be handing out flyers on Friday, May 28th. They are also doing billboard and bus advertisements.

For K-2, there will be take home work for the summer. AF is going to have a virtual summer school for 3rd and 4th graders. Starting in the fall, students will return to in-person learning. There will be a remote learning option but families will need to demonstrate a need for an accommodation. Ms. Obas said the school only has one social worker so they are working on hiring a second social work intern.

Ms. Emily Wojtusik updated the board on AF Hartford Summit Middle School where they are serving 44% of students in person with 56% of students learning remotely. 92% of staff are in person. They've tried to keep things fun with spirit week, tiktok and meme challenges. They planned a battle of the schools on SBAC questions with another AF middle school. For teacher appreciation week, they sent notes, videos and swag.

Attendance is consistently between 90-95%. She reviewed enrollment and they are on track to meet the enrollment goals for the 2021-22 school year.

There were two mid-year departures (none since the last board meeting) and 100% of teachers are certified in their roles. There are two remaining positions left to hire for next year (one special education teacher, one specials/electives). Two members of the leadership team are leaving their roles, one is moving to Texas with her family and the other is taking a leadership role at the High School. Both of those positions have been filled for next year.

Ms. Wojtusik shared math and ELA data and the way the team is thinking about the results, in particular how to best support students for the remainder of this year and next year.

Looking ahead, they are paying close attention to the end of year assessments and students' reading levels. The ELA team has been restructured with a co-teaching model for the 2021-22 school year. They are also considering an Americorp program to provide tutoring. AF is running an online summer school program that students can opt into.

Finally, she reviewed logistical planning for the 2021-22 school year. The board discussed accommodations and what is contributing to students' academic challenges.

Ms. Laneka Thomas began her report sharing student attendance along with the ways the attendance team has worked to maintain attendance at or above 90%. In the past few weeks, attendance has been close to 95%.

They have surveyed the students in another student investment survey which showed increases of 1 percentage point with the strongest growth around student teacher relationships and the valuing of school. Despite the amount of time spend on Zoom classes, students still feel connected to their teachers and their school.

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Of the 53 graduating seniors, 51 are attending a two or four year college or university. There is one Questbridge Scholar who will have a full ride to UPENN and AFHHS had its first acceptances to Duke University and Whitmore College. 20% of the senior class was accepted during early

decision.

She shared leadership team and teacher retention and an overview of how teachers are doing. AP tests begin next week so the school is busy preparing the technology for students to be able to take their tests in school or at home.

She shared GPA data for the school overall and by grade and mock AP results.

This summer there will be remote summer academy and they are anticipating large numbers of students attending.

The school is sending a survey to families to gauge comfort with attending school in person next year as well as their comfort level of vaccinating young people. They are still working on figuring out the academic and SEL program for the next school year to provide additional supports for students.

B. Treasurer Report

Ms. Bildade Augustin gave the treasurer report including the year to date financials for the three schools and Neil Shah, Interim CFO, gave an overview of the proposed budget for FY22.

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby ratifies the re-appointment of CohnReznick to perform the financial audit of the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Motion by Bildade Augustin

Seconded by David Dee

All in favor

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

Motion by David Dee

Seconded by Bildade Augustin

All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the financial budget as prepared by Achievement First for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Motion by Bildade Augustin

Seconded by Lisa Tanen-LaFontaine

All in favor

C. Board Chair Report

Patsy Mundy updated the board on AF's Vision Process which has included three Summits. The first focused on setting graduate aims. The second Summit discussed North Star goals and the third, most recent, discussed school design. The next Vision Summit is May 27th.

Ms. Mundy shared that both she and Ja Hannah are up for re-election for another three-year term.

RESOLVED, the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby ratifies the re-election of the following directors with a three year term ending June 30, 2024:

Patsy Mundy

Ja Hannah

Motion by Bildade Augustin

Seconded by David Dee

All in favor

Ms. Xanthe Jory, AF's Chief Operating Officer, joined the meeting by phone to introduce herself. She has been at AF for one week, so far. Her work will focus on enrollment, facilities and school operations as related to COVID safety. She shared her background having started her career as a teacher.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm by Patsy Mundy.

Motion by Bildade Augustin

Seconded by David Dee

All in favor