

- DRAFT -

AF Hartford Academy
Joint High School Committee Meeting
Zoom Video Conference
Monday, January 24, 2022
5:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 p.m. by Patsy Mundy. The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First staff were in attendance.

Patsy Mundy, AFHA Board - Yes	Laneka Thomas, AF Hartford High School
Erwin Hurst Sr., AFHA Board - Yes	Principal
Alice Turner, AFHA Board - Yes	Claire Shin, Regional Superintendent
Myron Stewart, Jumoke Board - Yes	Elise Major, AF Network Support
Troy Monroe, Jumoke Academy - Yes	Connor McGann, AF Network Support
Arnel Hines, Jumoke Academy - Yes	Ken Paul, AF Network Support

II. Open Session for Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Approve Minutes

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Hartford Academy Joint High School Committee hereby approves the meeting minutes from November 1, 2021.

Motion by Erwin Hurst Sr.
Seconded by Alice Turner
All in favor

IV. School Report

Patsy Mundy asked Claire Shin to introduce herself. Ms. Shin was the founding principal of the high school. She was thanked for her attendance.

Ms. Laneka Thomas discussed staffing issues at the high school, which have stabilized thanks to substitutes and incentives for staff to step in and provide coverage. While there are still open positions, they now have permanent solutions to address these vacancies.

Ms. Thomas expressed that navigating COVID-19 after winter break has been challenging. Staff are required to be fully vaccinated. Exposure still requires groups of students to be quarantined.

Ms. Thomas reported that early decision results for the school have been favorable. The school has a Questbridge scholar accepted to Dartmouth University. Early decision applications saw a slight decline in the current school year, due to inability to visit campuses in-person

Ms. Thomas reported in terms of academic success that the majority of students are passing all of their classes. Students are also struggling with mental health due to the pandemic, but are communicative with the school. The school incorporates community time into the school week, including zoom calls that engage the student body on ways to make them more excited for school.

Ms. Thomas opened the floor to questions.

- Ken Paul asked Ms. Thomas about attendance. Attendance is stable and exceeding the school's goal for the year.
- Erwin Hurst Sr. asked what support the school offers to encourage student interest in college. Ms. Thomas indicated that the senior class is not experiencing waning excitement for the college process, just for specific schools, as they could not visit and invest in them. Ms. Thomas will speak with the junior class as early as possible to cultivate their interest. She thinks they need to talk to the junior class as early as possible to cultivate their interest.

Myron Stewart communicated that he and Dr. Monroe are affiliated with an organization that provides scholarships for four-year universities to high-achieving students. Mr. Stewart indicated high-achieving students at the high school may qualify.

Ms. Thomas discussed student enrollment. She indicated that student attrition this year remains typical, primarily families moving out of the area.

V. Financial Report

Patsy Mundy gave the finance report. She noted that a gratitude bonus was given to Achievement First employees to maintain staff morale.

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

Motion by Alice Turner

Seconded by Erwin Hurst Sr.

All in favor

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m. by Patsy Mundy.

Motion by Alice Turner

Seconded by Patsy Mundy

All in favor