



**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**Achievement First Bridgeport Academy**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**

Venue: Amistad Academy Middle School  
130 Edgewood Ave, New Haven, CT 06511, Room 147  
Zoom: <https://achievementfirst.zoom.us/j/83130741890>  
Monday, February 6, 2023, 5:30-6:30 pm

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Raj Lakra at 5:33 pm.

Attendees

Board members

Name	Present	Name	Present
Rajeev Lakra	Y	Debra Hertz	Y
Michael Strambler	Y	Kimberly Bruce	N
Dewey Loselle	Y	Ruben Felipe	Y
Marlene Macaуда	Y	Ebrima Jobe	N
Dick Kalt	Y	RoAnne Thomas	N

AF Staff: Lisa Margosian, Blakely Simoneau, Shalia Garnett, Adrienne Minniefield, Stephanie Fox, Brooke Williams, Gaylord Bourne, Rod Bowen

**II. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Lakra took the board through the approval of the minutes.

It was:

RESOLVED, the AF Bridgeport Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from November 21, 2022 and the Joint CT Board retreat

[achievementfirst.org](http://achievementfirst.org)



minutes from August 23, 2022.

Motion by Dick Kalt  
Second by Dewey Loselle  
All in Favor

#### **IV. Discussion with Achievement First**

##### **A. Principals' Reports**

Ms. Shalia Garnett gave the elementary school report, starting with some highlights about family and staff events that took place at the end of the calendar year.

She gave an update on the org health survey which measures staff satisfaction across different dimensions, discussing positive aspects and growth areas. She also mentioned some of the concrete next steps she and her team identified and put in place in response to the survey results.

Board Members asked whether comparisons were possible with previous years' surveys given the shift to Gallup this year. While this was not possible, Ms. Margosian said comparisons to other charter schools were available and could be acquired from Gallup. The board asked to see such comparisons, particularly with similar charters in urban areas at a future meeting.

Ms. Stephanie Fox gave the middle school report, sharing information about book author events and other upcoming student and family events. She shared the results of the org health survey where the school outperformed the network average on all questions but 2 and met the network goal of 80% favorability on all questions. She noted that, while comparisons to last year were not quite possible due to the shift in survey, the middle school had had some of the lowest org health scores last year. She described some of the action items she and her leadership team committed to, as well as the monitoring and follow-up mechanisms they put in place to ensure progress.



Ms. Fox invited the board members to attend Career Day on April 5, where they can come meet the students in one or two classrooms to tell them about their jobs and give them the opportunity to ask questions.

The two principals shared their collaboration on elementary to middle school matriculation for graduating 4th graders to get a chance to learn about the middle school.

## **V. Committee Reports**

### **A. Treasurer's Report**

#### **1. FY22 Audited Financial Statements**

Mr. Dewey Loselle gave an update on the financial statements, indicating that they were the strongest he had seen in his tenure as Treasurer, and described some post-pandemic federal funding that has been available

He also stated that the audit did not reveal any big issues and there were no significant findings. He and Raj mentioned one payroll issue that in the near future would be mitigated by some upcoming changes that will have this type of process occurring centrally at the network.

Ms. Gaylord Bourne joined the meeting and also stated that the audit received an unmodified opinion which is the cleanest type of audit possible.

### **B. Amistad Joint HS Committee Report**

Mr. Lakra took the board through a motion to join the Amistad Academy board and ECCP board for the Amistad Joint HS Committee report.

Motion by Raj Lakra  
Second by Michael Strambler  
All in Favor



Mr. Rod Bowen gave the High School report on behalf of Principal Simon Obas, starting with an update about the staff holiday party and some highlights about the school's basketball team.

He then discussed the results of the school's recent org health survey which outperformed the AF network averages across all dimensions but one.

He shared some of the key positive aspects and the growth areas and outlined some next steps and action items that the school's leadership team committed to putting in place in response to the survey results.

Board members asked questions about

- the STAR reading data and whether it represented a particular grade or an overall average
- whether humanities teachers were also able to focus on reading instruction and what other resources can be made available to shore up literacy such as tutoring

## **VI. Adjourn**

At 6:35 pm, Mr. Lakra took the board through a motion to join the boards of Amistad Academy, Elm City College Prep and AF Hartford Academy in the Joint CT board meeting.

Motion by Raj Lakra

Second by Debra Hertz

All in favor.