



DRAFT Minutes
Achievement First Hartford Academy
Board of Directors Meeting

Venue: Amistad Academy Middle School, Room 149
130 Edgewood Ave, New Haven, CT 06511
Zoom: <https://achievementfirst.zoom.us/j/85766970291>
Monday, February 6, 2023, 5:30-6:30 pm

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Erwin Hurst, Sr. at 5:34 pm.

Attendees:

The following board members, constituting a quorum, were in attendance:

Erwin Hurst, Sr.	Y	Alice Turner	Y
Jessica Alhasnawi	Y	Francoise Deristel-Leger	N
Lisa Tanen-LaFontaine	N	Charon Smalls	Y
Surbhi Patel	N		

Achievement First Staff: Christi George, Karolyn Belcher, Sueleidy Cruz, Laneka Thomas, Caleb Dolan, Sulafa Bashir, Gaylord Bourne
Guests: Samantha Rose, Earline Bradshaw

Sulafa Bashir recorded the minutes.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hurst, Sr. took the board through approval of the previous meeting’s minutes.

It was:

RESOLVED, that the AF Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from December 1, 2022.



Motion by: Erwin Hurst Sr.
Second: Jessica Alhasnawi
All in favor

IV. Discussion with Achievement First

A. Principals' Reports

Ms. Sueleidy Cruz, Interim Principal, gave the elementary school report. She mentioned some staff shifts that had happened in the previous few weeks and described some of the staff and student events that were held to bring joy and positivity through the holiday break.

Ms. Cruz went through the school's org health results and stated that the elementary school outperformed the network on the majority of the questions. She highlighted positive aspects around staff expectations and sense of purpose as well as some of the growth areas around staff input and ensuring they have materials they need. She outlined some of the action items the school's leadership team are taking on to address the results.

Mr. Caleb Dolan gave the middle school report on behalf of Principal Oraina Simmons. He mentioned joyful and community-building events at the school including the launch of the basketball season as well as other after-school programs and family game nights.

He shared the school's results on the org health survey highlighting positive aspects around team feeling valued and supported, and describing some of the growth areas around staffing and the steps leadership are engaged in to support staff.

Ms. Laneka Thomas gave the high school report, sharing early decision college acceptance results including first-time acceptances to Harvard, Brown and University of Rochester, as well as the overall number of applications submitted and the percentage receiving at least one acceptance so far. She also highlighted the recognition the school received from the state for its high percentage of FAFSA completion among families.

Ms. Thomas shared the school's org health data, describing the positive aspects around staff feeling cared for and that they are developing, while discussing some of the growth areas resulting from some of the staff being new which the leadership plans to address through continued focus on staff development but also ensuring opportunities are created to celebrate and affirm growth.



Board members asked questions about what support the schools need, which were mainly around driving talent to the schools to aid with the shortage of STEM, Special Ed and other subject teachers.

Mr. Hurst, Sr. made a comment on highlighting college acceptance results so other families can see what's possible

B. Enrollment Response Update

Ms. Karolyn Belcher gave an update on enrollment, describing the status of the various interventions that had been previously discussed to help mitigate against under-enrollment. She also outlined some of the outreach efforts for student recruitment after the application was opened, including AF's participation in the high school Expo event in January for the first time.

II. Committee Reports

A. Treasurer's Report

1. FY22 Audited Financial Statements

Gaylord Bourne joined the meeting and gave an update on the AF Hartford Academy's Annual Audit. She stated that the audit received an unmodified opinion which is the cleanest opinion possible and added that there were no concerns or unusual items flagged by the auditors.

The AF Hartford Academy Board members subsequently joined the members of the Amistad Academy Board, the AF Bridgeport Academy Board and the Elm City College Prep Board for a joint CT board meeting.