



**DRAFT Minutes
Achievement First Rhode Island
Board of Directors Meeting**

Venue: Sprout Coworking Space (Annex Training Room)
166 Valley St Building 6M Suite 103, Providence, RI 02909
Zoom: <https://achievementfirst.zoom.us/j/7382361994>
Monday, December 5, 2022, 5:30-7:00 pm

I. Call to Order

Mayor Jorge Elorza called the meeting to order at 6:18 pm

Mayor Jorge Elorza	Y	Macky McCleary	N
Maryellen Butke	Y	John Igliazzi	Y
James Wiley	Y	Mayor Charles Lombardi	N
Natasha Tamba	N		

AF staff in attendance: Lisa Margosian, Beth Cocuzza, Jillian Fain, Ketki Harale, Sulafa Bashir, Xanthe Jory, Karolyn Belcher, John Sharkey, Jesse Balis-Harris, Caleb Dolan, Ken Paul, Sultana Salma

Guests: Jo-Ann Schofield, LaJuan Allen

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Approval of Minutes

It was:

RESOLVED, that the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from August 29, 2022.

Motion by James Wiley
Second by John Igliazzi
All in favor

IV. Discussion with Achievement First

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Ms. Lisa Margosain welcomed the board and introduced Karolyn Belcher, AF's new Acting Superintendent.

A. Deep dive on Academic Data

Mr. John Sharkey spoke on academic data stating that performance was mixed in 21-22 with disproportionate impacts in ELA.

He discussed the internal assessments used to help predict performance on state exams, and to tailor instruction accordingly. Mr. Sharkey also described academic interventions including ES curriculum pilots and MS school support models.

Board members asked clarifying questions regarding the data.

Mr. Jesse Balis-Harris mentioned that the family engagement survey results overall have been really strong. Anecdotally it felt that families are fully engaged.

B. School Reports

Mr. Jesse Balis-Harris gave the elementary school report. The highlights included strong student experience and adult culture, which showed improvements compared to last year. Challenges included reading and math proficiency goals with varied results across schools and by grade.

Board members discussed clarifying questions around the data.

Mr. Caleb Dolan gave the middle school report where a highlight was student retention and a challenge was academics where the schools saw some promising improvements in student performance but lots of work remained to be done in learning recovery. Another challenge that Mr. Dolan discussed was school culture. Although suspension rates remained low, the schools continue to focus on improving consistency across classrooms and increasing positive interactions and community between students.

Board members discussed clarifying questions around the data.

In HS, a highlight was the school environment which felt calm, respectful, and supportive. Academics were also a challenge here, with students needing significant academic growth to be on track for post-secondary success. Another challenge is HS transition into the new building.



Board members discussed post-secondary options (alternative to college) such as trade schools.

V. Treasurer Report

Mr. Neil Shah shared the revised FY23 financials as previously shared with the board in the pre-read materials.

Board asked clarifying questions around the budget.

It was:

RESOLVED, that the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the amended budget as recommended by the Treasurer and prepared by Achievement First for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Motion by Maryellen Butke
Second by John Igliazzi
All in favor

VI. Board Discussion and Business

A. Approval of Interim Principals

It was:

RESOLVED, that the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the following individuals to serve as interim principals, as needed, based on the recommendations by Achievement First, from December 5, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

- Illuminar ES: Joseph Fink
- Illuminar MS: Faith Johnson
- Providence ES: Dana Hurley
- Providence MS: Andreeana Thomas
- Providence HS: Kim Kalenda
- Promesa ES: Jen Andrade

Motion by James Wiley
Second by John Igliazzi
All in favor



B. Approval of SY 2022-2023 Family Handbook
It was:

RESOLVED, that the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the 2022-2023 AF Family Handbook.

Motion by James Wiley
Second by John Iglizzi
All in favor

C. Update on CEO Search

Ms. Lisa Margosian updated the board on the CEO search. She shared that the committee was formed in October and has been working on a job description. They vetted 8-9 search forms and signed a contract with On-Ramps, and are working on stakeholder engagement for the search.

Mayor Elorza requested that at the next board meeting, AF should present a recommendation on whether or not we should make an investment in summer learning.

D. Other Business

It was:

RESOLVED, that the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby affirms the decision of Achievement First, under the Charter Management Agreement, that Jesse Balis-Harris, Chief of Schools, ES, shall act as interim Superintendent on behalf of Kevin Lohela, RI Regional Superintendent, for the duration of Mr. Lohela's leave.

Motion by James Wiley
Second by John Iglizzi
All in favor

Mr. Ken Paul gave a departing speech of gratitude to Mayor Elorza

VII. Adjourn

Mayor Elorza adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm.



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