



## **DRAFT AGENDA**

### **Achievement First Rhode Island**

#### **Board of Directors Meeting**

Venue: Providence City Hall, 25 Dorrance Street - Room 305, 3rd Floor

Zoom: <https://achievementfirst.zoom.us/j/89788132849>

Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 5:30 pm-7:00 pm

#### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Mayor Brett Smiley.

**Board Members in Attendance:** Maryellen Butke, James Wiley, John Iglizzi, Mayor Brett Smiley

**Staff in Attendance:** Lisa Margosian, Beth Cocuzza, Xanthe Jory, Christi George, Jillian Fain, Sulafa Bashir, Jesse Balis-Harris, Caleb Dolan, Angela Weinell

**Guests in Attendance:** Jo-Ann Schofield

Ms. Jillian Fain recorded the minutes.

#### **II. Public Comment**

There was no public comment

#### **III. Board Business**

##### **A. Approval of December Board Meeting Minutes**

Mayor Smiley took the board through approval of the previous meeting's minutes, as well as approval of the leadership slate, personnel committee membership. The board members subsequently voted to approve a new board member and accept the resignation of another.

It was:

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



RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Rhode Island Board hereby approves the minutes of its December 5, 2022 meeting as presented.

Motion by James Wiley  
Second by Maryelle Butke  
All in Favor.

#### **B. Approval of Leadership Slate**

It was:

RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Rhode Island Board hereby elects the following leadership slate:

- a. Mayor Brett Smiley, Chair
- b. Maryellen Butke, Vice Chair
- c. James Wiley, Treasurer

Motion by John Igliozzi  
Second by Maryellen Butke  
All in Favor.

#### **C. Approval of Personnel Committee**

It was:

RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Rhode Island Board hereby appoints the following board members to the Personnel Committee:

- a. Mayor Brett Smiley, Chair
- b. Maryellen Butke, Vice Chair
- c. James Wiley, Treasurer

Motion by John Igliozzi  
Second by Maryellen Butke  
All in favor.

#### **D. New Board Member**



It was:

RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby elects Ms. Jo-Ann Schofield to the Board for a 3-year term, ending June 30, 2025.

Motion by Maryellen Butke

Second by James Wiley

All in favor.

#### **E. Board Member Resignation**

It was:

RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors accepts the resignation of Ms. Natasha Tamba, and does, pursuant to the bylaws of AF Rhode Island, effective at the end of the February 15, 2023 meeting, set the number of members of the Board of Directors at seven (7).

Motion by John Igliozzi

Second by Maryellen Butke

All in Favor.

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

##### **A. School Reports**

Ms. Lisa Margosian, AF Interim CEO, welcomed and thanked the board members for their continued support in Rhode Island.

Mr. Jesse Balis-Harris gave the elementary school report, providing some background on each of the 4 schools and their principals, highlighting some bright spots related to academic recovery and student experience, and challenges related to the transition from remote learning and previous principal transitions.

Mr. Balis-Harris also discussed the strengths in enrollment as well as teacher staffing and retention, with the exception of some challenges in subjects like science and math. He shared that academic results are not where they should be, but mid-year data shows them trending in the right direction. Additionally, student attendance is over 90% and adult culture is strong.



Mr. Caleb Dolan gave the middle and high school report, highlighting reading growth and emerging growth in math for middle school. He shared that the high school is moving to a new space and will welcome two 9th grade classes in the same space for the first time.

Mr. Dolan shared that enrollment is strong in middle school but the high school is not fully enrolled and is also experiencing staffing challenges.

Board members asked questions about the percentage of enrolled high school students who are matriculating from outside of AF and the percentage of graduating AF 8th graders choosing to attend Providence High School.

Mr. Dolan then gave a summary of the org health survey results which varied across the schools. Ms. Christi George informed the board members that the survey this year used Gallup for the first time which allows comparison with other organizations in the education sector, including K-12 as well as colleges and universities.

#### B. Academic Improvement Plan

Ms. Karolyn Belcher introduced herself and her background prior to joining AF in October. She gave her vision for academic improvement including the new curriculum and a focus on students' academic progress, mental health and Socio-Emotional Learning. She also highlighted an emphasis on talent, and ensuring staff felt valued and heard. Ms. Belcher also discussed defining the high school program's value proposition and the high school graduation standard.

Board members asked questions about different career paths for students beyond just a college track.

#### C. HR & Finance Investments

There was an update on finance systems changes which will be rolled out in 2023, the first being an update to the payroll system planned to take place in March.

Ms. Christi George shared the HR investments underway which are designed to bring work to be managed centrally by HR subject matter experts.



Board members asked about the challenges of centralization vs. decentralization of those functions.

## **V. Board Business**

### **A. Committee Reports**

1. Treasurer's Report - SY22 Audited Financial Statements

James Wiley discussed the results of the annual audit conducted in December, where the result was a clean audit as shared in the board package.

### **B. Proposed Executive Session**

1. Scholar and Parent Incident at Providence MS
2. AF Network Reimagining
3. CEO Search Update

The board entered into Executive Session at 6:30 pm to discuss a Scholar and Parent Incident at Providence MS as well as the topics of the AF Network Reimagining and an update on the CEO Search.

## **VI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Smiley at 7:00 pm.