

**Meeting Minutes
AF Bridgeport Academy
Board of Directors Meeting**

Venue: Virtual Meeting

Zoom: <https://achievementfirst.zoom.us/j/85397296506>

Thursday, October 19, 2023, 5:30-7:00 pm

I. Call to Order

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

Also in attendance: Lisa Margosian, Blakely Simoneau, Shannon Miller, Karolyn Belcher, Sahlia Garnett, Diamond Laing, LaNelle Alexander, Neil Shah, Kiersten Gibson-Cooper, Brooke Williams.

II. Public Comment

No members of the public were present. Mr. Lakra presented the board’s determination on the issue raised by a parent, Ms. Jossie Perez, at the last board meeting. The board determined that the suspension was in line with the handbook and AF policy, and therefore the language would not be changed.

III. Resolutions and Approvals Previous Meeting’s minutes, Leadership Slate, Committees, Interim Principals, Family Handbook (10 min)

Mr. Lakra asked for the board to pass the consent agenda. The board approved the interim principals and the Family Handbook.

Consent Agenda:

1. IT WAS RESOLVED, the AF Bridgeport Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from May 24, 2023.
2. IT WAS RESOLVED, that the AF Bridgeport Academy Board of Directors hereby elects the following leadership slate for the 2023-2024 fiscal year:
 - Raj Lakra, Chair

- Mike Strambler, Vice Chair
 - Dewey Loselle, Treasurer
 - Marlene Macaуда, Secretary
3. IT WAS RESOLVED, that the AF Bridgeport Academy Board of Directors hereby appoints the following committee members:
- Finance Committee: Dewey Loselle (Chair), Rajeev Lakra, Dick Kalt
 - Personnel Committee: Michael Strambler (Chair), Rajeev Lakra
 - AF Joint Amistad Committee: Dick Kalt, Michael Strambler
4. IT WAS RESOLVED that the AF Bridgeport Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the following individuals to serve as interim principal, as needed, for a period of time not to exceed sixteen weeks through June 30, 2024, based on the recommendations by Achievement First.
- Elementary School: Adrienne Minniefield
 - Middle School: Diamond Laing
5. IT WAS RESOLVED, that the AF Bridgeport Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the 2023-2024 AF Family Handbook.

Motion from Marlene, Second by Dick. All in favor, none opposed and none abstained. Mr. Lakra asked the board to complete a series of forms required by the State of Connecticut. Mr. Lakra invited the board to an in-person meeting on December 14, and noted that board meetings would be two hours moving forward.

IV. Discussion with Achievement First

A. CEO Welcome (2 min)

Ms. Margosian welcomed everyone and introduced the newest team members, Kiersten Gibson-Cooper and LaNelle Alexander.

B. Principal Reports (10 min)

Ms. Garnett presented to the board on how summer professional development went, and noted the goals her school has set. She provided updates on the beginning of the year. Mr. Lakra asked Ms. Garnett about difficulties the school is experiencing, and she noted that there were many changes due to staffing vacancies, sickness, and parental leave. She noted that she is working diligently with Team Recruit and she is hopeful.

Ms. Laing provided updates on the middle school and how they are setting up scholars and

teachers for success. Ms. Laing said that her transition into the interim role has been better because she's had support from both the school community and AF network.

C. Joint Amistad HS Committee Report (5 min)

Kiersten Gibson-Cooper provided updates on the high school, including the football team and national ranking of Amistad High School.

D. New Curriculum Implementation and Academic Goals (10 min)

Mr. Sharkey provided updates on the academic goals for this school year and noted that the new curriculum was the “big bet” in meeting those goals. Mr. Sharkey presented the select elementary, middle and high school academic goals for the current year. The discussion included questions and clarifications about the goals, including the meaning of exemplary, the impact of COVID on learning loss, and the comparison to national standards.

Mr. Sharkey highlighted the difficulty of remediating unfinished instruction from the pandemic and the impact on math instruction. Math was identified as the subject that has been most affected. The difference between proficiency in grade level math strategy and grade level math strategy access was discussed, along with the three dimensions of evaluating math: numeracy, problem-solving strategy, and proficiency on math assessments.

Mr. Sharkey outlined the changes made to the academic programs and curricula, including the adoption of new math, science, and ELA curricula at different grade levels. He noted that the teachers have been responding to the new curriculum largely positively.

E. Graduate Goals and Aims (30 min)

Mr. Paden presented on the Graduate Goals and Aims. He noted that our organizational missions should inform our Graduate Aims, and these will inform our Design pillars. AF wants to answer the questions - what are the competencies, what are the skills, and what are the habits that students must have? He noted that these Goals and Aims were developed with the community, and that the Design Pillars are what must be included in the school design. Mr. Paden noted that AF is working to determine how to understand what success looks like, and noted that these Goals and Aims are part of a 3-5 year plan.

Mr. Kalt asked where they see the board in terms of their involvement, and Mr. Paden responded that AF is looking for the board's counsel and guidance and also to offer opportunities and supports to help build the infrastructure. Mr. Lakra noted that 4 years of high

school does not seem long enough to meet the graduate aims, and Mr. Paden responded that these aims are K-12. Mr. Lakra referenced financial literacy courses that his company could provide, and Mr. Paden noted that students are eager for those courses. Mr. Kalt referenced programs that his company used to offer.

F. Compliance Action Plan Updates (10 min)

Mr. Belcher offered updates on the CAP, and Mr. Lakra asked for a written update with Ms. Belcher offered to provide.

G. Finance Committee Report (10 min)

Mr. Shah offered updates on the financial results from last school year including what was presented to the auditors. Mr. Shah noted that there are certain dips at the end of the fiscal year in June, but that the board's reserves are good.

V. Board Business

A. Board Retreat Follow-ups (10 min)

Mr. Lakra spoke about board health, and the need for new board members and a new pipeline for board members. Mr. Lakra spoke about getting another engaged board member on the board, and at least one other board member. He asked the board to consider their networks and who they could bring in who are as committed as the rest of the board already is. Mr. Kalt mentioned getting new board members from Bridgeport. Mr. Jobe noted that parents would have a lot to offer the board.

Mr. Lakra would like to target at least three new members, one of whom is a parent.

VI. Adjourn

Mr. Lakra adjourned the meeting at 7: