

**Minutes
AF 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/84937361300>
Tuesday, September 26, 2023, 5:30-7:00 pm

I. Call to Order

Mayor Smiley called the meeting to order at 5:14 pm.

Name	Present	Name	Present
Mayor Brett Smiley	Y	Macky Mcleary	Y
Maryellen Butke	Y	John Iglizzi	N
James Wiley	Y	Mayor Charles Lombardi	N

AF Staff present: Lisa Margosian, Shannon Miller, John Sharkey, Dumar Paden, Ketki Harale, Jillian Fain, Blakely Simoneau, Sulafa Bashir, Michael Rabin, Neil Shah, Charmayne Joseph, Caleb Dolan, Xanthe Jory, Karolyn Belcher, Kevin Iohela.

Guests: Samantha Lowry

II. Public Comment

Ms. Tiffany Bliss provided public comment. Ms. Bliss raised concerns around the provision of special services to her child. The board thanked her for raising her concerns.

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

Mayor Smiley moved for approval of the consent agenda

Motion by Maryellen Butke

Second by James Wiley

All in favor, none abstained.

It was:

1. RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from June 21, 2023.

2. RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby elects the following leadership slate for School Year 2023-24:
 - a. Mayor Brett Smiley, Chair
 - b. Maryellen Butke, Vice Chair
 - c. James Wiley, Treasurer
3. RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby appoints the following board members to the Personnel Committee for School Year 2023-24:
 - a. Maryellen Butke, Chair
 - b. James Wiley
 - c. Jo-Ann Schofield
4. 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 through June 30, 2024.
 - a. AF Envision ES: Emily Travers
 - b. AF Illuminar ES: Stephanie McSweeney
 - c. AF Illuminar MS: Faith Johnson
 - d. AF Promesa ES: Colleen Flaherty
 - e. AF Providence ES: Dana Hurley
 - f. AF Providence MS: Angela Martinez
 - g. AF Providence HS: Kim Kalenda
5. RESOLVED, that the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the 2023-2024 AF Family Handbook.

IV. Discussion with Achievement First

A. Welcome & Mission Moment (5 min)

Lisa Margosian, CEO, welcomed the board and thanked them for their participation in the board retreat.

B. High School Goals and Aims (30 min)

Dumar Paden, the Chief of High Schools at Achievement First, presented the Achievement First High School Goals and Aims. Mr. Paden detailed the purpose of the Goals and Aims, and highlighted three Goals and Aims - knowledge of self within community, college, career, and life excellence, and purpose and leadership. Mr. Paden then provided details on the design pillars, which are a description of what it will look like when the Goals and Aims are recognized.

Mr. Wiley asked about metrics and noted that it is often difficult to determine metrics. Mr. Wiley offered to follow up with any school that does metrics well. Mr. McCleary offered insights into longitudinal data sets and issues with data sets. Mr. McCleary offered to connect Achievement First with Onward We Learn. Mr. Paden spoke about challenges students face after graduation, including employment options. Mr. Paden detailed the work that Achievement First plans to do in school years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

Mr. Paden asked the board for their perspective and feedback. Mr. Wiley noted that outside colleges and schools should come in to offer their perspective on graduate readiness, and noted that schools sometimes do not take into consideration a student coming into the school later in their educational career. Mr. McCleary noted that community awareness should include inside of school community activities, such as the arts or drama.

C. New curriculum Implementation and Academic Goals (10 min)

John Sharkey, Chief Academic Officer, explained the performance categories for academics this coming school year. He noted that the bar is set high, but Achievement First feels this is the right bar. Mr. Sharkey noted that the elementary schools are not yet where they should be, but also noted that he anticipates the state test results will show double digit growth. Mayor Smiley asked clarifying questions about conceptual learning versus accuracy. Mr. Sharkey and Ms. Belcher clarified what the data demonstrates.

Mr. Sharkey presented on middle school measures, and Ms. Belcher noted that middle school data reflects a “back to the basics” approach last year. Mr. Wiley asked questions around issues with longitudinal data, and Mr. Sharkey explained that the prior issues have been solved for.

Mr. Sharkey presented on high school goals, and explained how AF has created progress and improvement cycles throughout the year.

Mr. Sharkey then provided an update on curriculum implementation, and noted that it is significant change all at once but that the students deserve better curriculum. He also noted that teachers responded very positively to the training on the new curriculum. Mr. Sharkey asked if the board had any questions or comments. Mr. Wiley asked about how this teacher training plays into the teacher recruitment strategy, and Mr. Sharkey and Ms. Margosian explained that this is being included in recruitment. Ms. Butke asked about the number of training days, and Mr. Sharkey offered to provide the data to her.

Mr. Smiley asked for a motion to enter executive session. Motion by Ms. Butke, seconded by Mr. Wiley.

Mayor Smiley noted that quorum was lost, no votes taken during executive session, meeting for informational purposes only because of lack of quorum.

V. Board Business

- A. Proposed Executive Session: Expansion Planning (15 min)
- B. Treasurer's Report (10 min)

Mr. Shah provided financial updates.

VI. Adjourn