

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Achievement First Hartford Academy**  
**Joint High School Committee Meeting**

Venue: Zoom: <https://achievementfirst.zoom.us/j/84316797676>  
Thursday, October 12, 2023, 4:30-5:30 pm

**I. Call to Order**

Erwin Hurst Sr. welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm.

**Attendees:**

AF Hartford Academy: Erwin Hurst Sr., Alice Turner  
Jumoke: Myron Stewart and Troy Monroe.

Also present were AF Staff: Caleb Dolan, Sulafa Bashir, Shannon Miller

**II. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**III. Discussion**

A. School Report

Principal Thomas gave the high school report. School culture is in strong compliance and engagement this year. They are a phone free school this year and you can feel the impact of the focus on learning. The school has previously struggled with staffing and is in a significantly better place this year with 100% of invited teachers returned. They have been doubling down on student joy for kids since they aren't able to have their phone. They have rolled out after school clubs and they seem to be very engaged in that.

Myron Stewart asked about how they were successful in keeping phones out of school. Ms. Thomas said they use the yonder pouches for student's to lock their phones up first thing when they arrive at school.

Mr. Hurst asked about whether kids have brought up issues about being able to be in contact with their parents. Ms. Thomas said that it hasn't seemed to be an issue and if there is an urgent need they can reach out to school staff to help them.

Mr. Hurst asked how the debate went. Ms. Thomas said they debated teacher certification so the topic was relevant for them and the kids were engaged.

Mr. Hurst asked about the college trips. Ms. Thomas said they are day visits and four groups that will visit two schools.

Mr. Hurst asked about sports for this year. This year they are doing football with Capital Prep. 25 kids are playing football this year. There will also be boys and girls basketball, soccer, indoor track and cheerleading.

#### B. Finance Report

Mr. Hurst said he just had the finance committee meeting. The team is working with what we have. Unfortunately enrollment is down so revenue is down. They are working on plans to step up marketing and recruitment and were able to give money towards the after school programs. They are continuing to look for solutions for enrollment.

Mr. Stewart asked how many students we were down. Mr. Hurst said for the middle school they are down 25 seats across all grades. Now that we have some stability we need to determine what the identity is going to be moving forward and that should help with marketing and recruitment.

Mr. Stewart asked about starting a committee where we come up with a game plan to present AF to the community to attract those kids. Trying to get recent AF graduates to come in and talk to the parents and kids who are interested.

Dr. Monroe said Jamoke is having similar issues. They have a specific part of the marketing plan which are testimonials from parents and scholars about what they like about the schools on social media. Too early to tell if they are having an impact or not but it could be an option for AF to try.

Dr. Monroe asked if AF takes students after Oct. 1. Mr. Hurst said that we do. We will continue to take students because we want them to matriculate to the next grade. Biggest deficit in lower grades and if we can't get them there they won't stay with us for the long term.

#### **IV. Adjourn**