



## **AF Joint CT Board Meeting Minutes**

### **AF Hartford Board of Directors**

Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM EDT

AF Hartford Elementary School, 305 Greenfield Street Hartford, CT 06112

**There were not enough board members for quorum.**



## **AF Joint CT Board Meeting Additional Meeting Notes**

4/10/2025 5:30 PM EDT

AF Hartford Elementary School, 305 Greenfield Street Hartford, CT 06112

### **I. CEO Agenda Overview**

AF CEO Lisa Margosian kicked off the meeting with an overview of the meeting's agenda. The agenda focused on providing updates regarding the AF 25 Summit, academic progress, and the strategic plan.

### **II. AF 25 Summit**

Michael Rabin shared that the summit will feature keynote speakers Misty Copeland and Geoffrey Canada. He highlighted the agenda which includes various engaging sessions, such as presentations on the impact of Achievement First education, evolving school design, alumni and leadership panels, and insights from external experts. There are also special events planned for Friends of AF, including school tours and an educator roundtable, as well as an evening celebration.

### **III. Academic Updates: Mock State Test Data**

John Sharkey presented academic updates, primarily centered on mock state test data. He explained that Achievement First administers three rounds of interim assessments throughout the year to monitor student growth and project potential performance on the state exams. These assessments include Interim Assessment (IA) 1, IA2, and the mock state test, administered in October, January, and March, respectively. The mock exams are designed to closely simulate the actual state tests. Analysis and recommendations are shared following each exam to drive instructional adjustments.

The presentation of mock test results indicated low and inconsistent progress, signaling a need for urgent intervention. Elementary schools demonstrated a trend of -2% in ELA and -4% in Math, with both content areas showing regression. In response, elementary schools are receiving weekly math support from network leaders, and additional ELA support is being provided by the regional superintendent and CAO. Middle schools showed a trend of -1% in ELA and +15% in Math, indicating significant math growth, though ELA growth was limited. While some schools showed positive growth, others, like Elm City MS and Amistad MS, demonstrated declines, particularly in ELA. Overall, Connecticut's student performance reveals that only about a third of students are proficient in ELA or Math, with small year-over-year declines. To address these findings, Achievement First is focusing on increased progress monitoring, timely instructional analysis, targeted instructional resources, and enhanced network support.

#### **IV. Strategic Plan Update**

Lisa Margosian provided an update on the strategic plan. Achievement First is in the process of transitioning to a more community-centered organizational model. This transition involves a greater emphasis on local communities, a better balance between centralized control and local needs, and increased cohesion within the K-12 program. The strategic planning process has included research, stakeholder feedback, and analysis of other multi-state charter organizations. Internal stakeholder feedback highlighted challenges such as inequitable support across regions, inefficient decision-making, gaps in local influence, and a lack of infrastructure to support regional complexities. The analysis of other multi-state charter operators revealed that many have adopted regional leaders and structures, which contrasts with Achievement First's historically centralized structure. Achievement First believes that education is most effective when decisions, resources, and autonomy are localized as much as possible. The transition to this community-centered model is planned to occur over multiple years, spanning from 2024 to 2027. The board's support was requested for talent recruitment to fill new leadership roles and for sharing expertise in restructuring and change management.

#### **V. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.