



## AF Rhode Island Special Board Meeting Minutes

Achievement First

Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 4:00 PM to 4:30 PM EDT

Zoom: <https://achievementfirst.zoom.us/j/82713705794>

### Attendees

Board Members: Mayor Brett Smiley, Nicole Pollock, Janelle Clarke-Holley, Maryellen Butke, James Wiley, Victor Capellan

AF Staff: Tom McDermott, Kevin Lohela, Katie Ballah, Sulafa Bashir

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

Mayor Smiley welcomed the group and called the special board meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

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

No members of the public were present.

#### III. **Welcome**

Tom McDermott welcomed the board members and described the meeting agenda and then invited Mayor Smiley to proceed to executive session.

#### IV. **Executive Session**

Mayor Smiley requested a motion for the board to go into executive session to discuss the topics of principal mid-year reviews, appointments and renewals as well as a prospective new board member. Nicole Pollock made the motion and James Wiley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the board moved into executive session at 4:03 pm.

At the conclusion of the conversation, Nicole Pollock motioned for the board to exit executive session, James Wiley seconded the motion and all were in favor. The board exited the executive session at 4:11 pm.

#### V. **Board Resolutions**

All board members were provided with prep materials to review the proposed resolutions prior to the meeting.

Tom McDermott provided brief framing around the resolutions proposed for the consent agenda. The discussion on the resolutions was held in executive session.

Mayor Smiley asked if the board members had any questions about any of the resolutions. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included:

- approving the previous meeting's minutes,
- Principal renewals for 7 current principals,

- confirmation of Angie Martinez as principal of Envision Middle School, and
- election of Michael Broschart to the board of directors for Achievement First Rhode Island.

Maryellen Butke motioned to approve the consent agenda, James Wiley seconded, and the board unanimously voted in favor. The consent agenda passed at 4:12 pm.

Consent Agenda

1. BE IT RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from March 3, 2026.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby elects Michael Broschart to the Board for a 3-year term, ending on June 30, 2028.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby appoints Angela Martinez as principal of Achievement First Envision Middle School effective July 1, 2026.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the renewal of the following principals, with a final compensation package to be incorporated in the FY27 Budget to be reviewed and approved in June 2026:
  - a. Cynthia Louis-Dale - AF Envision ES
  - b. Joseph Fink - AF Illuminar ES
  - c. Jennifer Andrade - AF Promesa ES
  - d. Breonna Hudgins - AF Providence ES
  - e. Katelyn Mike - AF Illuminar MS
  - f. Colleen Preusse - AF Providence MS
  - g. Aja Davis - AF Providence HS
5. WHEREAS at their March 31 meeting, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-2-3, approved a two-day emergency reduction of the 2025–2026 school year for Rhode Island Local Education Agencies (LEAs) due to the impact of Winter Storm Hernando on February 23 and February 24, 2026; and

WHEREAS the Council’s approval in effect reduces the minimum requirement from 180 days to 178 days (or the equivalent adjusted hours) for the 2025–2026 school year to provide relief for LEAs that need to make up more days and/or instructional time than their calendars are required to have by state regulation, due to the impact of the historic blizzard as well as for snow days used earlier in the winter;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that as required by the regulations mentioned above, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the reduction from 180 days to 178 days (or the equivalent adjusted hours) for the 2025–2026 school year.

VI. **Adjourn**

There being no other business, Mayor Smiley asked for a motion to adjourn. Nicole Pollock motioned to close the meeting, and James Wiley seconded. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:12 pm.