Achievement First Hartford Academy, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Achievement First
Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM EDT
Achievement First Hartford, 305 Greenfield Street, Hartford, CT 06112
Zoom: https://achievementfirst.zoom.us/j/84539587291

Attendees:

Members: Erwin Hurst, Sr. (Chair), Francoise Deristel-Leger, Charon Smalls, Celine Hardie (upon election during the meeting)

Absentees: Leonard Epps, Surbhi Patel

AF Staff: Geoffrey Cramton, Amy D'Angelo, Mitch Johnson, Olivia Levey, Samantha Lucky, Lisa Margosian, Michael Rabin, Ben Schanback, Laneka Thomas, Jeffery Wooten

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Erwin Hurst, Sr. called the Achievement First Hartford Academy, Inc. Board of Directors into session at 5:32 p.m. A quorum was present.

II. Public Comment

No members of the public were present. There was no public comment.

III. Board Business

The Chair presented the resolution electing Celine Hardie, a teacher at Achievement First Hartford Academy, to the reserved teacher representative seat on the Board. Ms. Hardie stepped out of the meeting room during the Board's consideration of and vote on the resolution.

ACTION: Upon a motion duly made by Francoise Deristel-Leger and seconded by Charon Smalls, the Board adopted the following resolution. No objections or abstentions were noted.

Resolution Electing Celine Hardie as Teacher Representative Director

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 3(c)(ii) of the Bylaws of Achievement First Hartford Academy, Inc. reserves a seat on the Board of Directors for a Director who shall be a teacher at Achievement First Hartford Academy, to be elected by the Board; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 3(e)(i) of the Bylaws provides that Ex-Officio Directors shall serve two-year terms;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby elects Celine Hardie, a teacher at Achievement First Hartford Academy, to the reserved teacher representative (Ex-Officio Director) seat, for a term of two years.

Ms. Hardie rejoined the meeting and participated as a Director for the remainder of the meeting. A quorum remained present.

ACTION: The Chair called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was made by Francoise Deristel-Leger and seconded by Charon Smalls. No objections or abstentions were noted. The consent agenda passed.

Consent Agenda

1. BE IT RESOLVED, the Hartford Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from September 15, 2026.

IV. Mission Moment

Celebrated two Hartford HS seniors who are finalists for a very competitive college scholarship.

V. Priority Academic Update: 2025-26 School Year State Test Results

The Board received an update from Connecticut Executive Director Amy D'Angelo and the Regional Superintendents, Samantha Lucky and Olivia Levy, on the 2025-26 school year state test results. The Board discussed lessons that may be drawn from peer networks with stronger results, attendance and chronic absenteeism trends, and student conduct in the community surrounding the schools. Upon discussion, the Board did not take further action.

At 5:49 p.m., Ms. Deristel-Leger left the meeting room and participated remotely via Zoom for the remainder of the meeting. A quorum remained present.

VI. One AF: K-12 School Design

The Board received an overview from Ms. D'Angelo of the One AF K-12 school design. The Board discussed anticipated implementation challenges, including staff capacity to manage the

transition while sustaining current-year operations, teacher staffing and retention, and student behavior and classroom culture. Upon discussion, the Board did not take further action.

VII. Teacher Recruitment and Retention Overview and Strategy

The Board received an overview of teacher recruitment and retention from Ms. D'Angelo and Jeffery Wooten, Chief People Officer, followed by a discussion of the related strategy. The discussion also addressed the effect of student behavior on classroom conditions and teacher retention. Upon discussion, the Board did not take further action.

VIII. Finance: FY26 Q4 Preliminary Reports

The Board received the fiscal year 2026 fourth-quarter preliminary financial reports from Achievement First Chief Financial Officer Ben Schanback. Upon discussion, the Board did not take further action.

IX. Executive Session

The Chair stated that the Board would go into executive session to discuss CAP Monitoring. The Chair asked for a motion for the Board to enter executive session. Upon a motion duly made by Charon Smalls and seconded by Celine Hardie, the Board voted unanimously to enter executive session. No abstentions or

The Board entered executive session at 6:52 p.m. and returned to open session at 7:02 p.m. No action was taken in the executive session.

X. Adjourn

There being no further business, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon a motion duly made, seconded, and approved, the Board adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Draft reviewed by MDG