AF Bridgeport Academy Board Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Achievement First
Thursday, November 5, 2026 at 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM EST
Bridgeport Academy Middle School, 529 Noble Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06608
Zoom:https://achievementfirst.zoom.us/j/82828102002

Attendees:

Members: Rajeev Lakra (Chair), Ebrima Jobe, Dewey Loselle, Marlene Macauda

Members present via Zoom: Ruben Felipe

Absentees: Dick Kalt

AF Staff: Geoffrey Cramton, Amy D'Angelo, Stephanie Fox, Shalia Garnett, Mitch Johnson, Olivia Levey, Samantha Lucky, Lisa Margosian, Michael Rabin, Ash Rodriguez, Ben Schanback, Jeffery Wooten

I. Mission Moment

The meeting convened at 5:32 p.m. A quorum of the Achievement First Bridgeport Academy Board of Directors was not yet present. While awaiting a quorum, the directors present heard a mission moment from Samantha Lucky, who shared a recent visit by U.S. Representative Jim Himes to the AF Bridgeport Academy elementary school. No board action was taken prior to the call to order.

II. Call to Order

Board Chair Rajeev Lakra joined the meeting at 5:38 p.m. and called the Achievement First Bridgeport Academy Board of Directors into session, at which point a quorum was present.

III. Public Comment

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

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

Dewey Loselle joined the meeting at 5:43 p.m.

The board received an update from Connecticut Executive Director Amy D'Angelo and the Regional Superintendents, Samantha Lucky and Olivia Levy, on 2025-26 school year state assessment results. The update noted that AF Bridgeport Academy was recognized by the State of Connecticut as a School of Distinction for the ELA performance of its high-needs students, as well as the need for continued growth in overall proficiency. The board discussed the school's performance relative to charter peers and other benchmarks, the standard of excellence required for the school's success, and the recruitment of strong teaching candidates.

V. One AF: K-12 School Design

The Board received an overview from Ms. D'Angelo of the One AF K-12 school design, including its emphasis on academic rigor and college preparation and a renewed focus on foundational literacy and mathematics skills. Staff shared priorities for implementation of the design. An optional board session on the program design will be scheduled at a later date.

VI. Teacher Recruitment and Retention Overview and Strategy

The board received an overview from Ms. D'Angelo and Jeffery Wooten, Chief People Officer, on the organization's teacher recruitment and retention strategy, including development of the recruitment pipeline, professional development, performance expectations, and compensation competitiveness. The board discussed performance-based compensation in the context of state teacher evaluation requirements, as well as teacher compensation relative to surrounding public school districts.

VII. Finance: FY26 Q4 Preliminary Reports

The board received the fiscal year 2026 (FY26) fourth-quarter preliminary financial reports from Ben Schanback, Chief Financial Officer, and Dewey Loselle, Treasurer. The board discussed the school's cash position and the proposed establishment of a minimum and target for days cash on hand, presented for approval on the consent agenda.

VIII. Board Business

Mr. Lakra noted for the record the resignations of Kelia Lanham and Jahneel Small from the board and thanked them for their service. He noted that the board seeks to fill three director positions, including a teacher representative and a parent representative, and invited directors to submit candidate suggestions to the Board Chair and staff.

ACTION: Mr. Lakra called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was made by Ebrima Jobe and seconded by Marlene Macauda. All directors present voted in favor, with no objections or abstentions. The consent agenda passed.

Consent Agenda

1. BE IT RESOLVED, the Achievement First Bridgeport Academy Board of Directors hereby

approves the meeting minutes from September 10, 2026.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, the Achievement First Bridgeport Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the updated accounting policies and procedures manual (APPM) titled "Achievement First Charter Schools Fiscal Policies" dated September 2026.

3. WHEREAS, the Board of Directors (the "Board") of Achievement First Bridgeport Academy, Inc. (the "Corporation") is responsible for overseeing the financial health and long-term sustainability of the Corporation and the school it operates;

   WHEREAS, maintaining adequate unrestricted cash reserves strengthens the Corporation's ability to meet its financial obligations, absorb unanticipated revenue or expense fluctuations, and sustain operations through periods of disruption;

   WHEREAS, the Finance Committee reviewed the Corporation's liquidity position most recently at its meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2026 and recommends that the Board adopt a minimum days cash on hand to guide financial planning and monitoring;

   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Corporation shall maintain a minimum of 90 (the "Minimum"). The Board further establishes a target of 110 days cash on hand (the "Target");

   RESOLVED, that for purposes of this resolution "days cash on hand" means (a) unrestricted cash and cash equivalents, divided by (b) total annual operating expenses, excluding depreciation, amortization and other non-cash expenses, divided by 365. Management shall conduct the Corporation's financial operations budgeting and cash planning with the objective of maintaining days cash on hand at or above the Minimum and working toward the Target range;

   RESOLVED, that the Finance Committee shall monitor the Corporation's performance against this Target and recommend to the Board any adjustments to the Target range it deems appropriate.

IX. **Executive Session**

Ms. Macauda departed the meeting at 6:51 p.m. Four directors remained, and a quorum was maintained.

Mr. Lakra stated that the board would enter executive session to discuss CAP monitoring. Upon a motion made by Dewey Loselle and seconded by Ebrima Jobe, the board voted to enter executive session, with all directors present voting in favor.

The board entered executive session at 6:51 p.m. and returned to open session at 7:00 p.m. No action was taken in the executive session.

X. **Adjourn**

Mr. Lakra reminded directors that the next board meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2027. There being no further business, Mr. Lakra asked for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion made by Ebrima Jobe and seconded by Dewey Loselle, the board adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Draft reviewed by MDG