

Achievement First Rhode Island, Inc.
(d.b.a.) Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
May 29, 2014, 5:30 – 8:00 pm
370 Hartford Avenue, Providence RI

Board Attendance:

Brian Gallogly, AFRI Board - Yes
John Igliozi, AFRI Board - Yes
Macky McCleary, AFRI Board - Yes
Norman McCulloch, AFRI Board - Yes
Jeffery Williams, AFRI Board – Yes
Betty Bernal, AFRI Board - No
Adriana Dawson, AFRI Board - No
Marta Martinez, AFRI Board - No
Angel Taveras, AFRI Board - No

Others in Attendance

Elsa Dure, RIMA - Yes
Sheila Dormody, AFRI Board - Reg Attendees - Yes
D. Scot Kerr, AF Network Support - Yes
Kelonda Maull, AF Network Support - Yes
Ken Paul, AF Network Support - No
Morgan Carter, School Leadership - Yes
Ben Smith, School Leadership - Yes
Christine Lopes, Presenter- Yes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:09pm.

No Public Comment

Principal Report

Morgan Carter

Bright Spots

- Ms. Carter remarked that in speaking with families she has heard comments about how other schools slow down at the end of the year, but AFPMA finishes strong.
- The network has great clarity on the priorities for 2014-15 which has enabled the school to focus on great professional development.

Growth Areas

- Ms. Carter indicated they are actively working to address the summer fever. This isn't a time to slow down; need to maintain consistency.
- She is also planning August professional development; the challenge is balancing the old with the new staff which will grow by 50% because of the addition of another grade at the school. Three days to two weeks' worth of network led PD, which takes a huge load. This will be a challenge, but the team is up for it.

Other updates that Ms. Carter discussed included family engagement activities like the school talent show that occurred earlier in the day and community service projects sponsored by the Family Leadership Council. Family Leadership Council created a homework support and uniform swap programs.

Student enrollment is progressing nicely with family orientation sessions wrapped up and individual family chats underway.

Fully staffed for next year save the office coordinator. Summer academy is planned for 3 weeks for a small number of kids.

Ms. Carter completed her report and thanked by the Board for her continued strong leadership of the school.

Board Discussion & Business

1. Financial Update

- Mr. Gallogly gave the financial reports
- Mr. McCulloch asked for the board to spend some time discussing the budget
- Mr. Smith discussed salary scale for teachers
- Macky discussed the conference call during which he interviewed CohnReznick

a. Approve YTD financials (Resolution 1)

○ NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Directors of Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy hereby accepts the YTD financial report dated 4/30/14 as presented.

Moved by: Macky McCleary
 Seconded by: Sandy McCulloch
 All In Favor

b. Approve 2014-2015 Budget (Resolution 2)

○ NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Directors of Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy hereby approves the 2014-15 fiscal year budget as presented.

Moved by: Macky McCleary
Seconded by: Sandy McCulloch
All In Favor

2. Approval of prior Meeting Minutes

a. March 20, 2014 (Resolution 3)

○ NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Directors of Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy hereby approves the 3/20/14 Meeting Minutes as drafted.

Moved by: Jeffery Williams
Seconded by: Sandy McCulloch
All In Favor

3. Appointment of the independent auditors, CohnReznick for the fiscal year 2013-14 (Resolution 4)

○ NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Directors of Achievement First Rhode Island hereby ratifies the appointment of CohnReznick of Farmington, CT to perform the financial audit of the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Moved by: John Igliozzi
Seconded by: Sandy McCulloch
All In Favor

Board Discussion & Updates

- Ms. Christine Lopes gave an update on Advocacy in Providence. Scot Kerr asked the Board to introduce themselves to Christine. Christine is the Executive Director of RI-CAN a charter advocacy organization.
- She updated the board on the RI Housing Aid legislation and financial challenges that charters have faced. She gave background to RI-CAN's work in Rhode Island. She discussed the school facilities aid and programs for all public schools to promote equity and reimbursement rates for facilities. She gave background on recent bills that were passed and the importance of the reimbursement rate for charter schools and changes to the bill.

- Ms. Lopes discussed a new system (Senate Proposal) that will let charters only finance what's needed to build facilities and the municipality will pay for the rest of the project as it progresses. She then opened for questions. Mr. McCulloch expressed AF would be able to proceed faster in building if they had the higher reimbursement rate. Currently, Mayoral Academies are not included in this legislation. Ben Smith spoke to the importance of this legislation to keep building in Providence.
- Mike Magee and others from RIMA will keep the board updated.
- Ms. Lopes left the meeting at 7:14pm.

3. Other updates

- Chastity Lord joined via phone at 7:15pm to discuss Team External Relations restructuring.
- She gave background on her role at AF and the structure of external facing teams. She spoke to the new restructure and expressed Board relations work will move to Team Development and explained external relations will lean toward student recruitment, advocacy and community engagement.
- She then spoke to geographic focus in all cities and then opened for questions. Mr. McCleary thinks it is a great idea to have someone on the ground in Providence. Councilman Igliozi expressed this sounds like a large and broad chunk of work for one person to do. Ms. Lord gave background to how this work was completed in other geographies.
- Mr. Kerr spoke to the Board regarding the upcoming Board retreat and asked the board for ideas on topics for strategic discussions and a program that makes sense for this Board.
 - What will you like to learn more about?
 - Understanding of baseline topics for the Board to learn more of the political landscape between mayoral academy, AF/RIMA and RICan.
 - Better sense of internal operations and how many committees AF has
 - I would like to get together w/fellow board members to create a solution for?
 - Increase family engagement and participation and keeping families involved and responsible for their child
 - Misassumption around charter schools and how can we handle it
 - Strategy for "location" e.g. community engagement for new people who work for the school to get people out to learn what's in RI.

Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss individual personnel matters related to a report from Macky McCleary regarding the school leader professional growth plan (PGP)

Moved: John Igliozi

Second: Jeffery Williams

All In favor

The board entered executive session at 7:34

Motion to adjourn Executive Session

Moved: John Igliozi

Second: Jeffery Williams

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55pm

Moved: John Igliozi

Second: Macky McCleary

All in Favor

Minutes Taken By: Kelonda Maull, External Relations