

# **Achievement First Hartford Academy**

## **Board of Directors**

Wednesday, January 21, 2015, 6:30 – 7:15 pm  
AF Amistad High School, 580 Dixwell Avenue, New Haven

The following board members and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

### **I. Call to Order & Attendance**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mr. Motley.

Barry Jacobson, AFHA Board - Yes  
James Morton, AFHA Board - No  
John Motley, AFHA Board - Yes  
Nyema Pinkney, AFHA Board - No  
Marshall Ruben, AFHA Board - Yes  
Angela Scott, AFHA Board - No  
Nancy Zwiener, AFHA Board - Yes  
Jean LaVecchia, AFHA Board - No  
Colleen Palmer, AFHA Board - No  
Lankford Wade, AFHA Board - Yes

Emily Banks, School Leadership - Yes or No  
Benjamin Cruse, School Leadership - Yes or No  
Ernest Peterson, School Leadership - Yes or No  
Meg Smith, School Leadership - Yes or No  
Nick Lebron, AF Network Support - Yes or No  
D. Scot Kerr, AF Network Support - Yes or No  
Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes or No  
Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes or No

### **II. Open Session For Public Comment**

No public comment

### **III. Reports**

#### **A. Financial Report**

Mr. Lankford Wade, Treasurer, provided the financial report.

Mr. Wade highlighted two key points on the interim financials. First, the revised budgets are based on increased incremental changes due to enrollment. Mr. Wade explained the clear communication from the finance team regarding changes. Overall, the budgets are tracking closely and he is happy with the progress. Second, in the last two months Achievement First Hartford Academy received incrementally higher Title I funding which will lower philanthropic goals.

Mr. Wade detailed his discussions with CohnReznick, the firm auditing Achievement First Hartford Academy. In regard to the audited financial statements, the key point was teacher certification and the return of \$231,000 in funding for ineligible teacher salaries. The return did have negative financial

ramifications. Therefore, Mr. Wade believes the Board needs to focus more on teacher certification.

Mr. Wade discussed the Charter School Growth Fund Loan Agreement. He confirmed he is comfortable moving forward based on conversations with Team Finance and was satisfied with the answers they provided.

Mr. Motley made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:05 p.m. Mr. Jacobson seconded. Mr. Ruben made a motion to exit executive session at 7:10 p.m.

#### **B. Teacher Certification**

Ms. Laurie Bussmann, Vice President of Operations, provided a report on teacher certification. Ms. Bussmann indicated that there has been significant improvement, between 15% - 25% across schools. Achievement First has been providing incentives to teachers to complete the requirements of certification.

Ms. Bussmann explained that the tests teachers must take to achieve certification are in both general education and specific subject matter areas. Administrators must complete additional tests. Ms. Bussmann also highlighted systematic changes and improvements at the network level like making the certification requirement part of all offer letters.

In addition, Ms. Bussmann has continued to attend meetings regarding certification with the Connecticut Department of Education.

#### **IV. Board Discussion**

- A.** Summer Internships for High School students debrief and strategy
- B.** School Leadership Appreciation

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. by Mr. Motley.