

# **Achievement First Rhode Island, Inc.**

## **Board of Directors**

Wednesday, May 27, 2015, 5:30 – 7:00 pm  
AF Providence Mayoral Academy, 370 Hartford Ave, Providence

The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. pm by Mayor Elorza.

Betty Bernal, AFRI Board - Yes	Elsa Dure, RIMA- no
Jorge Elorza, AFRI Board - Yes	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - yes
Brian Gallogly, AFRI Board - Yes	Elizabeth Winangun, AF Network Support - no
John Igliozi, AFRI Board - Yes	Morgan Carter, School Leadership - yes
Macky McCleary, AFRI Board - Yes	Kevin Lohela, School Leadership - yes
Norman McCulloch, AFRI Board - Yes	Ben Smith, School Leadership - yes
Soraida Morales, AFRI Board - Yes	Dan Och, School Leadership - yes

### **Guests**

Roxanna Gautreaux, Parent  
Andrea Summers, Director of School Operations for AF Illuminar

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

Ms. Gautreaux made her statement regarding the lottery process.

### **III. Board Business**

Resolution 1:

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from March 17, 2015

Moved by Macky McCleary

Seconded by Betty Bernal

All in favor

#### **A. Financial Report (Brian Gallogly)**

Brian Gallogly presented the Financial Report to the board of directors. He reported the school is in good shape with a projected surplus and enrollment is as expected.

Resolution 2:

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the financial report as presented.

Moved by Macky McCLeary

Seconded by Brian Gallogly

All in favor

Resolution 3:

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the financial budget as recommended by the Finance Committee and prepared by Achievement First for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Tabled and the board will review on June 29, 2015.

Resolution 4:

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby ratifies the reappointment of CohnReznik to perform the financial audit of the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Moved by Macky McCLeary

Seconded by Betty Bernal

All in favor

Resolution 5:

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby elects Reshma Singh to the Board of Directors with a one year term limit ending June 30, 2016.

Moved by Betty Bernal

Seconded by Macky McCLeary

All in favor

Resolution 6:

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby ratifies the reelection of all current Directors with a one year term limit ending June 30, 2016:

**Mayor Jorge Elorza**

Moved by Macky McCLeary

Seconded by Betty Bernal

**Brian Gallogly**

Moved by Macky McCLeary

Seconded by Betty Bernal

**John Igliozi**

Moved by Macky McCLeary

Seconded by Betty Bernal

**Norman McCulloch**

Moved by Macky McCLeary

Seconded by Betty Bernal

**Macky McCLeary**

Moved by Norman McCulloch

Seconded by Brian Gallogly

**Soraida Morales**

Moved by Macky McCleary

Seconded by Betty Bernal

Appointment of Treasurer, by Mayor Jorge Elorza: Macky McCleary

Appointment of Secretary, by Mayor Jorge Elorza: Reshma Singh

#### **IV. New Member Recruitment (Mayor Elorza)**

Mayor Elorza spoke about the importance of an engaged board and commended those in the room for their attendance. During the prior meeting the Mayor charged the board members to consider strong potential candidates for the board. Going forward, the board will form a Governance Committee to explore new candidates. Each board member reported on individuals they have considered. Sandy McCulloch requested that the board sees resumes or bios on the individuals being discussed.

Sandy McCulloch spoke about his belief that meetings every two months are too infrequent and that he wants the board meetings to involve more vigorous discussion and debates. Board members should feel that they are making a strong contribution to the school and feel needed. This will be a great topic for the summer retreat. Macky McCleary spoke about the importance of clearly defining the Governance role of the board and being sure the board is measured against it.

Mayor Elorza wants to create a Governance Committee and stated his interest in joining that group. Mayor Elorza requested a chair for the Governance Committee. Brian Gallogly will participate, as will Macky. Mayor Elorza and Brian Gallogly will co-chair.

#### **V. Board Recruitment Best Practices (Sarah Blanton)**

Sarah Blanton described the process that the Governance Committee in New Haven, Connecticut uses to identify, recruit and cultivate potential board members.

#### **VI. Board Giving (Mayor Elorza)**

Mayor Elorza requested that all members of the board make a financial commitment according to their means.

#### **VII. Summer Retreat (Mayor Elorza)**

The board will look to schedule the summer retreat for a Saturday retreat. Board members will build the agenda and determine how long the meeting lasts.

## **VIII. Principal Reports (Morgan Carter & Kevin Lohela)**

### **A. Morgan Carter, AF Providence Mayoral Academy**

Morgan Carter reported that scholars are strong in advanced reading goals. The goal is for 100% reading on grade level and 50% on advanced reading levels. First and second grade classes are outperforming the advanced goal and Kindergarten is expected to meet the goal. The energy at the school has been strong with students excited about learning and excelling in the classroom. All teachers and school leaders are providing extra reading and math support. Regarding Kindergarten math, there are new teachers that have transitioned in and have received more support. Results haven't been where they want but there's been growth.

The school began planning for the 2015-16 school year in May including meetings with new parents for next year's new Kindergarten, first and second grade students. In addition, AF Providence Mayoral Academy has already hired most of the teachers for next year. Some positions are still open on the operations team. Ms. Carter said that if anyone knows someone interested in a position should reach out directly to her. The end of year family picnic is at 11am on June 6th on the back field. The board is invited to attend.

Overall, the year was great. Ms Carter felt that they had the right people but knows that next year may be challenging because of the growth. The leadership team has to be more strategic with how and where they devote resources. Betty Bernal inquired about grade promotion. Ms Carter is confident with the promotion rates and explained that promotion decisions follow completion of end of year assessments which are scheduled in a few weeks.

Brian Gallogly inquired about parent feedback this year compared with last year. Ms. Carter confirmed that responses to a survey provided to parents were in the high 90 percents and attributes the high marks to touchpoints with teachers, atmosphere, and happiness with the school.

### **B. Kevin Lohela, AF Iluminar Mayoral Academy**

Mr. Kevin Lohela shared an anecdote about the ways in which scholars are being motivated and celebrated at AFPMA.

Staffing update: the leadership team is fully staffed. Ms. Andrea Summers was introduced as the Director of School Operations. She attended Brown University and has lived in Rhode Island most, if not all of her life. The newly hired Academic Dean is a veteran teacher (14 years) who has worked in an AF school in Brooklyn, New York where he worked with Mr. Lohela. Mr. Lohela confirmed that matriculation rate for teacher hires is 90 percent and that approximately 23 positions have been filled to date which is huge progress since March. The school is working on hiring two more teachers. Mr. Lohela confirmed that at least 25 percent of the new staff is proficient in Spanish.

Ms Summers announced that final orientation for families of 2015-16 incoming scholars is tomorrow. Twenty families accepted the offer to attend AF Iluminar but haven't attended an orientation. Most

families have RSVPd for the orientation. Every family who attended an orientation followed up with a family chat. Family chats are a great way to get to know families more personally. Mr. Lohela met with 160 families at the previous orientations. Across both schools there were over 1,000 applications.

Mr. Ben Smith talked about the lottery challenges that were brought up by the parent speaker, Roxanna Gautreaux.

Mayor Elorza asked if anyone had a motion. Betty Bernal made a motion to accept the child of Ms Gautreaux. Mayor Elorza asked if there was a second. There was no second. Sandy McCulloch stated that he does not believe this is a board decision. This is a management issue for the organization.

Mayor Elorza informed the board that the AF Senior Counsel will explore whether we have exposed ourselves to any legal liability.

Sandy McCulloch made a motion to appreciate Betty Bernal for her service. Macky McCleary seconded that motion. Mayor Elorza thanked Betty for her leadership and advocacy and hopes she will stay involved.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. by Mayor Elorza.