

**Achievement First Hartford Academy
Jumoke Academy**

Joint High School Committee Meeting

September 22, 2015, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

AF Hartford Academy High School, Conference Room
305 Greenfield Street, Hartford CT

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 4:08 pm by John Motley.

Todd Cooper, Jumoke Academy Board - Yes	Marshall Ruben, AFHA Board - No
Melanie James, Jumoke Academy Board - Yes	John Motley, AFHA Board - Yes
Thomas Smith, Jumoke Academy Board - Yes	Barry Jacobson, AFHA Board - Yes
Frank Williams, Jumoke Academy - Yes	Emily Banks, AF Hartford High - Yes
Troy Monroe, Jumoke Academy - Yes	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes
Nichelle Woodson, Jumoke Academy - Yes	Nick Lebron, AF Network Support - Yes
Justin Pistorius, Jumoke Academy - Yes	Megan Tokarski, AF Network Support - Yes

II. Open Session For Public Comment

No public comment.

III. Reports

A. Principal Report

Ms. Emily Banks reported some academic accomplishments to the Joint High School Committee:

Advanced Placement Exams

- 55% of Sophomore class passed the AP World History exam outperforming all other AF high schools
- In the junior class, 33% passed AP US History, also outperforming Amistad and AF Brooklyn.

SBAC

- Scholars did well on the SBAC - 65% were proficient in ELA (compared to State average of 53%)
45% were proficient in math (state average 30%).

SAT

- highest among all AF high schools on all the portions of the test. Beating the national average for students of color and just below national average overall.

Staff retention was very strong year over year with 93% of staff returning for the 2015-16 school year. This means that each classroom either has a returning teacher or, in the event that the teacher did not

return, Ms Banks stated that they were able to hire a stronger replacement for the departed teacher.

During the 2014-15 school year, there was no Dean of Students or Dean of Special Services but those positions have been filled for the 2015-16 school year. The special education students are getting much more robust support.

Partnership with NCCJ. On Friday, NCCJ is coming in to do a full day of workshops and programming on racism, classism, sexism. This was in response to a realization that most behavioral issues are not happening during school hours in the school building. Most suspensions were based on things that happened outside of school. Mr. John Motley shared the history of the NCCJ which was originally called the National Coalition of Christians and Jews. Ms Banks said that many scholars have participated in AnyTown which is connected with NCCJ and the program has had a significant impact.

On the college front, scholars are getting admitted to diversity overnight programs at colleges and universities which are good early indications of college viability. Two scholars have been accepted to the program at Bates College and one to WPI.

Ms Banks shared that the summer included a significant increase in summer training and so she needs to be aware of staff fatigue. Training should be robust and strong but staff should also be fresh and energetic for the beginning of the year.

Ms Banks noted some significant skill deficiencies in the 9th graders in both math and ELA.

- The Committee discussed scholars who can comprehend advanced topics but lack the fluency with basic math skills. Ms. Banks feels confident that this can be remedied but will take lots of intervention which they are prepared to put in place.
- The reading tutorial (a guided reading course) usually has 10 ninth graders who, according to testing, qualify for the program. This year they have 25. These scholars will be working on academic habits. Ms Banks feels that scholars are invested but there's a lot of ground to cover academically.

Ms Banks said Barry Jacobson has been very helpful tutoring math. The Committee discussed ideas for getting more actuaries involved (especially at the UCONN graduate program). The students in the Masters program need volunteer hours.

Finally, Ms Banks shared some dates for the end of the school year including Senior Signing Day booked for May 24 and will hopefully be held at the Bushnell and Graduation Day on June 16th.

B. Financial Report

Mr. John Motley gave the financial report to the Joint High School Committee.

IV. Board Business

1. **RESOLVED, the Achievement First Hartford Academy Joint High School Committee hereby approves the meeting minutes from May 18, 2015.**

Moved by: Barry Jacobson

Seconded by: John Motley

All in favor

2. **RESOLVED, the Achievement First Hartford Academy Joint High School Committee hereby approves the financial report as presented.**

Moved by Barry Jacobson

Seconded by: Todd Cooper

All in favor

V. Board Discussion

Mr Nick Lebron spoke about student recruitment, which is on track, and advocacy especially the Mayoral race and the implications on charters.

Mr. Ken Paul inquired about the impact that a graduating class will have on middle school interest in AF Hartford High School. With twenty scholars from Jumoke, it is not many scholars from two schools. Mr. Justin Pistorius spoke about the perceptions at his school and the positive effect once Senior Signing Day happens and more and more scholars are coming back to speak positively about their experience at AF Hartford High.

Troy Monroe encouraged more joint messaging to the middle schools. October 14th is the first Town Hall meeting at Jumoke and the more opportunities AF has to present alongside Jumoke the better. The parent community is waiting to learn more about the competitive advantage that an AF high school experience provides.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm by John Motley.