

Draft Minutes

Achievement First Hartford Academy
Jumoke Academy
Joint High School Committee Meeting

January 28, 2016, 4:00 – 5:00 pm
AF Hartford Academy High School, Conference Room
305 Greenfield Street, Hartford, CT

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

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm by John Motley.

Todd Cooper, Jumoke Academy Board - Yes (phone)
Melanie James, Jumoke Academy Board - Yes (phone)
Thomas Smith, Jumoke Academy Board - No
Justin Pistorius, Jumoke Academy - Yes (phone)
Nichelle Woodson, Jumoke Academy - Yes (phone)
Frank Williams, Jumoke Academy - No
Troy Monroe, Jumoke Academy - Yes

Marshall Ruben, AFHA Board - Yes (phone)
John Motley, AFHA Board - Yes
Barry Jacobson, AFHA Board - No
Emily Banks, School Leadership - Yes
Nick Lebron, AF Network Support - No
John Furniss, AF Network Support - Yes
Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes
Ken Paul, AF Network Support - No

II. Open Session For Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Reports

A. Principal Report (Emily Banks)

Ms. Emily Banks shared that AF Hartford High School is starting to move into the crescendo phase of the year (starting in February). Juniors are excited that the SAT will replace the State test this year. PSAT came in and AF Hartford High School had strongest score of any AF high school. Ms Banks said that the scores are not yet where we want them to be but there was significant year over year growth - about 50 points. AF Hartford High currently offers seven AP courses and the culture in those rooms is excellent. This is especially promising because it is the first year for several of these classes, and it usually takes a few years to ramp up.

AF Hartford High made a push for Early Decision/Action applications and has had some decent success, especially with schools that have 75%+ acceptance rates. Ms. Banks anticipates a lot of publicity in May at Senior Signing Day.

The school is making a push for parent engagement and have revamped the parent engagement committee. They are hosting a movie night (Selma) in a few weeks. Trying to adopt best practices from

other schools.

Dr. Troy Monroe suggested that Ms. Banks connect with some of Jumoke's principals to find more creative solutions for parent engagement (exploring a range of topics other than education topics, such as personal finance, buying a home, etc.). For example, they held a math curriculum night for all levels and shared with parents their new math program, how to use it and how to find support. Teachers then taught parents how to do some of the math and experience what it is like to be in a classroom. Jumoke is also piloting student-led conferences starting in March. Parents and students will partner to set achievement goals. Interim assessments are just finishing up but no data as of yet. In process of doing "Instructional Sweeps" or rounds, where teams of teachers and leadership observe classrooms to help principals improve instruction. Enrollment numbers are looking good. Already have 97 new applicants (ahead of last year), and are experimenting with new, web-based advertising. Have also sent flyers and contacted local businesses. Jumoke is also sponsoring the first city-wide oratory contest, on February 17th. Four schools are coming to compete for scholarship money. On Feb 27th is the second annual Jumoke Heritage Gala - 6pm at the Marriott in Windsor. Still trying to work with State agencies to deal with their facilities issues.

B. Financial Report

See below.

IV. Board Business & Discussion

RESOLVED, the Achievement First Hartford Academy Joint High School Committee hereby approves the meeting minutes from November 16, 2015

Motion by Marshall Reuben

Seconded by Todd Cooper

All in favor

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

The Committee chair did not have the financials in front of him during the meeting and decided to table the review and approval of financials until the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn 4:35pm by John Motley