

**Achievement First Rhode Island  
Board of Directors Meeting**

March 29, 2017, 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm  
370 Hartford Avenue, 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 5:58 pm by Mayor Jorge Elorza.

Jorge Elorza, AFRI Board - No

Brian Gallogly, AFRI Board - Yes

Macky McCleary, AFRI Board - No

Reshma Singh, AFRI Board - Yes

Norman McCulloch, AFRI Board - Yes

John Iglizzi, AFRI Board - Yes

Soraida Morales, AFRI Board - Yes

Ben Smith, AFRI Board - Yes

Maryellen Butke, AFRI Board - No

James Wiley, AFRI Board - Yes

Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes

Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes

Elizabeth Winangun, AF Network Support - Yes

Morgan Carter, School Leadership - Yes

Kevin Lohela, School Leadership - Yes

Karla Villar, School Leadership - No

Andrea Summers, School Leadership - No

Public: n/a

**II. Open Session For Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**III. Business**

**RESOLVED, the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from 1/23/17 and 3/1/17.**

Moved by John Iglizzi

Seconded by Reshma Singh

All in favor

**IV. Reports**

**A. Principal Reports (Morgan Carter and Kevin Lohela)**

Morgan Carter reported that the results of the weekly quizzes the scholars have been taking put them in top three in the entire AF network. The 3rd grade reading is trending in the right direction, but math is a concern. They will have more data coming soon.

The Organizational Health data is providing information that Morgan is working to address for the staff.

Other quick updates include:

- Attendance is 97%
- Black History Month assembly was very strong
- Teacher certification is an important consideration in hiring.
- There was one midyear departure in December. The position was filled through an internal promotion.

Kevin Lohela shared that AF Illuminar is feeling lots of momentum. They are scoring in the top three in network in many academic categories including 2nd grade reading which is especially exciting because those scholars did not have kindergarten at AF.

Literacy reading goals are on track in every grade. End of year goals will be met in the next two weeks (rather than in June) so the school is now looking ahead to advanced goals (60% of K, 70% of 1st graders, 80% of 2nd graders).

Staff culture is strong. Attendance for staff is 99% and 33 of 37 staff members are returning for next year. Every homeroom will have a founding teacher. Staff is starting a wellness committee to address staff health and wellbeing.

- Attendance for students is 97%
- Top priorities:
  - Breakthrough academic results (going after advanced goals) and
  - Ensuring they scale with excellence. Positioning all staff members to sustain excellence in future years.
- There was one midyear departure (in September). Promoted internally.

#### B. Community Outreach Report (Elizabeth Winangun)

Elizabeth Winangun updated the board on student recruitment. Ten applications were received per open seat (20% increase). 90% of families were contacted inviting them to information sessions. Attendance at those session was strong.

- Pulled 85 for each school.
- 130 of 170 are already in the registration process.

Many families wait for PPS to do their lottery to see what other options they have. PPS hasn't done their lottery yet. This year, far fewer parents are waiting for PPS.

James Wiley made the point that AF should show that demographically there is no bias in the lottery.

The principal and math coach from Spaziano Elementary School visited the schools. There has been great communication back and forth and there may be movement towards partnership.

Friday morning is Firefly Circle at AF Illuminar and Elizabeth encouraged everyone to visit.

Not much to report from the general assembly. No real appetite to re-engage with the funding formula or facilities. Charter District Collaboration bill may get some traction.

John Igliozzi shared with the board that he hosts a block party called Kids Fun Day on Plainfield Street in front of the Silverlake Community Center from 10am - 4pm on June 24th.

#### C. Board Chair Report (Brian Gallogly)

The Professional Growth Plans are complete and board members can have the opportunity to engage with Gina Musumeci. Sarah will follow up.

The Charter Renewal Application draft has been circulated. The draft will be submitted this week.

Lily Gutterman spoke about the Education Summit on Saturday, April 8th at the PCTA from 9am - 2pm. Local community organizations have helped plan. They are building a space where all voices can be heard to create a shared vision of education. It is designed to be very interactive. Sessions include facilities, culturally responsive learning, improving outcomes for ELL students, leveraging community partnerships, strengthening pipelines for educators of color. It is open to the public and free. There is a registration link online.

Elizabeth shared that AF has really encouraged folks to attend.

Teacher Appreciation Week is in May. Last year, the board did a breakfast but is difficult to coordinate logistically. The board discussed the possibility of lunch.

#### 1. Approve Greenfield Model

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of Achievement First Rhode Island ("AFRI") has discussed a revised educational model (the "Greenfield model") which seeks to prepare students for success via four key outcomes: accelerated academics, increased student investment, excellence in enrichment and awesomely powerful communities; and

WHEREAS the Greenfield model has been utilized with success at Elm City College Preparatory in New Haven, CT; and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of AFRI has reviewed, fully considered, and vetted the relevant facts and circumstances concerning the subject of these Resolutions;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of AFRI hereby approves the utilization of the Greenfield model for Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy Middle School ("AFPMA Middle School") beginning with grade 5 in the 2017-18 school year, and progressing annually with subsequent grades until AFPMA Middle School has a full complement of grades 5-8 under the Greenfield model.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Board of Directors of AFRI hereby authorizes and directs Achievement First Network Support to submit such requests for charter amendment as needed in order to effectuate the foregoing resolution.

Motion by Ben Smith

Seconded by Reshma Singh

All in favor

**D. Treasurer Report (Brian Gallogly)**

The reimbursement rates were higher than budgeted leading to an increase of \$900K which means the need for philanthropy is significantly less. As a result, resolution three approves the amendment to lessen the need for philanthropy by \$900K.

James Wiley requested an update on UCoA at the May meeting. Brian reported that 80% of the issue is on track to be remedied by June 30th.

**V. Additional Board Business**

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

Moved by John Igliozi

Seconded by Sandy McCulloch

All in favor

**IV. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm by Brian Gallogly. Motion by John Igliozi. Seconded by Reshma Singh. All in favor.