

Approved:

MINUTES
Achievement First Rhode Island
d/b/a/ Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy
May 30, 2013

A meeting of the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors was held on May 30, 2013 at 6:30 pm at Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy, 370 Hartford Avenue, Providence, RI. The following Directors and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

Mayor, Angel Taveras, Chair
Macky McCleary, Director
Sandy McCulloch, Director
Reverend Jeffery Williams, Director
Betty Bernal, Director

Reshma Singh, AF VP/External Relations
Benjamin Smith, Director of School Operations
Max Polaner, AF, CFO
Ken Paul, AF VP/Development

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:53 pm by Chairman, Mayor Angel Taveras.

There were no members of the public present, and no public comment.

School Updates:

Ben Smith provided an update on school opening preparations including an enrollment and hiring update.

Job Descriptions for Dean of Students and School Services Manager were discussed. Job descriptions will be provided to Directors.

Board Business:

Max Polaner described the roles and responsibilities of the Board Treasurer. Sandy McCulloch confirmed that the same structure that is in place at RIMA, but that he personally would not be able to assume the responsibilities of Treasurer. Betty Bernal noted her own former experience as a CPA.

Marta Martinez nominated Ms. Bernal as Board Treasurer; Macky McCleary seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Mr. McCleary volunteered to participate on a future Finance Committee. Ms. Singh suggested that Jorge Elorza was also willing and able to serve on the Finance Committee.

Ms. Singh described the background of Brian Gallogly and his interest in and involvement with AF. She emphasized his legal and political knowledge. Mayor Taveras discussed his relationship with Mr. Gallogly in regards to legal and City work. He was very positive on Mr. Gallogly's candidacy.

Mr. McCulloch nominated Mr. Gallogly as a Director. Mr. McCleary seconded and the Board approved unanimously.

Mayor Taveras noted that Mayor Lombardi was interested in joining the board. Reshma noted that RIMA will follow up. He also noted that Councilman Iglizzi was interested and could provide strong local support in the ward. The Mayor and Ms. Singh noted their mutual interest in bringing more female leaders onto the board. Mr. McCulloch noted his interest in having Mayor Lombardi on the board.

Approval of Minutes:

Rev. Williams moved the approval of the 4/26/13 minutes. Mr. McCleary seconded. The motion passed with Mr. McCulloch and Mayor Taveras abstained.

Mr. McCulloch moved to approve the 3/28/13 minutes. Ms. Bernal seconded. The motion passed with Mr. McCleary and Rev. Williams abstaining.

Board Discussion - Budget

Mr. Polaner described the overview of budgeting and financial practices of Achievement First. He noted that his focus is largely on financial sustainability and building an enduring institution that can run on public dollars. Mr. McCulloch asked about the notion of being a proof point and Ms. Singh described a number of the ways in which AF schools create a proof point – in student achievement, practice sharing, professional development, and staff retention.

Mr. Polaner described the per-pupil spending across the network and the path toward self-sufficiency at the schools. Mr. Paul described the way in which the 30 school model would mirror a district and provide a proof point. Mr. Polaner described the way scaling from Amistad has provided the opportunity to show what a district could achieve. He described the org structure of the principal, DSO and Network Support in creating financial accountability at the school. Mr. Polaner described the revenue streams – per-pupil, federal funding, SPED and private revenue.

The mayor offered to help in whichever ways possible in connecting AF to Bloomberg philanthropy.

Mr. Polaner described the expenses across the school and described the drivers to the current budget.

The Mayor was interested in the school report card. He and Mr. McCulloch asked for the specific metrics that make up that analysis.

The mayor asked for follow up on the Teacher Career Pathways program. The mayor asked for school and teacher evaluation examples and wanted that to be a future agenda item.

Mr. Polaner described the significant deficits in Year One and the need for philanthropy to cover the gap.

Mr. McCulloch asked about the Ethics Commission Inquiry – the Mayor was going to request information on the process for the board.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm. Mr. McCleary moved and Rev. Williams seconded.

Minutes approved:
