

**-Draft_
MINUTES**

**Achievement First Rhode Island, Inc.
(d.b.a.) Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, November 21, 2013, 5:30 – 6:45 pm
370 Hartford Avenue, Providence RI AND
VIA Conference Call: 712-432-1549 Code: 504504**

Board Members in Attendance:

Angel Taveras
John Igliazzi
Norman E. McCulloch
Brian P. Gallogly
Jeffery Williams

Others in Attendance: Morgan Carter, Ben Smith, Max Polaner, Reshma Singh, Scot Kerr, Ken Paul, and Jackie Mancini

Call to Order, Mayor Angel Taveras

Mr. Taveras called the meeting to order at 5:47pm and quorum was attained.

Board Discussion & Business

1. Financial Update

Mr. Polaner gave the Board an update on YTD Financials. He gave an overview of expenses, actuals, and surpluses for the year. Mr. Polaner let the Board know things are on target and close to budget and explained the difference between the school operational budget vs. the capital budget and its importance. The Board discussed short and long term budgets.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Directors of Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy hereby accepts the YTD financial report dated 10/31/13 as presented.

Sandy McCulloch moved to approve the YTD Financials as presented, and John Igliazzi seconded the motion. The motion carried with unanimous approval of the Board.

2. Discussion & Election of Adriana Dawson as a Director (Resolution 2)

Ms. Singh spoke to the Board briefly regarding the election of Adriana Dawson and the importance of having a representative from the North End of Providence on the Board. She gave a brief profile of Adriana Dawson to the board and opened for questions. Ms. Singh and the Board expressed their need for her election and all agreed.

- a. WHEREAS the Board of Directors of Achievement First Rhode Island shall be between seven (7) and twelve (12) members and the current number of Directors is eight (8)
- b. AND WHEREAS the Board of Directors desires to increase the number of Directors to include members with unique and relevant expertise
- c. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby elects Ms. Adriana I. Dawson to the Board of Achievement First Rhode Island to complete a term that expires annually on June 30th of each year.

Jeffery Williams moved to elect Adriana Dawson, and John Iglizzi seconded the motion. The motion carried with unanimous approval of the Board.

3. Discussion & Election of Vice Chair, Brian Gallogly (Resolution 3)

Mayor Tavares expressed the importance of having a Vice Chair in the event that he is unable to attend a meeting and proposed that Brian Gallogly to represent the Board as the Vice Chair. He expressed that Brian will be a great Vice Chair and the By-Laws already allow for a Vice Chair.

- a. WHEREAS the By-Laws of Achievement First Rhode Island, Inc. specify a Vice Chair of the Board as an officer of the Corporation to perform the duties of Chairman in his or her absence,
- b. AND WHEREAS the Board has identified Director, Brian Gallogly as a candidate for the Vice Chair position,
- c. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby elects Mr. Brian Gallogly to the position of Vice Chair of the Board to serve until his resignation or removal.

Sandy McCulloch moved to approve the election of Brian Gallogly as Vice Chair, and John Iglizzi seconded the motion. The motion carried with an abstention of Brian Gallogly.

4. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Directors of Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy hereby approves the Meeting Minutes of the 5/30/13, 9/26/13, and 10/21/13 meetings as drafted.

Brian Gallogly moved to approve the Past Meeting Minutes presented, and John Iglizzi seconded the motion. The motion carried with unanimous approval of the Board.

Board Dashboard / Principal Report

Ms. Carter gave a principal report.

1. Bright Spots from the data in the Dashboard
 - a. Overall school attendance is above goal and she is very proud of this.

- b. Dean of culture is on top of calling families and working with scholars on attendance. 100% attendance this week. There are incentives for getting to school on time.
 - c. Ms. Carter is on top of any scholars who are absent and makes sure they receive all work.
 - d. Suspension numbers are good. They haven't had any suspensions since early October. Teacher skills around behavior prevention are strong and school culture is focused on scholars making great decisions. They're making sure learning is fun.
2. 2 Growth Areas from the data in the Dashboard
 - a. Creating a rigorous guided reading assessment and Professional Development sessions around what great reading instruction will look like by creating guided reading working groups.
 - b. New focus-Common Core standards and getting ahead. Making sure every lesson is rigorous. Thinking about joyful rigor.
 3. Ms. Carter then gave an update on parent engagement
 - There was a recent coat drive and scholars had the opportunity to receive free coats. Families participated immensely.
 - Families came in and learned about reading levels and how to help support scholars to support their kid and role played in the classroom.
 - Reach Circle will happen on December 20. Time-TBD all the kids come and celebrate REACH values (Achievement) this round. Ms. Carter encouraged all to attend.

Public Comment

No Public Comment.

Global Update

- Achievement First's Operating, Accelerate and Capital Fundraising
- Mr. Ken Paul introduced himself and mentioned the process for the operating budget. The AFPMA is a new school and required \$3.9mm this year and it will continue to go down as we grow. The management fees are 10% of the per pupil revenue. In the early years the fees are deferred until the school gets to K-4.
- He spoke the board regarding total philanthropy for the year from AF as \$19mm for all schools and special projects for research and digital learning and further support programs for supporting scholars to college. We will need to raise \$1.2m more.
- Mr. McCulloch mentioned the need to be more proactive to get our legislature to help our problem on school housing aid. Ms. Singh spoke to the board regarding public assistance for capital projects. AF opted not to go with the 30% reimbursement because it would be a net/net in spending by the time we fulfilled all the requirements to receive the funding. Legislation is being drafted for public schools to receive the same rate as host districts traditional schools. We are working w/RIMA and RICAN on this issue. The economic situation is preventing us to the funding we need and deserve. We will not be relying on legislation for the three phases of renovation to the Perry building, but will when we open a second school.

Jeffery Williams left the meeting at 6:19pm

Board Discussion & Updates

1. Discussion of Active Committees
 - a. Principal Committee

- i. Mr. Ker gave background to having a principal committee, which will have an opportunity to meet as a working group and align on our work with other AF Boards.
 - ii. This responsibility will formally participate on the PGP evaluation. The Board reviews them and it's important that the board knows what they are looking at.
 - iii. The pipeline of principals and we will have to have top quality principals. This will give the board a window of principals. This will give the committee the opportunity to do some important work.
 - b. Governance Committee
 - i. This committee will build upon the relationship between the school and Achievement First and roles and responsibilities with AF and the board.
- 2. Advocacy & Community Relations
 - a. Federal Charter School Program (CSP) guidelines
 - i. Ms. Singh let the board know we are starting to recruit for our second cohort of scholars for AFPMA. AF is partnering with other communities to get the word out and we will be listed on Providence's Kindergarten application. Ms. Singh spoke to the Federal charter School Program. She mentioned there is a \$50,000 scholarship program that will support the program for three years, but there is a statute that prevents a lottery school preference that targets certain communities. In order to receive the funding we will not be able to provide these preferences again. Test lotteries indicated marginal differences. We anticipate being able to successfully target the families without lottery preference.

Hearing no other questions. The meeting was adjourned at 6:38pm

Moved by John Iglizzi and seconded by Sandy McCulloch

All in favor

Minutes take by Kelonda Maull

Signed: _____