



MINUTES
Achievement First Bridgeport
Board of Directors Meeting

Zoom: <https://achievementfirst.zoom.us/j/82136352695>

Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

I. Call to Order

Name	Present	Name	Present
Rajeev Lakra	X	Dick Kalt	X
Michael Strambler	X	Ruben Felipe	X
Dewey Loselle	X	Ebrima Jobe	
Marlene Macaуда	X	RoAnne Thomas	X

Also in attendance: Blakely Simoneau, Shannon Miller, Karolyn Belcher, Dumar Paden, Lisa Margosian, John Sharkey, Michael Rabin, Omar Mayyasi, Kate Aufiero, Amy Christie

Raj Lakra called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM. Mr. Lakra welcomed Sarah Blanton and Kelia Lanham to the meeting as prospective board members, along with Dr. Rhymes who Mr. Lakra noted expressed an interest in understanding more about the work being done at Achievement First.

II. Public Comment

No additional members of the public were present.

III. Board Business

- A. Board Resolutions and Approvals: Previous Meeting Minutes, Increasing Educator Diversity Plan, and Healthy Schools

Marlene Macaуда moved, Dick Kalt seconded. All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

achievementfirst.org



1. BE IT RESOLVED, the AF Bridgeport Academy of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from December 14, 2023 and March 19, 2024.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, the AF Bridgeport Board of Directors hereby approves the School Boards' Increasing Educator Diversity Plan.
3. BE IT RESOLVED that, pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Achievement First Bridgeport board of directors certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.
4. BE IT RESOLVED that, the Achievement First Bridgeport board of directors will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sale

IV. Discussion with Achievement First

A. CEO Welcome and Principal Updates

Ms. Margosian welcomed the board members and went through the agenda.

Principal Garnett and Principal Fox provided updates on their schools, including upcoming events.

achievementfirst.org



B. Postsecondary Persistence Approach and Results

Dumar Paden and Amy Christie presented on postsecondary persistence results. Mr. Paden noted that students from Achievement First are more likely to matriculate to college and graduate college than their similarly situated peers. Ms. Christie provided details on the steps AF takes and supports that AF utilizes to obtain these results, and offered details about the future of the program.

Ms. Margosian presented on the funding aspects of this work, including that it cannot be funded through public funds. She noted that the cost will continue to grow as the cohorts get larger.

Board members asked questions around key drivers for college persistence.

C. Academic Updates

John Sharkey presented on academic updates from elementary school and middle school in both math and ELA. Bridgeport Elementary is seeing stronger results in foundational skills and overall math proficiency. Mr. Sharkey discussed the focus on reading proficiency and the need to address foundations and phonics curriculum. He highlighted the growth in students reading proficiently and the concerning low ELA proficiency. He emphasized the importance of adding additional reading and writing lessons to support proficiency.

Bridgeport Middle School had no comparison for the math assessment but is showing improvement in ELA. Absolute proficiencies in middle school are better than elementary, but still fall short of the goal. Efforts are being made to address gaps and improve performance through curriculum management, talent development, and rewarding principals.

Mr. Sharkey discussed reading and math outcomes at Amistad High School. Last year, there was a decline in reading level in high school, but this year it has held steady, indicating an improved trend. There is a need to address challenges in essay writing, exam stamina, and improve reading proficiency in high school. This year, the percentage of proficient students in math increased to 28%, indicating an 18 point jump. The decline in performance from the beginning of the year to the second

achievementfirst.org



assessment was attributed to the cumulative nature of the assessment and the difference in format.

D. Finance Update

Omar Mayyasi provided a finance update. Mr. Mayyasi mentioned a budget decrease of \$2 million due to ESSER funding and its impact on non-personnel expenses. Kate Aufiero presented the P&L as of December, highlighting increased revenue due to ESSER use and title allocations, resulting in a balanced net income.

Mr. Mayyasi provided an overview of the budget process for fiscal year 25, mentioning the per pupil rate, educational cost sharing funding, and the need to factor in ESSER funding. He also discussed compensation adjustments, market analysis, and the potential positive impact on student outcomes. The RFP process for selecting auditors was also briefly mentioned.

V. Board Business

A. Executive Session: Principal Mid Year Reviews

Mr. Lakra asked for a motion to move to executive session to discuss principal mid year reviews.

Dick Kalt moved, Marlene Macaуда seconded. All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The board entered executive session at 7:05 pm and exited at 7:28pm.

VI. Adjourn

Mr. Lakra asked for a motion to adjourn.

Dewey Loselle moved, Michael Strambler seconded. All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.