



# AFRI Board Meeting Minutes

Achievement First

10/1/2024 5:30 PM EDT

@ 206 Elmwood Avenue Providence, RI 02907

## Attendance

### Present:

Members: Maryellen Butke, Jo-Ann Schofield, Brett Smiley, James Wiley

### Absent:

Members: Macky McCleary

#### I. Call to Order (Presenters: Mayor Smiley)

Mayor Smiley called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

#### II. Public Comment (Presenters: Mayor Smiley)

There were no members of the public present.

#### III. Board Resolutions and Approvals (Presenters: Mayor Smiley)

Maryellen Butke and Mayor Smiley introduced potential board member Nicole Pollack. Ms. Butke also shared information about Janelle Clarke-Holley, who was not present, but also being considered for board membership.

Mayor Smiley asked for a motion to approve the first consent agenda approving new board members, renewing board members, and Board leadership and committees. Maryellen Butke motioned, JoAnn Schofield seconded. All in favor, none opposed or abstained.

#### **Consent Agenda One: Approval of New Board Members, Renewing Board Members, and Board Leadership and Committees**

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors elects Nicole Pollack to the Board for a 3-year term, ending June 30, 2027.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors elects Janelle Clarke-Holley to the Board for a 3-year term, ending June 30, 2027
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby re-elects Maryellen Butke to serve an additional three-year term ending June 30, 2027.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby re-elects James Wiley to serve an additional three-year term ending June 30, 2027.
5. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby re-elects Macky McCleary to serve an additional three-year term ending June 30, 2027.
6. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby elects the following leadership slate for School Year 2024-25:
  1. Mayor Brett Smiley, Chair
  2. Maryellen Butke, Vice Chair
  3. James Wiley, Treasurer
7. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby appoints the following board members to the Personnel Committee for School Year 2024-25:
  1. Maryellen Butke, Chair
  2. James Wiley
  3. Jo-Ann Schofield

Mayor Smiley asked for a motion to approve the second consent agenda approving meeting minutes, interim principals, and family handbook. JoAnn Schofield motioned, James Wiley seconded. All in favor, none opposed or abstaining.

**Consent Agenda Two: Approval of Meeting Minutes, Interim Principals, and Family Handbook**

1. BE IT RESOLVED, the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from May 21, 2024 and July 11, 2024.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the 2024-2025 AF Family Handbook.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the AF Rhode Island Board of Directors hereby approves the following individuals to serve as interim principals, as needed, based on the recommendations by Achievement First through June 30, 2025.

**School: 24/25 Interim Principal**

AF Envision ES: Faith Johnson  
AF Illuminar ES: Stephanie McSweeney  
AF Illuminar MS: Colleen Flaherty  
AF Promesa ES: Dana Hurley  
AF Providence ES: Dana Hurley  
AF Providence MS: Colleen Preusse  
AF Providence HS: Kim Kalenda

**IV. Executive Session: Personnel Update and Portfolio Planning (Presenters: Michael Rabin)**

Mayor Smiley asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel update and portfolio planning. Maryellen Butke motioned, JoAnn Schofield seconded. All in favor, none opposed or abstaining.

**V. Our Schools Today: Building on Progress and Shaping Our Future (Presenters: Amy D'Angelo, John Sharkey, Kristin Damo, Charmayne Joseph, Dumar Paden)**

Amy D'Angelo and John Sharkey led a discussion about the academic performance of their network. They noted growth in elementary reading proficiency but a decline in mock ELA State test results, highlighting the need to focus on 3rd and 4th grade reading abilities. Ms. D'Angelo discussed an increase in middle school ELA proficiency but acknowledged room for improvement. Mr. Sharkey mentioned positive signs in performance but emphasized the need for teacher development and using the right data. The team discussed implementing new curriculum and plans to focus on core instruction, with a shift towards college readiness benchmarks. However, they expressed concern over low math proficiency, attributed to the conceptual math curriculum, which they plan to address through adaptive technology. Mayor Smiley raised concerns about test preparation and summer learning loss, suggesting partnerships with other organizations and community-based resources to mitigate these issues.

**VI. Finance Committee: Insights on the Financial Pulse (Presenters: Omar Mayyasi, James Wiley)**

James Wiley shared that the current financial state is good. The finance team is preparing the new budget proposal by December, including teacher attainment and retention plans.

**VII. AFRI Board: Partnering on Governance**

Lisa Margosian shared her focus areas for the year and her expectations for the board related to engagement, attendance, and board giving. She also discussed the board's role in governance and shifting from oversight to strategic engagement.

**VIII. AF 25th Anniversary and Mission Moment (Presenters: Lisa Margosian, Kevin Lohela)**

Ms. Margosian shared that this year is Achievement First's 25th Anniversary and the organization's remains committed to closing the achievement gap and supporting under-resourced communities. She mentioned that there will be regional block parties and celebrations culminating with a summit at the end of the year. Then she shared a video about the 25th anniversary.

#### IX. Adjourn

Mayor Smiley asked for a motion to adjourn. Nicole Pollack motioned, Maryellen seconded. All in favor, none opposed or abstained. The meeting adjourned at 6:57.