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**Connecticut Education
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Executive Office

Dr. John Yrchik
Executive Director

Government Relations

Mark Waxenberg, Director
Capitol Place, Suite 500
21 Oak Street
Hartford, CT 06106-8001
860-525-5641, 800-842-4316
Fax: 860-725-6362
www.cea.org

Affiliated with the
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*Testimony of
Mark Waxenberg, Director Government Relations
Connecticut Education Association*

*Before the
Education Committee
Raised Bill #648 'An Act Concerning Charter School Governance'*

March 10, 2008

Good afternoon Senator Gaffey, my name is Mark Waxenberg, Government Relations Director of Connecticut Education Association. The Connecticut Education Association supports Raised Bill #648 'An Act Concerning Charter School Governance'.

This bill is before you because the Charter Management Organization Achievement First (AF) has flirted with the intention of Connecticut's Charter School Law which the Connecticut Education Association disgusted with State Department of Education legal counsel Mark Stapleton and Education Chairman, Representative Cam Staples and Senator Judy Friedman.

Achievement First challenged State Department of Education timetables and violated FOIC regulations and the attachments who their "business approach" to public education.

Accountability and transparency is required of every school district in Connecticut and Achievement First should be no exception. The suggested changes in the legislation does not have any programmatic impact in the delivery of instruction at its Charter School in Connecticut.

This legislation addresses the public education accountability that every public school entity receiving state money is held to and Achievement should be no exception.

Thank you.

**Board of Directors Information
From Most Recent Documents Filed
With The
Secretary of State**

Achievement First Incorporated 501 c 3	Amistad Academy Incorporated 501 c 3	*Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now Incorporated 501 c 3	Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Advocacy, Inc. 501 c 4	Elm City Prep Inc. 501 c 3
William Berkley, Chairman	Alexander Troy, Chairman	John Sackler, Chairman	John Sackler, Chairman	Alex Troy, Chairman
Steve Anbinder, Treasurer	Judge Clarence Jones, Vice Chair	Brian Olson, Director	John Sackler, Director	Judge Clarence Jones, Vice Chair
Kevin Czinger, Director	William F. Heins, Treasurer	Michael Kassen, Director	Alexander Troy, Secretary	Will Heins, Treasurer
Barry Fingerhut, Director	Harold Brooks, Director	Sara Greenhill, Director		Harold Brooks, Director
Carlton Highsmith, Director	Anne Tyler Calabresi, Director	Jonathan Dawson, Director		Ann Calabresi, Director
Judge Clarence Jones, Director	Joyce Critelli, Director	Andy Boas, Director		Joyce Critelli, Director
James Peyser, Director	Katrin Czinger, Director	Howard Fuller, Senior Policy Advisor		Katrin Czinger, Director
Stefan Pryor, Director	Dick Ferguson, Director			Dick Ferguson, Director
Lystra Richardson, Director	Allen Hadelman, Director			Allen Hadelman, Director
Jon D. Sackler, Director	Melinda Hamilton, Director			Melinda Hamilton, Director
Alexander Troy, Director	Carlton Highsmith, Director			Carlton L. Highsmith, Director
	Jaime King, Director			Jaime King, Director
	Andrew Lachman, Director			Andrew Lachman, Director
	Roxanna Lopez, Director			Roxanna Lopez, Director
	Paul McCraven, Director			Paul McCraven, Director
	Sharon Oster, Director			Sharon Oster, Director
	Patricia Pierce, Director			Patricia Pierce, Director
	Lystra Richardson, Director			Lystra M. Richardson, Director
	Raymond Smart, Director			Raymond Smart, Director

*Board of Directors listed on website

Note: Alex Troy is on all five Boards, President of two

Ray Smart is on all three Boards

Jonathan Sackler is on three of the Boards (Achievement/ConnCan, Connecticut Coalition for

Achievement Advocacy, Inc.)

Dacia Toll is on three of the Boards (Achievement/Amistad & Elm City)

Kevin Czinger is on two of the Boards (Achievement/Amistad)

Lystra Richardson is on two of the Boards (Achievement/Amistad)



Joint Meeting of the Boards of Directors
AF Bridgeport Academy, Elm City College Prep & Amistad Academy
January 15, 2008, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. @ AF Bridgeport Academy
391 East Washington Ave, Bridgeport, CT

MEETING AGENDA

- 5:30 Welcome & Introductions
- 5:35 Approval of November 13, 2007 Meeting Minutes (Amistad/Elm City)
Approval of November 29, 2007 Meeting Minutes (AF Bridgeport)
- 5:40 School Dashboards, Principal Reports & Discussion – AF Middle Schools
- Debon Lewis, AF Bridgeport Academy
 - Marc Michaelson, Elm City College Prep Middle School
 - Matt Taylor, Amistad Academy Middle School
- 6:35 Discussion Topic: Talent Development
- 7:15 Financial Reports for Fiscal Year-to-Date (as of December 31, 2007)
- AF Bridgeport Academy
 - Amistad Academy
 - Elm City College Prep
- 7:30 Joint meeting adjourned
- Amistad/Elm City College Prep only:
- 7:30 Appointment of Morgan Barth as Principal of Elm City College Prep Elementary for 2008 - 2009
- 7:40 Discussion of Amistad/Elm City College Prep Bylaw Changes
- Resolution to adopt changes recommended by Governance Committee
- 7:55 Executive Session: New Haven Facilities
- AF Bridgeport only:
- 7:30 Waltersville refurbishment
- 7:45 Fundraising



Amistad Academy / Elm City College Prep Boards of Directors Meeting
November 13, 2007

5:50 – 8:00 pm at Amistad Academy High School
 5 Science Park, New Haven, CT

MEETING MINUTES

Directors in attendance: Harold Brooks, Anne Tyler Calabresi, Katrin Czinger, Dick Ferguson, Allen Hadelman, Will Heins, Andrew Lachman, Roxanna Lopez, Clarence Jones, Sharon Oster, Patricia Pierce, Lystra Richardson

Others in attendance: Fawzia Ahmed, William Bouton, Julie Johnson, Ken Paul, Max Polaner, Dacia Toll, Jeff Sudmyer

Will Heins presided and Julie Johnson recorded the minutes.

(1) Approval of meeting minutes from the September 18, 2007 meeting of the Amistad Academy and Elm City College Prep Boards of Directors.

The directors reviewed the minutes of the September 18, 2007 meeting of the Amistad Academy and Elm City College Prep Boards of Directors. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED: To accept the minutes in the form presented.

Moved: Heins
 Seconded: Pierce
 (All in favor.)

(2) Follow-up on previous meeting agenda items: relationship with New Haven Public Schools and formation of committees

Dacia Toll updated the Board on the Achievement First schools' relationship with New Haven Public Schools. Board members were directed to their new Board Books for committee assignments.

(3) Amistad Academy High School report by Principal Jeff Sudmyer

Mr. Sudmyer presented an overview of the high school model and discussed challenges the school faces. Board members gave feedback on the model and challenges.

(4) Elm City College Prep and Amistad financial reports

Achievement First Bridgeport Academy, Inc.
Meeting of the Board of Directors
July 16, 2007, 5:30 to 7:30
At 11 Bridge Square, Westport, CT

Meeting Agenda

- 1. Welcome & Introductions**
 - 2. Principal's Report**
 - 3. Financial Report**
 - a) Review/Adoption of FY08 Operating Budget.**
 - b) Appointment of Finance & Audit Committee.**
 - 4. Fundraising**
 - 5. Appointment of Facilities Committee**
 - 6. Charter Management Agreement**
 - 7. Corporate Resolutions:**
 - a) Resignation of Director Ken Paul.**
 - b) Authorization for AF to investigate and purchase Directors/Officers Insurance on behalf of the Corporation.**
 - c) Authorization to establish line of credit for the Corporation.**
 - d) Authorization for AF to investigate and obtain credit cards for the Principal, Dean, and Director of School Operations.**
 - e) Authorization for Principal, Dean, and Director of School Operations to enter into contracts and financial obligations on the Corporations' behalf.**
 - f) Resolutions relating to the CT Nutrition Standards governing vending in schools.**
 - 8. 2007-2008 School and Board Calendar**
 - 9. Adjournment**
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