

- Approved 6/2/15 -

Joint Session of the Boards of Trustees of
Achievement First Aspire
Achievement First Apollo
Achievement First Brownsville
Achievement First Bushwick
Achievement First Crown Heights
Achievement First East New York
Achievement First Endeavor

Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

6:00 - 7:00 PM

AF Network Support Offices, 335 Adams Street, Suite 700, Brooklyn, NY

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm by Deb Shanley.

The following board members were in attendance:

Amy Arthur Samuels, Trustee - No
Jon Atkeson, Trustee - Yes
Justin Cohen, Trustee - Yes
Ted Coons, Trustee - No
Lee Gause, Trustee - No
Lee Gelernt, Trustee - Yes
L. Priscilla Hall, Trustee - No
Andy Hubbard, Trustee - Yes

Judith Jenkins, Trustee - No
Adrienne Loiseau, Trustee - Yes
Claire Robinson, Trustee - No
Gabriel Schwartz, Trustee - No
Deborah Shanley, Trustee - Yes
Matt Tartaglia, Trustee - No
Kelly Wachowicz, Trustee - No
Ambrose Wooden, Jr., Trustee - Yes
Angela Tucker, Trustee - No

AF Staff in attendance:

Pete Cymrot, AF Network Support
Elandria Jackson, AF Network Support

II. Review of Open Meetings Law

Ms. Jackson provided context on why we are reviewing the Open Meeting Law. Mr. Cymrot explained the requirements and how AF is addressing them (e.g. posting board meeting notices at schools, including board meeting dates on the AF website, and sending a notification to the press). Ms. Shanley suggested that we use members of the Family Advisory Council to update parents. Ms.

Loiseau echoed this approach and added that school leaders could also consider including an update in the principal newsletter.

III. AF Admissions Policy / Lottery Update

Over 21,000 applications were received in Brooklyn. Mr. Cymrot explained how changes to the ELL preference allowed self-identified families to get double preference. This change was implemented after receiving approval from authorizers. Now that there is a mechanism to increase the number of ELL applications, the focus will shift to matriculation. Ms. Shanley praised the efforts of the External Relations team. Mr. Cymrot noted that he will be working with External Relations team to start planning for next year's lottery to make outreach even stronger. Mr. Atkeson requested additional context for the number of applications (e.g. number of unique applications, etc.).

IV. AF Family Handbook

Mr. Cymrot summarized changes being made to the family handbook. The primary objective is to outline consistent policies that do not give the impression that we are breaking our own rules. He highlighted the internal process and said that the closer to final version will be shared with the Board.

Ms. Shanley asked if there are other resources available to support the family handbook revision process. Mr. Cymrot noted perspective from other charter networks and that a new hire will start in May to support him.

V. General Updates

Summer Internships

Ms. Jackson provided an update on summer internship placements to date. Mr. Gelernt highlighted other feedback from the call, particularly ensuring that scholars are prepared and have done research prior to the internship. Mr. Gelernt and Mr. Atkeson also noted that top scholars are sent to pre-college programs rather than placed in internships.

Stepping Up/Graduation Speakers

Ms. Shanley provided an overview of the need for Stepping Up and Graduation speakers. The preference is for a community leader. Elected officials can be considered as well. Board members made suggestions. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Young Men of Color Who Survive Violence Conference

Ms. Shanley provided an overview of the Young Men of Color Who Survive Violence conference at AF Brooklyn HS on April 10. She noted the AF Brooklyn HS scholar who attended that was quite impressive and could potentially start a young men's support group at the school.

Common Core

Ms. Shanley requested additional perspective on the Common Core and the number of parents who opted out of the state test. To be included as an agenda item for the June Board meeting.

VI. Adjourn

Adjourned at 6:52pm by Deb Shanley