

Achievement First New York Board Retreat
July 31, 2014, 3-7pm
AF Network Support Offices
335 Adams St., Suite 700, Brooklyn

The following Trustees and AF staff were in attendance:

Ambrose Wooden, Jr., Trustee - No	Matt Tartaglia, Trustee - No
Amy Arthur Samuels, Trustee - Yes	Ted Coons, Trustee - Yes
Andy Hubbard, Trustee - Yes	Bridget Mercier, AF Network Support
Claire Robinson, Trustee - Yes	Chastity Lord, AF Network Support
Deborah Shanley, Trustee - Yes	Devyn Humphrey, AF Network Support
Gabriel Schwartz, Trustee - Yes	Elandria Jackson, AF Network Support
Jon Atkeson, Trustee - No	Jennifer Lindsay, AF Network Support
Judith Jenkins, Trustee - Yes	Ken Paul, AF Network Support
Justin Cohen, Trustee - Yes	Max Polaner, AF Network Support
Kelly Wachowicz, Trustee - Yes	Rhea Byer-Ettinger, AF Network Support
L. Priscilla Hall, Trustee - Yes	Robyn Silverman, AF Network Support
Lee Gause, Trustee - Yes	Tony Siddall, AF Network Support
Lee Gelernt, Trustee - Yes	Zenon Halatyn, AF Network Support

A meeting of the joint boards of Achievement First New York schools on July 31, 2014 at AF Network Support Offices.

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Tony Siddall, Senior Director of Governance & Authorizer Relations of Achievement First, at 3:23pm.

II. AF Theory of Change & Strategic Plan

Mr. Max Polaner, Chief Financial and Strategy Officer of Achievement First, provided an overview of Achievement First's Theory of Change and Strategic Plan.

- Become an excellence and equity exemplar
- Concentrate our impact geographically
- Open more gap-closing schools
- Sharing with and learning from others

Mr. Polaner outlined how AF delivers on our Theory of Change:

- Focus on Talent
- Core program
- Power of the AF Network

Mr. Polaner also provided an overview of AF's two strategies for continuous increases in student achievement. Mr. Polaner described the four pillar approach designed to help AF take "Big Steps" forward as an organization; setting a College Ready Bar, focusing on Intellectual Engagement in Planning & Instruction, solidifying Vibrant School Cultures, and developing "bright spots" to Cultivate Excellence. Mr. Polaner also provided an update on Achievement First's second strategy "Greenfield" in order to continuously drive innovation into the education sector more broadly. Ms. Polaner explained that Achievement First has partnered with the top design firm IDEO to create a blueprint for a new school model. Phase I of the AF Greenfield project identified three anchors for the new model; accelerated expectations of academic achievement, student ownership and personalization of their hard work, and an awesomely powerful community for students, teachers, parents, and families.

III. Meet Other Trustees

Ms. Elandria Jackson, Associate Director of Development, Achievement First, facilitated conversations between the Board of Trustees to get to know one another.

IV. Action Planning for the FY15 Board Year

Ms. Jennifer Lindsay, Director of Development, introduced the new committee structure and discussed the breakout sessions designed to provide insight into committee work for the year. Trustees split into three committee sessions of their choice; Executive Committee, Family Engagement Committee and Development Committee to discuss these topics. At the end of each session all Trustees collectively shared with the group.

- Executive Committee

- o Ms. Deborah Shanley, Chair of the Board, shared that her group spoke about how the board will hold Achievement First New York schools accountable to the board's standards during the school year. In addition, the group spoke about working with other committees to surface deep dive topics.

- **Family Engagement Committee**

- o Ms. Claire Robinson, Trustee, shared that her group spoke about the opportunity for creativity in the committee's work. She expressed that the group is eager to interact with parents and to ensure the board has the appropriate feedback to conduct its work. Ms. Judith Jenkins shared the structures through which the committee will accomplish its work.

- **Development Committee**

- o Ms. Jennifer Lindsay, Director of Achievement First, shared that her group spoke about the philanthropic need and development strategy for Achievement First's New York schools and providing Trustees with the tools to push the strategy forward.

V. Committee Selection

Board members had the opportunity to select the committees that they would like to focus on during the 2014-15 school year.

VI. Adjourn

Mr. Ken Paul closed the meeting expressing thanks to the Board of Trustees and guests for their commitment to Achievement First.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm by Ken Paul