

- 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, March 18, 2015 6:00 - 8:00 PM

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

### **I. Call to Order & Attendance**

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 pm by Deborah Shanley.

The following board members, constituting a quorum, were in attendance:

Amy Arthur Samuels, Trustee - Yes

Jon Atkeson, Trustee - No

Justin Cohen, Trustee - No

Ted Coons, Trustee - Yes

Lee Gause, Trustee - No

Lee Gelernt, Trustee - Yes

L. Priscilla Hall, Trustee - Yes

Andy Hubbard, Trustee - Yes

Judith Jenkins, Trustee - Yes

Adrienne Loiseau, Trustee - No

Claire Robinson, Trustee - Yes

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 and Guests in attendance:

Guerschmide Saint-Ange, AF Network Support

Pete Cymrot, AF Network Support

Elandria Jackson, AF Network Support

Zenon Halatyn, AF Network Support

Chastity Lord, AF Network Support

Ronda, AF Crown Heights ES Parent

Carlos D., AF Crown Heights ES Parent

Kaitlin Padgett, NYC DOE

### **II. External Relations Update**

Guerschmide Saint-Ange, Director of External Relations, gave an update on Achievement First's External Relations team. She shared that the External Relations team has been restructured to support specific geographies which allow for more in-depth knowledge of our communities and provide individualized support. Examples of community outreach efforts include: community workshops, visitor days, and summer camp fairs.

Ms. Saint-Ange highlighted student recruitment strategies such as direct mail, parent referrals, canvassing, and out of home advertising. An integral part of Achievement First's student recruitment strategy is partnering with community based organizations. Specifically, the team works with Hispanic faith-based organizations to increase applications among English Language Learners (ELLs) families.

Ms. Saint-Ange reported that while applications have gone down year over year across Achievement First schools, this is a trend among other charter schools. Demand for Achievement First schools is still high and far exceeds the available seats. The New York lottery is April 8, 2015.

### **III. School Visit Debrief & Discussion**

Mr. Lee Gelernt reported on his visits to Achievement First East New York Middle School and Achievement First Bushwick Middle School. He was impressed by the high level discussions and scholar engagement at the literature class he observed. He noted that college is the main motivating factor for students and inquired about how other approaches could be considered to motivate students. Ms. Shanley mentioned that the board could get additional exposure to the Greenfield school model to understand how Achievement First is looking to innovate. Ms. Shanley visited Achievement First Bushwick Elementary and she was impressed by the joyful rigor she observed throughout the class. She also observed a lot of small group work and student movement from different stations throughout the room.

### **IV. Committee Report Out**

#### **A. Family Engagement**

Ms. Claire Robinson reported out for the family engagement committee. She reported that Mr. Peter Cymrot, Achievement First General Counsel, will receive parent complaints that are addressed to the Board of Trustees. Ms. Robinson also stated that committee members will start attending Parent Leadership Council meetings. The next parent advisory council meeting will take place on April 1, 2015. The committee is interested in gaining a better understanding of parent groups and engagement at each school.

### **V. Business**

**Resolution 1:** RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby approves the financial report as presented.

Moved by: Ms. Deborah Shanley  
Seconded by: Mr. Andy Hubbard

**Resolution 2:** RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby approves Chris Bostock as the principal of Achievement First Brooklyn High School as of the 2015-2016 school year.

Moved by: Ms. Deborah Shanley  
Seconded by: Ms. Amy Arthur Samuels

**Resolution 3:** RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby approves the meeting minutes from January 22, 2015.

Moved by: Ms. Deborah Shanley  
Seconded by: Mr. Andy Hubbard

**Resolution 4:** RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees, on behalf of Achievement First Bushwick, hereby agrees to seek a planning year prior to opening Achievement First Charter School 10 and Achievement First Charter School 12.

FURTHER RESOLVED, Achievement First and its designees are, jointly and severally, authorized and directed, in the name of Achievement First Bushwick, to submit such enrollment plans and other documents needed to seek charter revisions from the charter authorizer in order to effectuate the foregoing resolution.

Moved by: Ms. Deborah Shanley  
Seconded by: Mr. Ambrose Wooden

**Resolution 5:** RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees, on behalf of Achievement First Brownsville, the education corporation governing Achievement First North Brooklyn Prep, hereby agrees to revise Achievement First North Brooklyn Prep's enrollment plan to serve 250 scholars in grades K-2 in 2015-2016 (year 2 of the charter term), 365 scholars in grades K-3 in 2016-17 (year 3 of the charter term), 456 scholars in grades K-4 in 2017-18 (year 4 of the charter term), and 546 scholars in grades K-5 in 2018-2019 (year 5 of the charter term).

FURTHER RESOLVED, Achievement First and its designees are, jointly and severally, authorized and directed, in the name of Achievement First Brownsville, to submit such revised enrollment plan and other documents needed to seek a charter revision from the charter authorizer in order to effectuate the foregoing resolution.

Moved by: Ms. Deborah Shanley  
Seconded by: Ms. Claire Robinson

**Resolution 6:** RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees, on behalf of each charter school it governs, hereby adopts the admissions policy in substantially the form as attached hereto as Exhibit A, provided that additional changes may be made to the admissions policy in order to meet charter authorizer or other requirements.

FURTHER RESOLVED, Achievement First and its designees are, jointly and severally, authorized and directed to submit such revised admissions policy and other documents needed to seek charter revisions from the charter authorizers in order to effectuate the foregoing resolution.

Moved by: Ms. Deborah Shanley

Seconded by: Ms. Claire Robinson

## **VI. New Business / Future Meeting Topics**

Board members suggested the following potential topics for future meetings:

- Achievement First Greenfield Model
- School Discipline
- Special Education
- Advocacy Strategy

Ms. Chastity Lord addressed Achievement First's backfilling policy and stated that we are aspiring to be a leader in the charter sector to fill our seats. For advocacy, we are not only advocating for our schools, but for our parents and communities through community events like the Violence Workshop in Crown Heights on April 10, 2015. Finally, she stressed that board members attend the board retreat on August 12, 2015.

## **VII. Adjourn**

Adjourned at 7:57 pm by Deborah Shanley.