

# Achievement First Brooklyn Charter Schools Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, March 28, 2019
AF Network Support Offices, 335 Adams Street, Suite 700, Brooklyn, NY

## - DRAFT MEETING MINUTES -

**Board Members in Attendance:** Alison Richardson, Romy Coquillette, Judge L. Priscilla Hall, Chris Lynch, Jon Atkeson, Warren Young, Will Robalino, Justin Cohen, Deb Shanley, Amy Arthur Samuels, Angela Tucker

**Staff and Guests in Attendance:** Erika Hval, Melika Forbes, Dacia Toll, Jennifer Lindsay, Jeff Imrich, Andy Malone, David Crockett (attending by phone)

Erika Hval recorded the minutes. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM.

## 1. Committee Reports

Deb Shanley provided a report on behalf of the Executive Committee. She shared committee appointments for the Board's three newest Trustees and gave an update on the Board's search for a new Parent Representative given that the position will be vacant beginning June 2019. She further reviewed proposed compensation packages for Achievement First (AF) Brooklyn principals.

Deb Shanley made a motion to enter executive session at 6:09 PM to discuss the appointment of a new principal, the proposed acquisition of real estate, and a confidential matter concerning an AF student; Jon Atkeson seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Deb Shanley made a motion to exit executive session and re-enter public session at 6:38 PM; Jon Atkeson seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Justin Cohen provided a report on behalf of the Academic Committee. He shared additional information on individual AF school performance and noted areas of growth, or plans to improve growth, as related to recent test scores.

Jon Atkeson provided a report on behalf of the Finance Committee and presented the financials.

Dacia Toll, AF Co-CEO, introduced Melika Forbes, AF's new General Counsel.



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#### 2. Bridge Scholarship Pilot Proposal

Dacia Toll presented a scholarship pilot program proposal, which would provide a modest amount of college scholarship funding to a set number of alumni with the ultimate aim of improving college persistence and graduation rates. All graduating high school seniors would be eligible to apply, and participants would be selected using need- and performance-based criteria. These participants would receive annual scholarships for up to five years, as long as they remain enrolled in college. Ms. Toll proposed funding the program's pilot cohort using the AF New York Inter-Charter Fund. She answered Trustees' questions regarding program eligibility, demand, measures of success, and future financial sustainability.

# 3. AF Greenfield Update

AF Greenfield team leaders Jennifer Lindsay, Jeff Imrich, and Andy Malone presented an update on the AF Greenfield educational model. The team provided a brief overview of the initial Greenfield design, development, and implementation process, explaining that the model is now operating in four schools across New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, with a fifth Greenfield school planned to open in Rhode Island in the 2019-20 school year. The team reviewed the academic results of current Greenfield scholars, demonstrating strong performance that generally matches or exceeds AF Network and city/state averages. The team also described a new intensive focus on college readiness factors, which emphasizes academic preparation, academic independence, scholars' personal identity, and socio-emotional strength.

Jennifer, Jeff, and Andy answered Trustees' questions regarding parent and teacher reception of the model, how scholars transition between AF's traditional and Greenfield models, and planned future growth and improvements.

# 4. **Board Business**

The following resolutions were unanimously approved by the Board:

**Resolution 1:** RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby approves the meeting minutes from January 31, 2019.

**Resolution 2:** RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby approves the financial report as presented.

**Resolution 3:** RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby approves the principal compensation packages as proposed and presented by Achievement First, to be incorporated in the FY20 Budget and to be reviewed and approved by the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees in June 2019.



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**Resolution 4:** RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby appoints Jesse Uggla as the principal of Achievement First Apollo Middle School effective July 1, 2019.

**Resolution 5:** WHEREAS, there has been presented to the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees a proposal related to a pilot program to award scholarship money to a subset of graduating AF Brooklyn and AF University Prep High School seniors from the Class of 2019, and

WHEREAS, Achievement First seeks up to \$100,000 in FY20 (as the first installment of an up to \$500,000 five-year commitment) from the AF New York Inter-Charter Fund to support the first cohort of this pilot program, and

WHEREAS, Achievement First agrees to report to the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees the impact of this funding in FY20 as part of determining whether to provide similar support to future cohorts.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby authorizes Achievement First to take such actions and carry out the pilot scholarship program as described above, including funding the first cohort of the pilot program using the AF New York inter-charter funds.

#### 5. Announcements

Announcements were made about upcoming AF school events and visits. An update on positive trends in AF Brooklyn scholar attendance and suspension rates were also provided.

There being no other business before the Board, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED, to adjourn at 8:49 PM.



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