

Achievement First (AF) Brooklyn Charter Schools
Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, January 30, 2020

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

- APPROVED MEETING MINUTES -

Board Members in Attendance:

Deb Shanley, Romy Coquillette, Jon Atkeson, Chris Lynch, Andy Hubbard, Amy Arthur Samuels, Judge Priscilla Hall, Warren Young

Staff and Guests in Attendance: Kevin Miquelon, Sarah Blanton, Ken Paul, Fatimah Barker, Dacia Toll, Victor De La Paz, David Crockett, and Kate Caldwell.

Sarah Blanton recorded the minutes. The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm.

1. Public Comment

Several parents of AF Voyager Elementary School scholars had a discussion with Board Chair, Deb Shanley, about their disappointment to learn of the plans for their children's school. Those parents joined the board meeting.

2. Elect New Trustee

RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby elects Kevin Miquelon to serve as a Trustee with a three year term ending June 30, 2022.

Motion by Romy Coquillette

Seconded by Jon Atkeson

All in favor

3. Board Discussion

Deb Shanley opened the discussion by updating the AF Brooklyn Board on the conversation with parents that preceded the board meeting. An AF Voyager ES parent expressed his disappointment of learning of the plans to close the school. He presented a goal and strategy for increasing enrollment by 104 scholars by fall 2020 and said the current AF Voyager families are personally committed to recruiting new families. He noted the role of social media and direct marketing.

Seven additional AF Voyager Elementary School parents spoke about their appreciation of the school, what it has meant to their families and how their children have thrived.

Dacia Toll spoke about how proud she is of what the school and the children have accomplished. Nonetheless, she does not feel that the school is viable, financially or programmatically. She noted the demographic changes leading to fewer school-aged children in the neighborhood. In addition, there are

more schools in the area that have opened in the past decade, including an AF school that is one block away.

Financially, the average AF Elementary school costs roughly half of what it costs per pupil at AF Voyager. Programmatically, AF would not be able to provide the level of education and opportunities typically provided at a full-sized AF school.

Ms. Toll noted that there are other AF schools where parents are having similarly positive experiences. She believes AF can provide a wonderful experience at another school and if the Board approves the resolution, all scholars at AF Voyager ES will be promised their first choice AF school.

Fatimah Barker shared data on student recruitment from the past year, specific strategies that were utilized and what organizations AF partnered with to recruit families. There were direct mailings, outreach to pre-schools, and social media. She also shared application data which did not meet targets. In addition, the conversion rate was low due to the fact that families are applying to numerous charter schools.

The board is committing to certain measures believed to be in the best interest of the scholars including transportation and uniform assistance.

4. Deep Dive: Expected College Completion

Due to the lengthy discussion on AF Voyager Elementary, the deep dive on expected college completion will be moved to the next meeting (March 26, 2020).

5. Committee Reports and Discussion

a. Finance Committee

Victor De La Paz gave a brief overview of the financials. Projected revenue is down from budgeted revenue due to fewer enrolled students across the region, largely driven by AF Voyager ES along with four other schools. Overall, personnel costs are lower while non-personnel costs are higher and many schools with personnel decreases have offset with non-personnel increases.

b. Facilities Committee

The facilities committee continues to have meetings to discuss the Linden MS building and the Queens real estate options. There is no decision for the board to make at this time.

c. Principal Hiring

Deb Shanley reported on the successful interviews of the principal candidates that took place on January 22, 2020. Several trustees participated in the interviews and felt that the candidates were all strong.

6. Board Business

RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby approves the meeting minutes from November 21, 2019.

Motion by Jon Atkeson
Seconded by Chris Lynch
All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby approves the financial report as presented.

Motion by Jon Atkeson
Seconded by Warren Young
All in favor

WHEREAS the Achievement First Brooklyn Board of Trustees has reviewed, considered and vetted the relevant facts and circumstances concerning the subject of these Resolutions;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Brooklyn Board of Trustees approves the plan to revise the enrollment plan of the following school: Achievement First Voyager Elementary School (grades K-1) beginning in the 2020-21 school year, subject to approval by the charter authorizer; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Achievement First Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby authorizes and directs Achievement First Network Support and the schools to take and carry out such action as required in connection with the foregoing Resolution.

Motion by Warren Young
Seconded by Chris Lynch
Deb Shanley, Romy Coquillette, Andy Hubbard, Amy Samuels and Jon Atkeson in favor
Judge Priscilla Hall dissented

RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby appoints Jenika Mullen as interim principal of Achievement First Aspire Elementary effective immediately and until June 30, 2020.

Motion by Jon Atkeson
Seconded by Chris Lynch
All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby appoints Shannon Williams-Paden as principal of Achievement First Endeavor Middle School effective July 1, 2020.

Motion by Jon Atkeson
Seconded by Chris Lynch
All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby appoints Meryl Senter as principal of Achievement First East New York Elementary School effective July 1, 2020.

Motion by Jon Atkeson

Seconded by Chris Lynch
All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby appoints Martin Palamore as principal of Achievement First East Brooklyn High School effective July 1, 2020.

Motion by Jon Atkeson
Seconded by Chris Lynch
All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby appoints Victoria Pierre as principal of Achievement First Crown Heights Middle School effective July 1, 2020.

Motion by Jon Atkeson
Seconded by Chris Lynch
All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby appoints Jason Coalter as principal of Achievement First University Prep High School effective July 1, 2020.

Motion by Jon Atkeson
Seconded by Chris Lynch
All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby appoints Dumar Paden as principal of Achievement First Brooklyn High School effective July 1, 2020.

Motion by Jon Atkeson
Seconded by Chris Lynch
All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby appoints Jordan Hardy as principal of Achievement First Aspire Elementary School effective July 1, 2020.

Motion by Jon Atkeson
Seconded by Chris Lynch
All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby appoints Jessica Eddy-Lewis as principal of Achievement First Queens Elementary School effective July 1, 2020.

Motion by Jon Atkeson
Seconded by Chris Lynch
All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby appoints Tamla Frater as principal of Achievement First Voyager Middle School effective July 1, 2020.

Motion by Jon Atkeson

Seconded by Chris Lynch
All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby appoints Colleen Young as principal of Achievement First Endeavor Elementary School effective July 1, 2020.

Motion by Jon Atkeson
Second by Kevin Miquelon
All in favor

7. New Business

There was no new business.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 pm by Deb Shanley.

Motion by Romy Coquillette
Second by Amy Samuels
All in favor