

Achievement First (AF) Brooklyn Charter Schools
Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, October 1, 2020
Zoom Video Conference

Board Members in Attendance: Deb Shanley, Romy Coquillette, Jon Atkeson, Amy Arthur Samuels, Kevin Miquelon, Chris Lynch, Judith Joseph Jenkins, Andy Hubbard, Warren Young, Will Robalino

Staff and Guests in Attendance: Amy Christie, Sarah Blanton, Ken Paul, Eduardo Del Valle, Dacia Toll, Jasmine Daniels, Maura Bonnani, Victor De La Paz, Richard Buery

Sarah Blanton recorded the minutes. The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm by Deb Shanley.

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Bridge Scholarship Update

Amy Christie updated the board on the success of early decision results from the prior year and the improvement in Estimated College Completion (ECC) as a result of Bridge Funding. Ms. Christie shared some of the lessons learned from the first two years of the pilot program. AF anticipates fewer early decision applications will be submitted this fall because students could not visit campuses.

Dacia Toll thanked the board for their support of the program. She believes it has achieved strong results. The board has pushed AF to pursue private philanthropy.

Ms. Toll presented for consideration a private fundraising commitment of \$100K per cohort. Ken Paul shared that raising private philanthropy for Bridge Funding was always something he anticipated given the growing size of our network and graduating classes.

The board was supportive of AF launching a strategy to raise private philanthropy and shared some initial ideas especially around events and corporate support.

RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby supports AF in exploring possibilities for private philanthropy to support the Bridge Scholarship.

Motion by Chris Lynch
Second by Warren Young
All in favor

Deb Shanley encouraged board members to participate and help think through fundraising possibilities.

3. Enrollment Update

Fatimah Barker shared enrollment data. Of the 23 schools in New York, 75% are in solid shape, meeting or exceeding their enrollment. Ms. Barker reviewed data and challenges facing schools that are currently under enrolled.

Today, AF launched the recruitment for next school year. This is the earliest AF has ever started this process. AF is using a robust digital marketing effort to recruit new families including a video about remote learning that we will send out widely.

Warren Young inquired about how we're engaging parents, as the board heard from the AF Voyager Elementary School parents that they would have wanted to be involved in helping to grow enrollment. Ms. Barker commented that many of the suggestions from parents have been incorporated into our strategies.

4. Committee Reports

Real Estate Committee: Victor De La Paz updated the board on AF Linden Middle School, the Queens expansion with elementary school #1, and space for high school #4. AF has decided that four high schools is the right number so feeder patterns will be reviewed to ensure those four high schools meet the needs of our rising eighth graders.

Finance Committee: Mr. De La Paz presented the budget revisions and noted that he anticipates there will be additional revisions over the course of this fiscal year. There are several budget line items that have been eliminated because of COVID and several others that are likely to be reduced or cut in the future.

5. National Summer School Institute (NSSI) Update and Proposal

Doug McCurry recapped the NSSI program which provided five weeks of strong instruction. The program came in over budget and AF is covering the gap with philanthropy and an additional ask for an allocation from budget surplus as a supplement the allocation given in May towards the program.

The board inquired about the amount of surplus from the spring which Victor shared as being nearly \$6M.

6. Board Business

RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby approves the meeting minutes from August 20 and September 10, 2020.

Motion by Romy Coquillette

Seconded by Andy Hubbard

All in favor

WHEREAS, AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees authorized an allocation of \$700K to support AF Brooklyn scholars' participation in the National Summer School Institute at its May 18, 2020 meeting, and

WHEREAS, Achievement First seeks additional funding of \$180K in FY21 from the AF New York budget surplus to supplement philanthropy used to cover the final expenses of the program,

RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby authorizes up to \$880K from any available AF New York budget surplus funds to support all AF Brooklyn scholars' participation in the NSSI.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby authorizes Achievement First to take such actions to carry out the foregoing resolution.

Motion by Warren Young

Seconded by Amy Samuels

All in favor

RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Directors hereby approves the amended budget as recommended by the Finance Committee and prepared by Achievement First for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Motion by Chris Lynch

Seconded by Romy Coquillette

All in favor

7. Other Announcements

Deb Shanley asked the board to consider serving on the executive board. If interested, directors should reach out to her directly.

8. Adjourn

It was unanimously decided to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm.

Motion by Deb Shanley

Second by Romy Coquillette

All in favor