



AF New York Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 3, 2025 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM EDT

University Prep HS: 35 Starr Street, Brooklyn, NY 11221

Zoom: <https://achievementfirst.zoom.us/j/86939101046>

Attendees

Board Members: Romy Coquillette, Chris Lynch, Paul Cabana, Brandon Sorlie, Amy Arthur Samuels, Desiree Dalton, Tamika Bradley, Erica Murphy, Keith Brooks, Kevin Miquelon, Akeem Frett

AF Staff: Lisa Margosian, Dumar Paden, Amy D'Angelo, Michael Rabin, Shannon Miller Omar Mayyasi, Jason Russell, Mirtha Camille Sabio, Jason Coalter

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Romy Coquillette called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. Public Comment

Ms. Coquillette opened the floor for public comment. Although a member of the public, Ms. Tiffany Thomas was present virtually, she did not offer a comment.

III. Board Report Out: AF 25 Summit

Board members reflected on the AF 25 Summit with enthusiasm and appreciation. The event was described as joyful, well-executed, and energizing. Board members expressed pride in the leadership team's work and highlighted the inspiring presence and stories shared by alumni. The Summit reinforced their commitment to AF's mission and sparked discussion on deepening alumni engagement and representation on the board.

IV. CEO Agenda Overview

CEO Lisa Margosian expressed gratitude to the board and team for their support and participation in the Summit. She shared her reflections on the past 25 years and emphasized AF's renewed focus on community, legacy, and future impact. Lisa noted that these summits would continue every five years to inspire collective visioning and strategic alignment.

V. Mission Moment: University Prep HS Principal

Jason Coalter, Principal of University Prep HS, delivered a powerful update. He shared improvements in student, staff, and family investment, citing growth in student climate survey results and high staff culture ratings. He showcased several student achievements, including a senior qualifying for a national rock climbing competition, strong alumni outcomes, and innovative uses of surplus funds—such as school supplies for all students, iPads for teachers, and the establishment of a media center and library.

He also detailed targeted academic interventions in response to Regents data, including daily interim assessments, tutoring support, and reallocation of senior teacher time toward Regents prep.

VI. AFNY SAT/PSAT Data Review

Chief of High Schools, Dumar Paden presented an overview of SAT/PSAT performance data. He noted improvements across the network and emphasized the importance of robust academic preparation. University Prep HS was cited as having the strongest prep and results. He explained how school-based differences in prep and curriculum aligned with variations in performance and highlighted the impact of middle and elementary feeder school quality on long-term outcomes.

VII. College and Career Readiness

Mr. Paden continued with updates on post-secondary readiness. He reported a 46% college persistence rate—well above national averages for low-income students—and celebrated the work of college counselors and summer melt prevention strategies. He emphasized the need to continue aligning students' passions with their academic and career pathways, noting innovations such as dual enrollment, work-based learning, and the Foundation for Leadership course. These efforts aim to support students in defining purpose and planning long-term success.

VIII. Finance Committee Report: FY25 Q3 Forecast & FY26 Budget

Omar Mayyasi, Interim Chief Financial Officer, and Chris Lynch, Board Treasurer, led the finance update. The board reviewed the FY25 Q3 financials, which showed a 2.7% surplus driven by unfilled roles, one-time revenue, and higher-than-anticipated interest income. The committee also discussed the FY26 budget, emphasizing sustainability, strategic use of surplus funds, and potential long-term investments in areas such as after-school programming. There was preliminary discussion on revisiting the management fee structure to ensure alignment with network needs and market comparability. No decisions were made at this time.

IX. Board Resolutions and Approvals

Ms. Coquillette asked for a motion to approve the board budget for school year 25 -26. Brandon Sorlie motioned. Kevin Miquelon seconded. All in favor, none opposed or abstained.

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby approves the financial budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year as presented.

Then Ms. Coquillette introduced the consent agenda approving meeting minutes, safety plan, board membership, and interim principals. She asked for a motion to approve. Chris Lynch motioned. Desiree Dalton seconded. All in favor, none opposed or abstained.

Consent Agenda: Meeting Minutes, Safety Plan, Board Membership, and Interim Principals

1. BE IT RESOLVED, the Achievement First Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby approves the meeting minutes from April 8, 2024.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby approves the AF NY District-Wide School Safety Plan for the 2025-26 School Year.
1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby re-elects Paul Cabana to serve an additional three-year term ending June 30, 2028.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby re-elects Romy Coquillette to serve a 3-year term ending June 30, 2028.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby re-elects Kevin Miquelon to serve an additional three-year term ending June 30, 2028.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby appoints the following committee members:

Academic Committee: Keith Brooks

5. IT RESOLVED that the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby approves the following individuals to serve as interim principal, as needed, for a period of time not to exceed sixteen weeks through October 30, 2025, based on the recommendations by Achievement First.

School	Interim Principal Name (Interim Principal #1)	Backup Interim Principal Name (Interim Principal # 2)
AF Apollo ES	Krystal Chacon	Amanda Mercado
AF Aspire ES	Shane' Ramos (interim principal)	Arturo Diaz
AF Brownsville ES	Medina Hodzic	Jerrell Hawthorne
AF Bushwick ES	Jessica Morales	Tanya Kolb
AF Crown Heights ES	Yoowon Park	Kendra Stone-Rigg
AF East New York ES	Codara Bracy	Jennifer Pascal
AF Endeavor ES	Orobosa Omede	Annika Locklear
AF Legacy ES	Felicia Winsborough	Lamar Miller
AF Linden ES	Jason Schwartz	Diamond Clarke
AF North Brooklyn ES	Matilde Acevedo	Daliza Lawrence
AF Apollo MS	Gentaro Ramadhan	Kiersten Wunn
AF Aspire MS	Tyler Simmard	Kaylah Boston
AF Brownsville MS	José Guerrero	Ariann Halsey

AF Bushwick MS	Stephanie Kotnik	Tierra Chavis
AF Crown Heights MS	Don Hardin	Carolina Garvey
AF East New York MS	Michael Ortiz	Tiffany Blake
AF Endeavor MS	Ronnica Jenkins	N/A
AF Linden MS	Brittany Gil	Alisha Sealy
AF North Brooklyn MS	Randi Moses Rogers	Yolaine Arthur
AF Voyager MS	Leisel Renaud	Shani Hines
AF Brooklyn HS	Dr. Tamla Autry	Nicholas Kaiser
AF East Brooklyn HS	Ethel McGinn	Jazmin Gordon-Rose
AF Ujima HS	Adelaide Giornelli	Cristina Lopez del Castillo
AF University Prep HS	Reka Bennett	Nana Chinebuah

X. Executive Session

The board entered executive session to discuss matters reserved for closed discussion. No votes or decisions were recorded during this portion of the meeting.

XI. Adjourn

Before concluding the meeting Ms. Coquillette shared that this would be her last meeting as board chair and that Brandon Sorlie will be taking over board leadership in the fall. She will be remaining on the board, just no longer as board chair. The board applauded Ms. Coquillette's dedicated board leadership. Following that, the meeting was adjourned.