



## **AF Brooklyn Board Meeting Minutes - Draft**

Achievement First

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM EDT

TFA, 25 Broadway, 12th Floor, GC Room, New York, NY 10004

Zoom: <https://achievementfirst.zoom.us/j/86359153397>

### **Attendees:**

Trustees: Brandon Sorlie, Chris Lynch, Erica Murphy, Paul Cabana, Romy Coquillette, Amy Arthur Samuels, Desiree Dalton, David Pollak, Kevin Miquelon, Avril Gordon, La-Shaneigh Kimberly Cutler

AF Staff: Lisa Margosian, Kristin Damo, Jason Russell, Michael Rabin, Ben Schanback, Michael Diaz, Emma White, Yvonne Williams, Sulafa Bashir

Guests: Heather Gayle

#### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Brandon Sorlie at 6:01 PM

#### **II. Public Comment**

There were no members of the public present who wished to make public comment.

#### **III. Welcome and Agenda Overview**

Kristin Damo welcomed the attendees including the board members and AF Network staff present and she gave an overview of the meeting agenda referencing the key topics and assigned speakers.

#### **IV. Mission Moment**

In celebrating the Mission Moment, the board highlighted the boys varsity basketball team's unprecedented achievements, marking them as the first charter school team to secure consecutive city championships, followed by a state championship victory.

#### **V. Academic Update: Mock Assessments**

Academic updates were presented, including a summary of growth trends across various school levels. Double-digit growth was achieved in ELA for elementary and middle schools, while math growth was more incremental and varied by school. High school results showed mostly flat performance and school-to-school variations.

Kristin Damo explained that increased collaboration between regional superintendents and the Teaching and Learning team, particularly in ELA, led to the growth seen in middle school ELA. The team identified content gaps in math instruction and noted that

high school results were affected by factors including teacher skill level and recent structural changes in high school management.

There was a discussion on the variability of teacher skill sets across schools and academies, with development programs focused on coaching and pairing new teachers with veteran mentors as an effective strategy. The team highlighted the benefits of aligning PD strategy across teams and K-12 shown to be beneficial with an emphasis on the strategic action of keeping student work central to informing instructional decisions. Additionally, the team discussed setting goals for student achievement and post-graduate college matriculation with consideration of state metrics, reinforcing high expectations and communicating the belief in students' capability to meet rigorous standards..

#### **VI. Executive Session**

Mr. Sorlie stated that the board would go into executive session to discuss principal appointments, portfolio management updates, and real estate updates. He asked for a motion for the board to enter executive session, inviting all the AF network staff present in the room to join. Romy Coquillette so moved, seconded by Kevin Miquelon. All were in favor and the board moved into executive session at 6:40 pm and exited at 7:37 pm following a motion to exit by Chris Lynch, seconded by Kevin Miquelon.

#### **VII. Finance Committee Report**

CFO Ben Schanback updated the board on the fiscal 2027 budget process, with schools receiving budgets in February and being asked to complete them by the week after spring break. Key challenges included fewer expected students, increased benefits costs, and reduced interest income due to the decrease in cash reserves. Schools are being asked to make reductions while preserving critical services, with some transitioning from three-section to two-section models and others restructuring leadership teams

#### **VIII. Board Resolutions and Goals**

Mr. Sorlie moved on to the vote on the proposed resolutions, and there being no questions or comments, he asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Erica Murphy so moved, seconded by Desiree Dalton. All were in favor and the consent agenda passed.

#### Consent Agenda

1. BE IT RESOLVED, the Achievement First Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby approves the meeting minutes from February 3, 2026.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby

appoints the following committee members:

- Real Estate Committee: L. Kimberly Cutler-Lee
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby appoints the individuals listed below as principals of the following Achievement First schools effective immediately:
    - Felicia Winsboro, AF Legacy ES
    - Randi Moses Rogers, AF North Brooklyn MS
  4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Achievement First Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby appoints the individuals listed below as principals of the following Achievement First schools effective July 1, 2026:
    - Zoe Sumner, AF Ujima HS
    - Nana Akuba Sackey, AF Apollo MS
  5. BE IT RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby approves the renewal of the following principals, with a final compensation package to be incorporated in the FY27 Budget to be reviewed and approved in June 2026:
    - Jessica McDonald, Apollo Elementary School
    - Shane Ramos, AF Aspire ES
    - Ana Samper, AF Brownsville ES
    - Courtney Saretzky, AF Bushwick ES
    - Mallory Bodhuin, AF Crown Heights ES
    - Meryl Senter, AF East New York ES
    - Colleen McKinnon, AF Endeavor ES
    - Mariama Diallo, AF Linden ES
    - Daliza Lawrence, AF North Brooklyn ES
    - D'Asia Adger, AF Legacy MS
    - Shai Phillips, AF Aspire MS
    - Michael Ortiz, AF Bushwick MS
    - Don Hardin, AF Crown Heights MS
    - Shamel Duncan, AF East New York MS
    - Jadine Boone, AF Endeavor MS
    - Stephanie Blieka, AF Linden MS
    - James Fernandez, AF Brooklyn HS
    - Jason Coalter, AF University Prep HS
  6. **WHEREAS**, Achievement First, Inc. ("AF") is negotiating a certain Lease Agreement (the "Lease") by and between a wholly owned subsidiary of AF (the "AF LLC"), as tenant, and Roman Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at St. Albans (the "Landlord"), as landlord, whereby AF LLC will lease from Landlord the land and improvements located at 115-30 221<sup>st</sup> Street Cambria Heights, New York 11411 (Block 11284, Lot 51) (the "Property"), upon the terms and subject to

the conditions set forth in that certain Letter of Intent presented to the Board of Trustees (the "Letter of Intent");

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees desires that the School sublease from AF LLC the entire property and improvements described in the Lease, upon terms and subject to conditions to be negotiated by AF LLC and the School upon execution of the Lease by AF LLC;

**NOWHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that it is in the best interest of the School and the Board of Trustees hereby directs AF LLC to enter into the Lease and such other documents related to the Lease, on such terms and subject to such conditions set forth in the Letter of Intent, with such changes, modifications and amendments to the Lease and such other documents as any officer or trustee of AF LLC or AF may, jointly or severally, in such person's reasonable discretion approve;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the School, be, and hereby is, authorized and directed, at any time and from time to time, to do all such things and acts and to execute and deliver all such applications, documents and instruments in writing and to expend such fees for and on behalf of the School as may be necessary or advisable in order to give effect to and, generally, carry out the intent of these resolutions including, without limitation, to execute and deliver any instruments and documents required in connection with the Lease, in the name and on behalf of the School; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all actions previously taken by any members of the Board of Trustees on behalf of the School in furtherance of the foregoing resolutions, are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Mr. Sorlie briefly discussed the board goals noting two related upcoming events, including a principal dinner on May 21st and the school visits scheduled for April 13th. He encouraged board members to attend both to aid in achieving the board goals.

#### **IX. Adjourn**

There being no other business, Mr Sorlie asked for a motion to adjourn. Romy Coquillette so moved and was seconded by David Pollak. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.