

MINUTES

**Achievement First Brooklyn
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Venue: TFA, 25 Broadway, 12th floor - GC Room
Zoom: <https://achievementfirst.zoom.us/j/83394675669>
Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 6:00-8:00 pm

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM. Ms. Coquilletto noted that Shawn Warren was participating remotely because of an unexpected emergency. In line with our New York regulations, we are allowed to include Shawn as part of our forum tonight in person.

Name	Present	Name	Present
Romy Coquilletto	Y	Kevin Miquelon	Y
Christopher Lynch	Y	Amy Arthur Samuels	Y
Akeem Frett	N	Josh Vidro	N
Jon Atkeson	Y	Shawn Warren	Y
Tamika Bradley	N	David Pollak	Y
Paul Cabana	Y	Brandon Sorlie	Y
Desiree Dalton	Y		

AF Staff: Shannon Miller, Dumar Paden, Lisa Margosian, Karolyn Belcher, Xanthe Jory, Ru Sharma, Michael Rabin, Neil Shah, Omar Mayyasi, and Blakely Simoneau

II. Public Comment

There were no members of the public present.

III. Board Business

- A. Board Resolutions and Approvals: Previous Meeting Minutes and Interim Principal (5 mins)

Ms. Coquilletto asked for a vote on the consent agenda. Chris Lynch moved, Jon Atkeson seconded. All in favor, none abstained.

1. BE IT RESOLVED, the Achievement First Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby approves the meeting minutes from January 30, 2024.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, the AF Brooklyn Board of Trustees hereby approves Ariann Halsey to serve as interim principal of Brownsville Middle School through the end of the 23-24 school year, based on the recommendation by Achievement First.

IV. Discussion with Achievement First

A. CEO Welcome (5 mins)

Ms. Margosian welcomed the members of the board.

B. Alumni Presentation (25 mins)

Julio Evans-Cevallos presented to the board about his experience at Wesleyan and the support he received from the Collaborative. He also shared his experiences as a counselor and the challenges students face in transitioning from high school to college.

C. Strategic Planning for AF's Future (30 mins)

Lisa Margosian discussed the organization's multi-year strategic planning, refining the mission and vision statement, and asked for feedback on the proposed statements. Concerns were expressed about the sequencing of language blocks in the mission and the choice of words in the vision. The participants also discussed AF's unique characteristics, the need for clear differentiation on the school's website, and the importance of teacher development and support.

D. AF's Postsecondary Persistence Approach and Results (30 mins)

Dumar Paden presented on postsecondary persistence results. Mr. Paden noted that students from Achievement First are more likely to matriculate to college and graduate college than their similarly situated peers. Mr. Paden provided details on the steps AF takes and supports that AF utilizes to obtain these results, and offered details about the future of the program.

Ms. Margosian presented on the funding aspects of this work, including that it cannot be funded through public funds. She noted that the cost will continue to grow as the cohorts get larger.

E. Finance Committee Report (20 mins)

Omar Mayyasi and Neil Shah presented the financial report. They mentioned making investments in strategic initiatives for next year and aiming for a balanced budget of roughly two million dollars. Mr. Mayyasi discussed the process of selecting an audit firm through an RFP process. The group discussed the strategic initiatives and how the excess surplus will be used. Mr. Mayyasi mentioned converging strategic planning and financial planning, as well as discussing real estate planning that might require capital.

V. Board Business

A. Executive Session: Legacy ES Principal (5 mins)

Ms. Coquilletta acknowledged three board members who recently resigned from the board, Warren Young, Anup Menon, and Will Robalino, and thanked them for their service to the AF Brooklyn board.

Ms. Coquilletta asked for a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the Legacy ES Principal.

Chris Lynch moved, Jon Atkeson seconded. All in favor, none abstained.

The board entered into Executive Session at 7:54 pm and exited at 8:00 pm.

Following the executive session there was a brief discussion of recent board visits to Linden Middle School and Ujima High School.

VI. Adjourn

Ms. Coquilletta asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

David Pollak moved, Brandon Sorlie seconded. All in favor, none abstained.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.