

MINUTES

Achievement First (AF) Brooklyn Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 22, 2024 12:00-1:00 pm

Zoom link: <https://achievementfirst.zoom.us/j/88576918470>

Attendees: Romy Coquillette, Paul Cabana, Chris Lynch, Amy Arthur Samuels, Akeem Frett

AF Staff: Shannon Miller and Lisa Margosian

I. Call to Order

Romy Coquillette called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

II. Public Comment

There were no members of the public present.

III. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Coquillette asked for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Chris Lynch motioned, Amy Athur Samulels seconded. All were in favor, none opposed or abstained.

IV. Committee Discussion

Discussion on Investment Strategy and Governance

The group discussed the \$24 million surplus strategy, governance parameters for investment plans, and budget management. It was agreed that the finance committee should focus on both retrospective assessments of past issues and the monitoring of future investment plans. Chris Lynch will follow up with Omar regarding the investment plans and ensure that discussions continue to address broader issues beyond just financial aspects.

Participants discussed the need for effective oversight to prevent past issues from recurring and emphasized the importance of accurate budgeting practices, particularly in light of a projected 4% funding increase versus an initial 2% estimate. Concerns were raised about special education funding shortfalls and the necessity for better communication with school leaders regarding budget changes. The group agreed on the importance of targeted retention bonuses for teachers and the need for collaboration with principals and District School Officials to address financial management challenges.

Retreat planning

Ms. Coquillette shared plans to circulate an invitation for the upcoming discussions regarding the retreat and agenda planning, emphasizing the need for thoughtful engagement and learning opportunities. She also said she will follow up with Andrew Kyle to obtain best practices for CMO evaluations, which is a new area for the board to explore. The group aimed to outline a scope of action before Thanksgiving to ensure a productive retreat, with plans to brainstorm and formulate ideas in the coming month.

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 pm.