

# **Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors Meeting**

January 25, 2017, 7:00pm  
AF Amistad High School  
580 Dixwell Ave, New Haven

## **I. Call to Order & Attendance**

Richard Ferguson - Yes	Samuel Brill - Yes (phone)
William Heins - No	Stephanie Ma - Yes
Laura Saverin - Yes	Magaly Cajigas - Yes
Genevive Walker - Yes	Donovan Tracey - No
Carlos Torre - No	Patric Gregory - Yes
Patricia Pierce - No	Rachel Kerner, AF Network Support - Yes

Public: Dawn Gibson-Brehon

## **II. Open Session For Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **III. Approval of Minutes**

RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from 11/16/2016

Motion by Laura Saverin  
Seconded by Genevive Walker  
All in favor

## **IV. Reports and Discussion**

### **A. Joint High School Committee Report (Dick Ferguson)**

Dick Ferguson shared some highlights from the Joint High School Committee Meeting from earlier in the day. Morgan Barth reported that 1050 college applications were submitted by the 103 member senior class. This includes early decision/action as well as regular decision. To date, they have received 124 acceptances through Early Action, Early Decision or rolling admission. 84% of seniors have been accepted to a two or four year college, and 62% have been accepted to a 4 year college, including two at Yale, one at Union, Lafayette, Wesleyan, and Franklin & Marshall. This is also the first senior class where some scholars have been with Achievement First starting in kindergarten.

All Amistad High School students are working on applying for pre-college programs. Many kids will attend academic programs at colleges. Others will have local internships, enrichment programs and those who need to make up coursework will enroll in Summer Academy.

Morgan reported that anecdotally, parent communication seems to have improved

One of the persistent challenges has been student GPA which is lower than they would like. AF Amistad High School requires that scholars take at least two AP courses (Math + AP Lang) and they are struggling with pass rates.

#### **V. Executive Session**

The board entered executive session at 7:17pm to discuss personnel. The board exited executive session at 7:34pm.

RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Elm City College Preparatory hereby approves the continuation of the Greenfield educational model for grades K-6 in one school located at 407/403 James St for the 2017-18 school year and be it further resolved that Elm City College Preparatory Middle School serving grades 7-8 will continue under the classic Achievement First model.

Moved by Magaly Cajigas  
Seconded by Laura Saverin  
All in favor

#### **A. Board Chair Report (Dick Ferguson)**

Towards the end of February, or early in March, Dick will share possible dates for a visit to Elm City Middle School from 10:30 - noon with an optional lunch.

Purchase College is collaborating with the Elm City Middle School (7-8) on an overnight trip. The kids will visit Purchase College and hopefully sleepover. Dawn Gibson-Brehon, ECCP MS parent, has drafted a budget and worked with the Deans to get it set up. Dawn is in the art department and has set up the associate dean to be the chairperson for this. They are interested in being a partner to AF. Magaly shared that parent leadership in grades 7-8 isn't particularly strong and finances are a struggle. They are asking parents to help contribute and are hoping the board might be able to also. Any fundraising that would go towards this trip for the middle school would have to be in addition to the annual expected gift that board members make to AF.

School Leader Appreciation Week this year is 2/27-3/2. Dick will send examples from what we've done in the past and requested the board members to brainstorm some ideas for this year.

#### **Elect Secretary**

RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby elects Genevive Walker as Secretary.

Moved by Laura Saverin  
Seconded by Patric Gregory  
All in favor

#### **B. Treasurer Report (Laura Saverin)**

Laura talked to Victor De La Paz, AF's CFO, and the good news is the middle and high schools are both on track. Not much has changed since November. At ECCP Elementary, however deficit has

widened. In March the board will likely see an amended budget which will show an increase in philanthropy.

RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the financial report as presented.

Moved by Stephanie Ma

Seconded by Genevieve Walker

All in favor

Victor has added a summary to the audit. Dick and Laura had an hour long discussion with the auditors, Gaylord and Victor to go over the audit in intense detail. Teacher certification continues to be an issue and it's something the school is very focused on. Audit was clean and unmodified. The numbers reflect fairly and we have good controls.

RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby accepts the report of the independent auditors CohnReznik prepared in relation to the fiscal year that ended 6/30/16.

Moved by Patric Gregory

Seconded by Genevieve Walker

All in favor

#### **VI. Additional Board Business**

As everyone knows, the ECCP Charter is up for renewal. There was a site visit from the State. Tomorrow night is the public hearing where Dick and Genevieve will be speaking. Families for Excellent Schools helps get parents and we should have 20 families there.

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16pm by Dick Ferguson

Motion by Laura Saverin

Seconded by Magaly Cajigas

All in favor