

**Joint Session**  
**Elm City College Preparatory and Amistad Academy**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**

March 22, 2017, 5:30 pm  
Achievement First Network Support  
495 Blake Street, New Haven

**I. Call to Order & Attendance**

<b>Elm City College Prep Board of Directors</b>	<b>Amistad Academy Board of Directors</b>
Richard Ferguson - Yes	Carolyn Greenspan - Yes
William Heins - No	Caroline Williams - No
Laura Saverin - Yes	Mike Griffin - No
Genevive Walker - Yes	Lorraine Gibbons - Yes
Carlos Torre - No	Andrew Lachman - Yes
Patricia Pierce - No	Cassie Crockett - Yes
Samuel Brill - No	Daisy Gonzales - No
Stephanie Ma - Yes	Jane Levin - Yes (phone)
Magaly Cajigas - No	Pat Sweet - Yes (phone)
Patric Gregory - No	Jennifer Connell - Yes
Donovan Tracey - Yes	Paul McCraven - No
	Khadijah Muhammad - Yes (phone)
	Tim Pavlis - Yes
	Reginald Simmons - Yes

AF Network Support: Sarah Blanton, John Furniss, Laurie Bussmann, Peter Cymrot

**II. Open Session For Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**III. Joint Session with Board of Directors of Amistad Academy**

**A. Joint High School Committee Report (Carolyn Greenspan)**

Due to time constraints, the Joint High School Report will be given in the individual board meetings and not this joint session.

**B. Charter Renewals (Peter Cymrot)**

Mr. Pete Cymrot and Ms. Laurie Bussmann led a discussion on the charter renewal hearings. The State Board recognized the academic success of the schools, but gave both Amistad and Elm City a three year renewal. In particular, the state board focused on teacher certification and suspensions. AF must come up with an action plan and update state staff every three months, and then update the state board of education in one year. The expectation is that the school make solid progress satisfactory to the

Commissioner of Education. The State has reported that working on teacher certification with Ms. Bussmann has been productive. Elm City and Amistad's suspension numbers are higher than New Haven Public Schools, but commensurate with Bridgeport Public Schools, Stamford Public Schools, and Hartford Public Schools.

The board made a motion to enter executive session at 5:53pm by Jennifer Connell. Seconded by Cassie Crockett. The boards exited executive session at 6:12pm.

**The Joint session adjourned to individual board meetings at 6:13pm**

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

March 22, 2017, 5:30 pm  
Achievement First Network Support  
495 Blake Street, New Haven

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

Richard Ferguson - Yes	Magaly Cajigas - No
William Heins - No	Donovan Tracey - Yes
Laura Saverin - Yes	Patric Gregory - No
Genevive Walker - Yes	Stephanie Ma - Yes
Carlos Torre - No	Andrew Poole, ECCP Principal - No
Patricia Pierce - No	Robert Hawke, ECCP Principal - Yes
Samuel Brill - Yes (phone)	Karin Gould, ECCP Director of School Operations - Yes
	John Furniss, AF Network Support - Yes

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

There was no public comment.

## **IV. Approval of Minutes**

RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from 1/25/2017

Motion by Genevieve Walker  
Seconded by Stephanie Ma  
All in favor

## **IV. Reports and Discussion**

### **A. Principal Reports**

#### **1. Andrew Poole**

Mr. Ferguson read a report given by Mr. Poole. The last round of expeditions was cut short by three snow days, however they were still an overall success. Showcases went well despite the lack of time. Already a lot of hype for next year's expeditions. The school is getting ready for Crescendo, and starting to think about next year. One exciting development is the expansion of Goal Team time with Valor out of Nashville.

#### **2. Robert Hawke**

Mr. Hawke reported that 100% of ECCP Middle School teachers are certified, and they have been making a concerted effort to make sure to retain teachers year over year. Ms. Gould expressed that she tries to make it as easy as possible. Teachers have to pay for the test when they register (can be up to

\$600), but school has been able to front some of the money. Have framed it as a matter of a professional responsibility. Retention looks to be either 100% or all but one individual. No Teachers in Residence (TIR) at the school.

Took mock SBAC's, but since it's the first year there's not a lot of predictive power. Extrapolated from last year's and other school's data, projected 5-10% increase in number of kids passing. Aiming for at least 10% increase. 15-20 kids who were lower than average in each grade level have been getting extra support, have now progressed past the network average.

Black History Month after school celebration was the best that Mr. Hawke has ever seen. Scholars led most of the programming. They had their first Hispanic Heritage Month celebration in school. They also celebrated International Women's Day. Finally, Mr. Hawke highlighted the school band and played a clip of the kids playing a piece by sight. They will be doing a full spring concert in June.

The number one challenge is school culture which, at this time, varies between classrooms. Some teachers are still having some difficulty with classroom management, mostly in 7th grade. They don't believe that the model is the issue, but feel that they are struggling more than they should be. Many of the teachers are a little too heavy on the warm and not the demanding. Mr. Ferguson inquired about advisor groups. Mr. Hawke explained that advisories meet once a week for about 30 minutes.

Mr. Ferguson told the Board about the school trip to SUNY - Purchase for roughly thirty 7th and 8th graders June 12th and 13th. They will spend the night in the dorms before going into NYC to do a neighborhood art tour and go to Harlem Dance Academy. Parents are being asked to kick in \$100 and the Board has made up the majority of the remainder.

#### **B. Governance Committee Report (Stephanie Ma)**

Ms. Ma gave a report from a meeting of the Joint Governance Committee. Ms. Cajigas has come up with a possibility for Parent Rep, but there is a question if she will be able to commit enough time. Ms. Cajigas is reaching out to several individuals. Ms. Ma asked the Board for any possibilities for Directors.

The Governance committee also expressed a desire to see Principal contracts, Family Handbooks, etc. and be more involved in the process. Ms. Ma inquired about the PGP process, and Ms. Blanton explained that the PGP's have not yet been completed.

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

Mr. Ferguson explained the Charter Management Agreement Amendment, which spells out additional things that the Board needs to be doing that have not been done in the past, such as approving the Principal contracts year over year (which go out in December). Mr. Ferguson expressed that he is interested in using the Governance Committee to determine what exactly needs to be done to follow the letter of the law. The strategy for this will be determined within the next 10 days by the Board Chairs.

Mr. Ferguson told the Board that there is a Board Workshops on Partnerships on April 5, Special Education on May 3rd, and Greenfield on May 5th.

The Board expressed interest in doing something for Ops Appreciation Week and Teacher Appreciation Week.

**1. Approve Charter Management Agreement Amendment**

RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the amendment to the Charter Management Agreement as presented.

Motion by Stephanie Ma

Seconded by Laura Saverin

All in Favor

**2. Approve ED049F Confirming Completion of AF Amistad High School Construction**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the State Project #289-0001 - AF Amistad High School construction at 580 Dixwell Avenue in New Haven as Complete.

Motion by Laura Saverin

Seconded by Stephanie Ma

All in favor

**D. Treasurer Report (Laura Saverin)**

Ms. Saverin gave a report on the financial state of the schools. ECCP Greenfield is running a deficit, while the Middle School is on a surplus. The Board needs to pass a resolution approving a budget amendment for an additional \$300k in philanthropy.

Cash flow is good with per pupil coming in January. Mr. De La Paz shared some of the early insights from next year's budget. Currently budgeting for \$11K per child and will be pleasantly surprised if it goes up. Philanthropy is getting reduced by \$205K next year. Amistad High School is expected to grow by 40-50 students. Finally, Ms. Saverin called to the Board's attention that the audit findings at the end of the Board pack do not all directly apply to Elm City. Instead, it is a document capturing the findings from the audits across all charters.

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

Moved by Stephanie Ma

Seconded by Donovan Tracey

All in favor

RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the amendment to the FY17 budget as presented.

Motion by Laura Saverin

Seconded by Stephanie Ma

All in favor

**V. Nursing Agreement**

The board posed the following questions for follow up:

- Why were the policies set out the way they were originally?
- What are they able to do in the traditional public schools?
- Would parents have the ability to opt out of the agreement?

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm by Dick Ferguson

Motion by Stephanie Ma

Seconded by Laura Saverin

All in favor