

**Joint Session**  
**Amistad Academy & Elm City College Preparatory**  
**Boards of Directors**  
**Wednesday, September 17, 2014, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**403 James Street, New Haven**

A meeting of the joint boards of Amistad Academy and Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors.

**I. Call to Order & Attendance**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Richard Ferguson, Chair of Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors, at 5:42 p.m.

The following directors and staff were in attendance:

Bill Bouton, Legal Resources - Yes  
Carolyn Greenspan, ECCP Board - Yes  
Pat Sweet, ECCP Board - Yes  
Erik Clemons, ECCP Board - Yes  
Richard Ferguson, ECCP Board - Yes  
Marnie Halsey, ECCP Board - Yes  
Patricia Pierce, ECCP Board - Yes  
Laura Saverin, ECCP Board - Yes  
Kaitlyn Stasik, ECCP Board - Yes  
Magaly Cajigas, ECCP Board - No  
William Heins, ECCP Board - No  
Sharon Oster, ECCP Board - No  
Deb Quinsee, ECCP Board - No  
Lystra Richardson, ECCP Board - No  
Katrin Czinger, AA Board - Yes  
Lorraine Gibbons, AA Board - Yes  
Michael Griffin, AA Board - Yes

Melinda Hamilton, AA Board - Yes  
Caroline Williams, AA Board - Yes  
Sheri Gellman, AA Board - No  
Toni Harp, AA Board - No  
Howard Hill, AA Board - No  
Dorsey Kendrick, AA Board - No  
Andrew Lachman, AA Board - No  
Amanda Alonzy, School Leadership - Yes  
Rebecca Good, School Leadership - Yes  
Katie Poynter, School Leadership - Yes  
Andrew Poole, School Leadership - No  
Karin Gould, School Staff - Yes  
Shirley Harrell, School Staff - Yes  
D. Scot Kerr, AF Network Support - Yes  
Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes  
Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes  
Robyn Silverman, AF Network Support - Yes  
Candice Dormon, AF Network Support - Yes

**II. Principal Reports**

Ms. Rebecca Good, Elm City College Preparatory Middle School Principal, provided a report on Elm City College Preparatory Middle School. Ms. Good lauded Achievement First's stronger than ever summer trainings for new teachers, leaders, and returning teachers. Ms. Good is excited that in addition to strong leadership at AF, community leadership and residents are also doing extremely well.

Ms. Good is confident in ECCP to make dramatic academic gains this year. She feels strongly about the alignment with common core in addition to new state testing. She is eager to catch up to AF NY counterparts and believes that the first round of interim assessments (IAs) will inform her and her school tremendously. Ms. Good was pleased to announce that the students are doing much of their work, including quizzes and assignments, on computers in preparation for computer based IAs and state tests. Good emphasized the importance of a smooth transition into an AF Greenfield school model. In addition, she wants to ensure that the community feels supported and informed throughout the transition so that we can maintain our strong relationship now and in the future.

Ms. Katie Poynter, Amistad Academy Middle School Principal, provided a report on Amistad Academy Middle School. Ms. Poynter agreed with fellow Principal Ms. Good that her school is happy with Achievement First training this year and confirmed that her staff jumped into the classroom stronger than ever before. She is eager to see the teachers grow even more throughout the school year.

Ms. Poynter noted that this school year suspensions are down 80% from where they were last year. She identified classroom culture and teacher's classroom management as two key contributing factors to success. Ms. Poynter confirmed that Amistad MS is prioritizing fun and joy in building relationships with kids and families. Their first town hall meeting, open to families and friends of AF held on Friday, September 12, 2014, was a success. Teachers participated in a flash mob and the Amistad community celebrated achievements from the 2013-14 school year.

Ms. Poynter expressed concern for full enrollment on October 1, 2014. Amistad MS has partnered with New Haven Public Schools and Amistad community members to reach full enrollment. Ms. Poynter is committed to backfilling all grades and discussed Amistad's protocol for welcoming students to Amistad Academy Middle School. Ms. Poynter also discussed high teacher retention and teacher sustainability.

Ms. Amanda Alonzy, Principal of Amistad Academy Elementary School, provided a report on her school. Ms. Alonzy discussed her school's eight week culture vision and the great gains the teachers are making. On the academic front, Ms. Alonzy confirmed AAES is pushing towards the October IAs. Ms. Alonzy reported that teachers, academic deans, and leadership at AA ES and ECCP ES are partnering to achieve more. She stated that there is a great potential both schools in this work.

Ms. Alonzy agreed with AF's policy to backfill but did note the challenge to get those students up to grade level. Ms. Alonzy stated that scholars who being at an Achievement First school in kindergarten are more and more prepared academically and behaviorally.

Ms. Shirley Harrell, Director of School Operations of Elm City College Preparatory Elementary School, provided a report on ECCP ES. Ms. Harrell stated that the school year is off to a solid start with two clear goals: Eight Week Culture Vision and IA scores of 80%. She identified the

next four weeks as critical to achieving success. Ms. Harrell read a letter written by Mr. Andrew Poole, Principal of ECCP ES. Mr. Poole's attention is focused on academic instruction and making sure teachers have a positive mindset about doubling student test scores. Ms. Harrell confirmed that the schools is one scholar away from full enrollment. Ms. Harrell concluded her report by inviting all to ECCP ES Family Pot Luck dinner on September 23rd.

Mr. Ferguson thanked the school leadership for all of their great work.

### **III. Joint High School Committee Report (Caroline Williams)**

Ms. Caroline Williams, Chair of Amistad Academy Joint High School Committee, provided a report summarizing Mr. Bostock's presentation from the earlier meeting. Ms. Williams noted the growing student population (440 students) and reiterated Mr. Bostock's excitement to move into the new building in January. Ms. Williams discussed the building project and the multi-sport turf field installation. Ms. Williams confirmed construction timelines and budgets. Ms. Williams discussed exciting staff updates for the college readiness program.

### **IV. Community Engagement (Candice Dormon)**

Ms. Candice Dormon, Achievement First Associate Director, New Haven Community Engagement, introduced herself and explained the internal re-organization of Achievement First's External Relations Team. Ms. Dormon provided a report of the New Haven Community. Ms. Dormon discussed community outreach including AF's partnership with Northeast Charter School Network to reflect a more public united front of the sector. Ms. Dormon stated that we want to make sure the public knows about all of the great schools. She is working on a legislative breakfast to ensure that legislatures visit all local schools. In addition, Ms. Dormon noted the growing partnership with ConnCAT (Connecticut Center for Arts and Technology) and announced that Dr. Howard Fuller will speak on September 25th at ConnCAT as part of his most recent book tour. Ms. Dormon described the 100 person strong Bridgeport cleanup effort that Amistad High School students who live in Bridgeport attended. Ms. Dormon also discussed AF's growing partnership with the Dixwell/Newhallville Community specifically with the alderman and longtime librarian of Stetson Branch Library.

Ms. Dormon also provided an update on student recruitment. She identified 10-12 seats open across all of our schools. Ms. Dormon confirmed that AF is working with the City of New Haven to ensure full enrollment on October 1, 2014. She stated that it is an interesting opportunity for parents and families to come into the school community.

### **V. Governance Committees (Marnie Halsey)**

Ms. Marnie Halsey provided an update on the Governance committee. Ms. Halsey stated that the committee is focused on bringing in a leadership team for the Amistad Academy Board. Ms. Halsey confirmed that Deborah Quinsee, Paul McCraven, Michael Thomas, and Michael Van

Leesten have resigned from the Board. In addition, Ms. Gibbons has agreed to serve as Secretary, Mr. Michael Griffin has agreed to serve as Treasurer, and Ms. Caroline Williams has agreed to serve as Vice Chair at Amistad. In addition, Ms. Carolyn Greenspan and Ms. Patricia Sweet will transition to the Amistad Academy Board from the ECCP Board. Ms. Halsey urged Board Members to think about potential board members and confirmed that October will be a great recruitment month for both Boards.

## **VI. Visitor Day Schedule (Ken Paul)**

Mr. Ken Paul discussed Visitor Day in New Haven. He confirmed that AF will continue to host Visitor Days and all information is available on the Achievement First website. Ken implored board members to attend a visitor day and invite others.

## **Announcements**

Ms. Lorraine Gibbons announced that she hosted an AF intern over the summer and was extremely impressed by the intern. Ms. Gibbons stated that the intern exceeded expectations and her entire team was blown away by the incredible work.

**Adjourn** at 6:56 p.m. by Mr. Richard Ferguson

The joint Board of Directors meeting of Amistad Academy and Elm City College Preparatory adjourned to Individual Board Meetings

Elm City College Preparatory  
Board of Directors  
Wednesday, September 17, 2014  
403 James Street, New Haven, Conference Room

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

The meeting was called to order by Dick Ferguson, Chairman, at 7:01 p.m.

The following directors and staff were in attendance:

Bill Bouton, Legal Resources - No	Magaly Cajigas, ECCP Board - No
Carolyn Greenspan, ECCP Board - Yes	William Heins, ECCP Board - No
Pat Sweet, ECCP Board - Yes	Sharon Oster, ECCP Board - No
Erik Clemons, ECCP Board - Yes	Deb Quinsee, ECCP Board - No

Richard Ferguson, ECCP Board - Yes  
Marnie Halsey, ECCP Board - Yes  
Patricia Pierce, ECCP Board - Yes  
Laura Saverin, ECCP Board - Yes  
Kaitlyn Stasik, ECCP Board - Yes

Lystra Richardson, ECCP Board - No  
D. Scot Kerr, AF Network Support - Yes  
Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes

## **II. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **III. Board Business**

### **A. Approve minutes of 5/28/14 and 7/31/14 Meetings**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Directors of Elm City College Preparatory hereby approves the 5/28/14 and 7/31/14 Meeting Minutes as drafted.

Moved by: Carolyn Greenspan  
Seconded by: Prish Pierce  
All In Favor

### **B. Approve Financial Report**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Directors of Elm City College Preparatory hereby accepts the financial report as presented.

Moved by: Carolyn Greenspan  
Seconded by: Prish Pierce  
All In Favor

### **C. Approve 2014-15 Family Handbook**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Board of Directors of Elm City College Preparatory approves a revised Family Handbook as drafted.

Moved by: Carolyn Greenspan  
Seconded by: Prish Pierce  
All In Favor

### **D. Approve 2014-15 School Wellness Policy**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Board of Directors of Elm City College Preparatory approves the 2014-2015 School Wellness Policy as drafted.

Moved by: Carolyn Greenspan  
Seconded by: Prish Pierce

All In Favor

E. Approve resolution re: subtenant

The following resolutions were adopted at a duly called meeting of the Board of Directors of Elm City College Preparatory, Inc. ("Elm City"), a Connecticut nonstock corporation, having an office and place of business at 794 Dixwell Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut.

**WHEREAS**, Elm City currently leases certain real property located at 234-240 Greene Street ("Property") with a lease that expires in August 2017;

**WHEREAS**, Elm City currently has no active need for this Property;

**WHEREAS**, Booker T. Washington Academy is a non-profit charter organization in New Haven that needs temporary space for elementary school until its permanent facilities are available and desires to sublease the Property from Elm City from August 1, 2014 through January 31, 2015;

**WHEREAS**, the St. Michael's Church Corporation has approved Elm City's proposed sublease of 234-240 Greene Street to Booker T. Washington Academy;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT:**

**RESOLVED**, that Elm City be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to enter into the Sublease of the Property (the "Sublease"), substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A;

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Elm City and his designee(s), be, and hereby are, jointly and severally, and directed, in the name and on behalf of Elm City to execute and deliver the Sublease and to do, or cause to be done, such further acts and things, including, without limitation, any such actions as are required pursuant to such Sublease, and to execute and to enter into and deliver such documents, expend such funds, and take such other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the foregoing resolutions; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any and all actions previously taken by Elm City in connection with the transactions contemplated by these resolutions be, and hereby are, adopted, ratified, confirmed and approved in all respects.

Moved by: Prish Pierce  
Seconded by: Carolyn Greenspan  
All In Favor

F. Approve Principal Nomination

The Board of Directors of Elm City College Preparatory deferred the vote to elect Chris Friedline as Principal of Elm City College Preparatory Middle School effective July 1, 2015.

**Executive Session** (Personnel)

Called at 7:21pm by Richard Ferguson.

Exited at 7:50

**IV. Board Discussion**

- A. Addendum to Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (ED-009) - they made a motion and seconded it but I don't think they needed to.
- B. Upcoming principal interviews will look to be scheduled in early October.
- C. Elm City College Preparatory Board Member transitions.

Mr. Ferguson thanked Ms. Carolyn Greenspan and Ms. Patricia Sweet for their service to the board.

**Adjourn** at 7:52 p.m. by Richard Ferguson