

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

Wednesday, May 22, 2019  
580 Dixwell Ave, New Haven  
5:30 pm

**I. Call to Order & Attendance**

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 pm by Dick Ferguson. The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First staff were in attendance:

Richard Ferguson - Yes  
Laura Saverin - Yes  
Genevive Walker - Yes  
Patricia Pierce - No  
Stephanie Ma - Yes  
Magaly Cajigas - Yes  
Patric Gregory - Yes  
Melinda Hamilton - Yes

Julia Halberstam - Yes (phone)  
Nicole Brambila - Yes (Phone)  
Joe Rodriguez - No  
Katherine Baker, School Leadership - Yes  
Katie McPollom, School Leadership - Yes  
Andrew Poole, School Leadership - Yes  
Sarah Claybaugh, AF Network Support - Yes  
Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes

Public: Peter Butler, LaRhonda, Ms. Williams, Tina Wright

**II. Open Session for Public Comment**

LaRhonda, a parent with three children at Achievement First, including Elm City College Prep, noted that recently she's noticed a change in schools culture. She's attended PLC meetings and spoken with Mr. Poole and Ms. Wright.

Peter Butler has worked at AF for 15 years, but spoke as a parent with two kids enrolled at Elm City College Prep in 1st and 3rd grade. Mr. Butler stated that he has taken steps to speak to leadership, including the principal and superintendent, about his concerns.

Tina Wright, an employee at ECCP and a parent at AF Hartford, explained that she has worked at multiple schools and said that she feels that Elm City College Prep is a great school with a great group of staff that is always thinking about how to make things better.

Ms. Williams, an Elm City College Prep parent, expressed her feelings that within the last two years, things have gotten out of hand at Elm City College Prep with bullying. She felt that she wasn't getting help at first, but more recently has seen some progress being made.

### **III. Principal Reports**

Katie McPollom, principal of Elm City College Preparatory Middle School, reported that today marks the completion of SBAC testing for students. This has been a strong end of year for scholars and there has been an overall increase in GPAs. Overall attendance is also up by over 1% point year over year.

Next year, the school will be piloting algebra for all 8th graders. Ms. McPollom is working collaboratively with Mr. Poole to work on school culture and improving the transition process for students.

This year's class trip will be a picnic. The 8th grade formal is also coming up in June. Additionally, the soccer season is in full swing and the school is seeing stronger academic results for those students playing soccer.

In terms of adult culture and retention, 100% of teachers have been given offer letters and Ms. McPollom has hired three new teachers including a history teacher, science teacher, and a social worker.

Katherine Baker, principal of Elm City College Preparatory grades K-2, stated that Andrew Poole would be giving the principal report for Elm City College Preparatory Elementary School, but wanted to say thank you to the board for their service. Richard Ferguson also thanked Ms. Baker for her 14 years of service.

Andrew Poole, principal of Elm City College Preparatory grades 3-6, first said thank you to the parents who came and encouraged them to stay involved. Mr. Poole reported that the past couple of months have been very busy with testing, hiring, Greenfield expeditions, and other activities. Scholars were incredibly focused and proud of themselves while taking SBAC exams.

There will be eleven stage 4 and 5 teachers returning next year. Of those teachers receiving offers, 96 percent will be returning next year.

Attendance has been a real challenge this year, with only 95.6% attendance. Elm City College Prep Elementary is forming an attendance committee and the Director of School Operations will be leading the committee. The school is also asking what other schools are doing to learn what else they could be doing to improve attendance and creating a support plan to help parents get students to school every day.

### **IV. Executive Session - Discussion of attorney client privileged communication regarding**

**review of school incident**

The board entered executive session at 6:29 pm.

Motion by Laura Saverin

Seconded by Genevive Walker

All in favor

The board exited executive session at 8:43 pm

Motion by Genevive Walker

Seconded by Melinda Hamilton

All in favor

**V. Approve Release of Conclusions and Recommendations**

BE IT RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the release of the conclusions and recommendations of the investigator, Leander Dolphin, Shipman & Goodwin LLP, dated May 22, 2019.

Motion by Laura Saverin

Seconded by Melinda Hamilton

All in favor

**VI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm by Dick Ferguson

Motion by Laura Saverin

Seconded by Genevive Walker

All in favor