

- Draft -

**Elm City College Preparatory
Board of Directors**

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

370 James Street, New Haven

5:00 pm

I. Call to Order and Attendance

The Elm City College Preparatory Board meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm. 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

Patric Gregory - No

Melinda Hamilton - Yes

Julia Halberstam - Yes

Dacia Toll, AF Network Support - Yes

Victor De La Paz, AF Network Support - yes

Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes

Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes

Scot Kerr, AF Network Support - Yes

Jonathan Pagan, AF Network Support - Yes

Public: Chris Peak

II. Open Session for Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Board Business

RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from November 13, 2019.

Motion by Dick Ferguson

Seconded by Laura Saverin

All in favor

RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby elects Jai'mice Toney, Parent Representative, to the Board of Directors with a three year term beginning December 19, 2019 and ending June 30, 2022 and does, effective December 19, 2019, set the number of members of the Board of Directors at nine (9).

Motion by Dick Ferguson

Seconded by Genevive Walker

All in favor

IV. Discussion

Victor De La Paz reviewed the financial landscape for AF's Connecticut schools and the mandate from the Achievement First Network Support board to reduce the reliance on philanthropy - specifically \$1MM in two years. The primary drivers for accomplishing this include the proposed Elm City campus consolidation, advocacy and multi-year philanthropy.

Dacia Toll shared that among several hard choices, this proposed facility consolidation is the least bad option. AF has taken the proposal to staff and families to engage in a series of discussions about the plan over the past month and a half. The ECCP community asked good, tough questions and immediately moved to working towards solutions. At the conclusion of each meeting, they took a vote and ended with 60% of staff agreeing this is the right path forward, one third were neutral and two individuals did not support the plan to consolidate.

One of the concerns raised by both families and staff was around arrival and dismissal. AF has started those conversations with the City.

The board discussed play space and parking options both of which involve partnering with local businesses. Ketki Harale, Senior Director of Facilities, was confident that the required construction can be done during the summer.

Genevive Walker raised the topic of busing. Ms. Toll articulated a need to make bus culture a priority and leadership on the bus, either a paid bus monitor or parents/guardians who offered to volunteer, student leadership or some combination therein.

Victor De La Paz shared that initial conversations around the sale of the building have been positive, but the building has not yet been put on the market.

Ms. Toll shared that ECCP student ambassadors surveyed their peers and communicated back overwhelmingly positive reactions from the student body about the proposed consolidation.

Having no other questions, the board reviewed the resolution.

WHEREAS the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors has reviewed, considered and vetted the relevant facts and circumstances concerning the subject of these Resolutions;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors approves the

plan to consolidate the facilities of Elm City College Preparatory Elementary School (grades K-6) with Elm City College Preparatory Middle School (grades 7-8) (the “schools”) into one building at 403/407 James St to house both schools beginning in the 2020-21 school year, pending approval by CSDE;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby authorizes and directs Achievement First Network Support and the schools to take and carry out such action as required in connection with the foregoing Resolution.

Motion by Genevive Walker

Seconded by Laura Saverin

All in favor

V. Executive Session - Personnel Discussion with Principal Candidate

The board entered into Executive Session at 5:42 pm to interview a principal candidate. Motion by Melinda Hamilton. Second by Laura Saverin. The board exited executive session at 6:08 pm.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm by Dick Ferguson.

Motion by Melinda Hamilton

Second by Laura Saverin

All in favor