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Elm City College Preparatory
Board of Directors

Zoom Meeting
Monday, March 22, 2021, 5:30 pm

I. Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm by Dick Ferguson. The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First staff were in attendance:

Richard Ferguson – Yes	Christina Ellington, Regional Superintendent
Laura Saverin - Yes	Riley Bauling, Regional Superintendent
Stephanie Ma - Yes	Ashia Parks, ECCP School Leadership
Prish Pierce – Yes	Shanice Adams, ECCP School Leadership
Patric Gregory - Yes	Erin Laskey, ECCP School Leadership
Julia Halberstam - Yes	Karin Gould, ECCP School Leadership
LaVonta Bryant - Yes	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support
Nicola Fleischer - Yes	Ken Paul, AF Network Support
	Eduardo del Valle, AF Network Support

II. Open session for public comment

There was no public comment.

III. Approve Minutes

RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from February 4, 2021.

Motion by Laura Saverin
Seconded by Prish Pierce
All in favor

IV. Discussion and Business

A. Principal Reports

Shanice Adams, principal of ECCP Elementary School, updated the board on the successes and challenges of the past few months at Elm City College Prep Elementary School. She began her remarks with the organizational health results, family survey results, and the student investment survey data. She reviewed the positive results, comparing year over year improvement as well as ECCP ES against other AF elementary schools. She also analyzed the data they want to improve.

Ms. Adams reviewed academic data including reading goals and results (growth and absolute), as well as the strategic plan the leadership team is taking to improve results.

Attendance is strong (93%) but the school is seeing trends in chronic absenteeism and making a plan for try to get those scholars back online. Teacher retention is expected to be very strong (89%).

Ashia Parks, Elm City Middle School principal, shared organizational health results and student investment and parent survey results. She reflected on where/why they have been successful and where they are focusing on continuing to push for improvement and build skill.

Academically, they have just finished the second trimester and have started the third trimester. This week there are math assessments and report card nights. She shared that ELA results are outperforming results in STEM courses in internal assessments. They are preparing for state assessments.

Attendance is at 92% with a group of scholars who are chronically absent. The attendance team is working deliberately to support those students and families.

AF has a policy not to retain students unless the family requests it. Ms. Parks spoke about plans for optional summer school.

B. Treasurer Report

Laura Saverin gave the principal report updating the board on the year to date financials and the balance sheet which is strong.

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

Motion by Prish Pierce
Seconded by LaVonta Bryant
All in favor

C. Joint High School Committee Report

Dick Ferguson gave a report from the Amistad High School Committee meeting. Amistad High School students who come in person are still participating in synchronous, online courses. College acceptances have been strong and Mr. Ferguson noted that Simon Obas continues to bring enthusiasm to the work.

D. Approve Healthy Food Certification

Mr. Ferguson confirmed that everyone had had a chance to review the healthy food resolutions. Everyone raised their hand in agreement.

Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the

Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Motion by LaVonta Bryant
Seconded by Julia Halberstam
All in favor

The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held.

Motion by Laura Saverin
Seconded by Julia Halberstam
All in favor

The board entered executive session at 6:18 pm to have a personnel discussion regarding principal renewal offers for 2021-22 school year and also to discuss real estate on the market at 794 Dixwell Avenue and invited Sarah Blanton, Christina Ellington and Eduardo del Valle to join. Motion by Laura Saverin. Seconded by Julia Halberstam. All in favor.

The board exited executive session at 6:50 pm. Motion by Prish Pierce. Second by Laura Saverin. All in favor.

RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors has discussed the performance of the Elm City College Preparatory Principals intending to return for the 2021-22 school year and the compensation package as proposed by Achievement First, and hereby approves the renewal of the following principals, with a final compensation package to be incorporated in the FY22 Budget to be reviewed and approved in May 2021:

- Shanice Adams, Principal, Elm City College Preparatory Elementary School
- Simon Obas, Principal, Amistad High School

Motion by Laura Saverin
Seconded by Prish Pierce
All in favor

V. Adjourn

There being no other business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm by Dick Ferguson. Motion by Julia Halberstam. Second by Prish Pierce. All in favor.