

-draft-
Elm City College Preparatory
Board of Directors
Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, May 25, 2021, 5:00 pm

I. Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 5: 03 pm by Dick Ferguson. The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Achievement First staff were in attendance:

Richard Ferguson – Yes	Julia Halberstam - Yes
Laura Saverin - Yes	LaVonta Bryant - Yes
Stephanie Ma - Yes	Nicola Fleischer - Yes
Prish Pierce – No	Tina Wright - Yes
Patric Gregory - No	Katie Hagen - No

Achievement First staff and Elm City School Leadership: Ashia Parks, Shanice Adams, Christina Ellington, Riley Bauling, Sarah Blanton, Neil Shah, Xanthe Jory, Ken Paul

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 May 7, 2021.

Motion by Laura Saverin
Seconded by Julia Halberstam
All in favor

IV. Elect New Directors

Dick Ferguson introduced Tina Wright and Katie Hagen to the board. Both are teachers at Elm City Middle School.

RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors elects Ms. Tina Wright and Ms. Katie Hagen to serve as Teacher Representatives, each with a three year term ending June 30, 2024, and does, pursuant to the bylaws of Elm City College Preparatory, effective May 25, 2021, set the number of members of the Board of Directors at nine (9).

Motion by Dick Ferguson
Seconded by Julia Halberstam

All in favor

V. Discussions and Business

A. Principal Reports

Shanice Adams shared that the final weeks of school they will focus on strong SBAC execution, passing reading levels, and a strong closeout. They are focusing on meeting end of year goals and that the end of the year feels good. They are collaborating with the middle school to do a Juneteenth celebration and planning for the upcoming year.

They will use end of year reading data to inform planning for next year. They used diagnostic testing for math and mini-STEP testing for reading.

She shared that AF is offering an overnight camp for students across the network and ECCP Elementary is assigning summer homework. There is also virtual summer school which is available to all students It is optional.

Ms. Ashia Parks shared that it's been great to be in the building. They are in week two of state testing and the students are doing well with remote testing which is a new challenge. They are proud of how the students are doing.

She shared GPA data and performance across subjects, academic supports and planning for next year. Next year, the schedule is going to adjust to better support students including daily content office hours, weekly progress reports, work tracking and follow up by the advisor, two intervention blocks, and structured ongoing family partnership.

Riley Bauling, regional superintendent, shared three things they are doing to ameliorate learning loss.

1. ESSER funding will allow for additional hiring to better support reading
2. Great Oaks tutoring which will bring 11 tutors,
3. Centralizing teaching development with AF Network Support providing more support.

There was a slight increase in overall student investment survey results. Ms. Parks shared the social emotional learning (SEL) supports for students with a family advisor structure, a daily SEL block connected to school values and Friday family time with targeted SEL lessons.

The board thanked Ms. Parks for her leadership and wished her well. Ms. Parks shared that it was her great honor to serve the Elm City Community.

B. Joint High School Committee Report

Dick Ferguson shared the update from the Amistad Joint High School Committee meeting. 96% of the seniors have been accepted to a four year college but even with high acceptance rates, approximately 20% of the class is still deciding what their post-secondary plans will be. He shared some of the colleges where seniors was accepted.

Senior Signing Day is June 3rd and will be virtual. Graduation is June 24th and will be in person.

C. Board Chair Report

Mr. Ferguson updated the board on the Vision Process which has included three Vision Summit's thus far and the fourth is Thursday, May 27th. He encouraged directors to attend if their schedules allow it.

Ms. Xanthe Jory, AF's new Chief Operating Officer, introduced herself and shared her background including founding and running a school in NYC and working at the NYC DOE. She has been at AF for three weeks and is excited to be working on facilities, school operations and student enrollment.

Mr. Ferguson introduced the following resolution regarding director re-election.

RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby ratifies the re-election of the following directors, with a three year term ending June 30, 2024:

Mr. Richard Ferguson

Ms. Julia Halberstam

Motion by Laura Saverin

Seconded by Nicola Fleischer

All in favor

D. Treasurer Report

Laura Saverin gave the treasurer report beginning with the request to rehire the auditors. She shared that CohnReznick has done good and timely work. We are currently in year three of five and after these five years there will likely be another RFP process.

The year to date financials show break-even results for all three schools and the balance sheet is in good shape. The PPP loan was forgiven.

The FY22 proposed budget assumes a fully in person model which is more expensive than the remote or hybrid model. The budget includes a per-pupil increase. There are additional ESSER funds which will drive changes in the budget that the board will review at a later date.

RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby ratifies the re-appointment of CohnReznick to perform the financial audit of the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Motion by Dick Ferguson
Seconded by Julia Halberstam
All in favor

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

Motion by Laura Saverin
Seconded by Dick Ferguson
All in favor

RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the financial budget as prepared by Achievement First for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Motion by Julia Halberstam
Seconded by Dick Ferguson
All in favor

VI. New Business

Dick Ferguson brought a new item of business that he put before the board for discussion and a vote. Laura Saverin made a motion to add it to the agenda. Julia Halberstam seconded it. The board unanimously voted to approve the addition of a discussion and vote on Tanesha Forman as interim principal from June 2 – June 22, 2021.

Ashia Parks is eligible for a sabbatical and will take that sabbatical from June 2, 2021 – June 22, 2021 during which time Ms. Tanesha Forman has been asked to serve in the role of interim principal, pending board approval. The board noted that Ms. Forman has already served as interim principal and will be taking over as principal effective July 1, 2021 and has their support.

RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves Ms. Tanesha Forman as interim principal from June 2 – June 22, 2021, the duration of Ms. Ashia Parks sabbatical.

Motion by Dick Ferguson
Seconded by Laura Saverin
All in favor

VII. Adjourn

There being no other business before the board, it was unanimously decided to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 pm.

Motion by Laura Saverin
Second by Stephanie Ma

All in favor