

**Elm City College Preparatory
Board of Directors**

Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 5:30 pm

- Draft Meeting Minutes -

I. Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 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 – No

Prish Pierce – No

Katie Hagen - Yes

Patric Gregory – No

Achievement First staff and Elm City School Leadership: Shanice Adams, Tanesha Forman, Karin Gould, Erin Laskey, Sarah Blanton, Neil Shah, Chi Tschang, Ketki Herale, Stephanie Keenoy, Ken Paul, Zonya Hicks

II. Open session for public comment

Aaliyah Henry, Jay Forman, Serena Johnson, Alexys Heffernan, Faith Tracey, Kuiana Blackwell, and Trevor Thomas made a public comment about equity at Elm City Middle School, space concerns, staffing issues and structural challenges that Elm City Middle School has faced over the past several years.

III. Board Membership – set number of directors

Tina Wright has transitioned from a teaching position at Elm City to one at AF Rhode Island and consequently is no longer the teacher rep for Elm City.



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RESOLVED, pursuant to the bylaws of Elm City College Preparatory, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby sets the number of members of the Board of Directors at nine (9), effective November 17, 2021.

Motion by Dick Ferguson
Seconded by Lauara Saverin
All in favor

IV. Approve Minutes

RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from September 29, 2021.

Motion by LaVonta Bryant
Seconded by Julia Halberstam
All in favor

V. Discussion and Possible Action

a. Joint High School Committee Report

Dick Ferguson gave the update from the Amistad High School Committee. Mr. Ferguson reviewed staffing challenges and hiring updates noting current vacancies that the school is looking to fill.

b. Elementary and Middle School Reports

Ms. Tanesha Forman shared that they gave ECCP Middle School families a survey which showed some improvement around parent satisfaction. She shared a comment from a parent noting large class sizes. There was also year over year growth in teacher organizational health survey results.

There are currently five open teaching positions at the school. There are, on average, nine teachers out daily which has a significant impact on school culture. The leadership team is taking on most of the coverages which means that deans and the principal are teaching instead of coaching. She noted that teachers are exhausted.



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The length of core classes has decreased and the school has added a student choice block. Ms. Forman noted that she supports the idea raised by teachers during public comment to shorten the school day.

The board discussed current enrollment and Ms. Karin Gould shared that on October 1st, the school was fully enrolled.

Shanice Adams shared that student survey results exceeded their goal. She shared school culture data (attendance, withdrawals, removals, in and out of school suspension data). They started the school year with six open positions and, as a results, adjusted the staffing model. Currently, deans are supporting coverages. Anytime a teacher is absent, a dean provides the coverage.

There is also a tension around outdoor play space.

c. Finance Committee Report

Laura Saverin gave the financial report reviewing the balance sheet and year to date financials. The budget is likely to be revised due to ESSER spending adjustments.

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

Motion by Julia Halberstam

Second by Laura Saverin

All in favor

d. Real estate update – Dixwell Ave

Ms. Ketki Harale updated the board on the sale of the former Middle School building on Dixwell Ave. The closing will be December 15th.

e. Interim Principals



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RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the following individuals to serve as interim principal, as needed, for a term not to exceed four weeks, between November 18, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

Oraina Simmons, Elm City College Preparatory Elementary

Serena Johnson, Elm City College Preparatory Middle

Motion by Dick Ferguson

Second by Laura Saverin

All in favor

- f. Elm City College Prep Board manual

RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the Elm City College Preparatory Board Manual as presented by Achievement First.

Motion by Laura Saverin

Seconded by Katie Hagen

All in favor

Dick Ferguson thanked Sarah Blanton, Director of Governance, for her work with the boards.

VI. Additional Business

There was no additional business.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 pm by Dick Ferguson.

Motion by Julia Halberstam

Seconded by LaVonta Bryant

All in favor



Recommended Resolutions

Resolution 1:

Resolution 2:

Resolution 3:



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