

- DRAFT -

Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors

Zoom Video Conference
Wednesday, March 9, 2022
5:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order

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

LaVonta Bryant - Yes	Stephanie Keenoy, Superintendent
Erica DeMond - Yes	Jesse Balis-Harris, Chief of Schools - Elementary School
Dick Ferguson - Yes	Chi Tschang, Chief of Schools - Middle School
Nicola Fleischer - Yes	Shanice Adams, Amistad Academy Elementary
Patric Gregory - Yes	Tanesha Forman, Amistad Academy Middle
Katie Hagen - Yes	Beth Cocuzza, AF Network Support
Julia Halberstam - Yes	De-Lea Deane-Allen, AF Network Support
Stephanie Ma - Yes	Elise Major, AF Network Support
Prish Pierce - Yes	Connor McGann, AF Network Support
Laura Saverin - Yes	Ken Paul, AF Network Support
	Neil Shah, AF Network Support
	Megan Tokarski, AF Network Support

II. Open Session for Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Board Business

A. Approve Minutes

RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from February 2, 2022.

Motion by Patric Gregory

Seconded by LaVonta Bryant

All in favor

B. Principal Reports

Shanice Adams gave the report for Amistad Academy Elementary. The school culture is stable, and student attendance is above 90% daily. Amistad Academy Elementary students demonstrated among the top growth in the AF network in reading during the mid-year assessment cycle. The adult culture is challenging. Many staff are feeling tired and/or stressed, and there has been an uptick in absences due to illness, but the staff continues to rally together to provide coverage when needed.

- Dick Ferguson asked if the school is fully staffed. Ms. Adams reported that Amistad Academy Elementary is down approximately seven staff members from the school's original staffing plan for the 2021-22 school year.

Tanesha Forman delivered the report for Amistad Academy Middle. School and staff culture are stabilizing, and the Leadership Team is continuing to prioritize supporting both. Amistad Academy Middle currently has five open positions, all STEM-related, and is working with a staffing company to hire additional school assistants to provide some coverage.

- Julia Halberstam asked for clarification about incidents that Ms. Forman had called "student walkouts." Ms. Forman clarified that individual students are sometimes deciding to leave class in response to social-emotional challenges and/or academic frustrations. A member of the Leadership Team supervises the hallways to help facilitate these individual student "walkouts," including tracking incidents, communicating with families, and helping students return to and remain in class. The school is finding that, in many instances, students just need a break from the lack of movement throughout the classroom/building due to COVID restrictions, so staff is introducing more proactive ways to give students more breaks.
- Dick Ferguson asked about the current masking policy. Ms. Forman said that masks will continue to be required at Amistad Academy Middle for at least as long as they are required across New Haven Public Schools.

C. Financial Report

Neil Shah, Chief Financial Officer, presented Elm City College Preparatory's year-to-date financial statements, through January 31, 2022, including the balance sheet and profit-and-loss statements for the charter and individual schools, as previously reviewed with the Board's Finance Committee. Overall, Elm City College Preparatory is projecting a balanced budget.

In May 2022, the Board will review Elm City College Preparatory's year-to-date financial statements, through March 31, 2022, as well as vote on the budget for FY23 (2022-23).

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

Motion by Patric Gregory
Seconded by Prish Pierce
All in favor

IV. Discussion and Additional Business

A. Proposed Executive Session: Personnel Discussion Regarding Principal Renewal Offers for 2022-23 School Year

The board entered Executive Session at 5:49 p.m. and invited the following members of the Achievement First staff to join: principal supervisors/managers (Stephanie Keenoy, Jesse Balis-Harris, Chi Tschang, and De-Lea Deane-Allen) and Elise Major. Motion by Dick Ferguson. Seconded by Laura Saverin.

The board exited Executive Session at 6:37 p.m. Motion by Laura Saverin. Seconded by Julia Halberstam.

B. Board Chair Report

Dick Ferguson summarized Principal Simon Obas's school report from the Amistad Academy Joint High School Committee Meeting, as recorded and published in the committee meeting minutes dated March 2, 2022.

C. Approve Yale SOM Board Fellow

RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves Ms. Erica DeMond, to serve as a Yale SOM Board Fellow for an 18-month term ending June 30, 2023.

Motion by Laura Saverin
Seconded by Katie Hagen
All in favor

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m. by Dick Ferguson.

Motion by Stephanie Ma
Seconded by Prish Pierce
All in favor