

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
Elm City College Preparatory
Board of Directors Meeting

Venue: Zoom

Zoom: <https://achievementfirst.zoom.us/j/7382361994>

Wednesday, September 29, 2022, 5:30-7:00 pm

Trustees in Attendance: Dick Ferguson, Stephanie Ma, Prish Pierce, LaVonte Bryant, Katie Hagen, Patric Gregory, Erica Demond

Staff in Attendance: Lisa Margosian, Beth Cocuzza, Sulafa Bashir, Neil Shah, Jesse Balis-Haris, John Sharkey, Ken Paul, Michael Rabin, Sultana Salma, Nakia Hall, Lauren D'Addario, Brooke Williams, Tanesha Forman

Patricia Granda-Malaver recorded the minutes.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:32PM by Mr. Dick Ferguson, Elm City College Preparatory Board Chair.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Ferguson moved the board to vote on the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from August 15, 2022.

Motion by LaVonte Bryant
Seconded by Katie Hagen
All in favor

IV. Presentation by Achievement First

Before beginning, Ms. Lisa Margosian, Interim Chief Executive Officer, kicked off the presentations with an inspirational quote to highlight the amazing work and “magic”

she witnessed the Elm City school leaders implementing when visiting their campuses this school year.

A. Principals' Reports

Ms. Lauren D'Addario, Elm City College Preparatory (ECCP) Elementary School Principal, provided updates on the strong start to the 2022-2023 year. She shared that student enrollment is at 100% and will soon be fully staffed as they finalize filling two open positions. Ms. D'Addario then transitioned to return-to-school highlights. In terms of adult culture, ECCP ES had a strong start, and to ensure staff happiness, they have pre-planned staff appreciation events and a mini-pulse survey that had positive results. As for the student and family experiences, Ms. D'Addario elaborated on the creative events they have executed including spirit days, principal meet & greet, and an in-person Back-to-School Night. Furthermore, a strong classroom environment has been prioritized, and the academic effectiveness will be assessed soon since students will be entering their first testing cycle. Mr. Patric Gregory, ECCP Board member, asked about academic data, and AF leaders responded that this will be covered later in the meeting.

Next, Ms. Tanesha Forman, Elm City College Preparatory Middle School Principal, presented the start of year updates. She noted that student enrollment is at 100%. As for staffing, there are limited open positions, and those are currently being filled by school leaders. Other highlights that Ms. Forman discussed include: 1) a strong start for teachers and students, 2) family re-engagement through a BBQ and Back-to-School Night, and 3) unique student experience like weekly events that celebrate academic and character habits.

B. Deep dive on Academic Data

Mr. Jesse Balis-Harris, Interim K-8 Chief of Schools, presented a summary deep dive of Bridgeport academics. He began by explaining the multiple data points they would be sharing and that overall there have been academic improvements from the 2020-2021 school year. In general, reading has been easier to rebound than math because math challenges are rooted in lack of foundational skills necessary to succeed in future levels. For this school year, AF will continue to measure performance through internal assessments, STEP, STAR, MAP, and mock state assessments as we have seen an alignment of those test results with state testing. These results will prove whether curriculum pilots are being effectively implemented and supported. Mr. Balis-Harris then continued with bar charts to provide the board a visual representation of the Elm City schools' academic data and pointed out performance comparisons with other AF CT schools and the overall AF Network. Board members asked questions

throughout the presentation related to district-by-district comparative data, which Mr. Balis-Harris clarified we do not yet have access to, and STEM teacher recruitment.

After his presentation, Mr. Balis-Harris provided insight on AF's response and academic initiatives for this school year. The three main tactics he focused on were:

- Curricular pilots in ES
- Improvements in data reporting and response
- Shifts to school support from network academic teams

The board members asked further questions on the curricular pilots and emotional/social support being provided to scholars this school year.

C. Presenting New Board Dashboard

Mr. Michael Rabin, Deputy Chief of staff, gave a brief overview of the purpose of the new board dashboard, which was noted in the board book as well. He reminded board members that the dashboard will provide high-level overviews of critical data and ensure the Board understands AF's progress before AF leaders provide more context during meetings. After reviewing a draft version, Mr. Rabin stated that for future meetings, board members will receive a copy of the dashboard ahead of time and will be asked to review it in order to actively participate in meeting conversations. He also encouraged board members to provide feedback over the school year to continue to improve this useful tool. No questions were asked.

Mr. Ferguson thanked all of the AF staff that presented for the concise and informative data provided. He reminded board members that the meeting is recorded, so they can rewatch if they are ever unable to attend or would like to rewatch to fully understand everything that was covered.

V. Committee Reports

Mr. Neil Shah, Chief Financial Officer, presented on the FY23 revised budget as there needed to be an incorporation of changes due to staffing and enrollment numbers. Mr. Shah answered lingering questions about staffing trends. Mr. Ferguson then moved the board to vote on the matter.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the amended budget as recommended by the Treasurer and prepared by Achievement First for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Motion by Prish Pierce
Second by LaVonte Bryant
All in favor.

VI. Board Discussion and Business

Mr. Forman moved the board to vote on the following matters:

A. Approval of SY 2022-2023 Leadership slate

BE IT RESOLVED, that Elm City College Preparatory Board Board of Directors hereby elects the following leadership slate for the 2022-2023 fiscal year:

- Dick Ferguson, Chair
- Laura Saverin, Treasurer
- Stephanie Ma, Secretary

Motion by Dick Ferguson
Second by Prish Pierce
All in favor.

B. Approval of SY 2022-2023 Committees

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby appoints the following committee members:

- Finance Committee: Laura Saverin (Chair), Dick Ferguson, Patric Gregory
- Governance Committee: Stephanie Ma (Chair), Dick Ferguson, Laura Saverin, Prish Pierce
- Personnel Committee: Dick Ferguson (Chair), Stephanie Ma, Patric Gregory, Prish Pierce
- AF Joint Amistad Committee: Dick Ferguson, Laura Saverin, Prish Pierce

Motion by LaVonte Bryant
Second by Patric Gregory
All in favor.

C. Approval of Interim Principals

BE IT RESOLVED that the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the following individuals to serve as interim principals, as needed, based on the recommendations by Achievement First, between September 29 and November 30, 2022.

- Elementary School: Julia Leonard
- Middle School: Serena Johnson

Motion by Dick Ferguson
Second by LaVonte Bryant
All in favor.

D. Approval of SY 2022-2023 Family Handbook

BE IT RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the 2022-2023 AF Family Handbook.

Motion by Dick Ferguson
Second by LaVonte Bryant
All in favor.

VII. Adjourn

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Ferguson reminded board members to complete conflict of interest forms by the given deadline.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33PM by Mr. Dick Ferguson.

Motion by LaVonte Bryant
Seconded by Prish Pierce
All in favor