



**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**Elm City College Preparatory**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**

Venue: Amistad Academy Middle School, Room 148  
130 Edgewood Ave, New Haven, CT 06511  
Zoom: <https://achievementfirst.zoom.us/j/84426932704>  
Monday, February 6, 2023, 5:30-6:30 pm

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by Mr. Dick Ferguson.

Attendees

The following board members, constituting a quorum, were in attendance:

Name	Present	Name	Present
Dick Ferguson	Y	LaVonta Bryant	N
Laura Saverin	Y	Katie Hagen	N
Stephanie Ma	?	Patric Gregory	N
Prish Pierce	Y	Shashank Ghiria	Y
Erica Demond	Y		

AF Staff: Michael Rabin, Lauren D'Addario, Tanesha Forman, Gaylord Bourne, Sulafa Bashir

**II. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the minutes was postponed until a quorum was achieved later in the meeting.

**IV. Discussion with Achievement First**

A. Principals' Reports



Ms. Lauren D’Addario gave the elementary school report, discussing some school events from the end of the 2022 calendar year, as well as positive results of student experience where the school’s results placed it at number 1 in the network. Ms. D’Addario mentioned that, in January, the elementary school kicked off reading testing and academic interventions including incorporating more small group instruction. She also shared some pictures depicting “joy days.”

Ms. D’Addario then described the Org health survey measuring employee satisfaction that all staff across the network took each year, and she summarized the school’s results, which exceeded the network goal.

There were questions from board members about:

- whether Gallup worked with charter schools only or also district schools in K-12
- whether the school was fully staffed, and the number of first year teachers (i.e. new to teaching and new to the school)
- the teacher certification status at the elementary school

Ms. Tanesha Forman gave the middle school report, sharing some details and photos of winter events from the end of the calendar year and black history month. She mentioned that the middle school students took the STAR reading assessment in January and students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade were at the top of network reading growth while 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders’ results placed them somewhere in the middle of the network. She also outlined some of the action items being taken to support students’ growth, especially for grades 5 and 8.

Ms. Forman summarized the results of the middle school’s org health survey and highlighted the differences among the more tenured teachers whose results were much stronger relative to their peers who were new to teaching. She also shared the initiatives around building adult culture that she was undertaking with her staff. She detailed the overall positive aspects and growth areas from the survey as well as the next steps around supporting staff to build trust and feel successful.

Board members asked questions about:

- Friday afternoon staff PD and what it entails
- Teacher certification rate
- Percentages of new teachers coming from liberal arts colleges vs. Ed School programs.

[achievementfirst.org](https://achievementfirst.org)

**V. Committee Reports**

**A. Amistad Joint HS Committee Report**

The Elm City College Prep Board joined the Amistad Academy Board and the AF Bridgeport Academy Board to hear the Amistad Joint HS Committee report.

Mr. Rod Bowen gave the High School report on behalf of Principal Simon Obas, starting with an update about the staff holiday party and some highlights about the school's basketball team.

He then discussed the results of the school's recent org health survey which outperformed the AF network averages across all dimensions but one.

He shared some of the key positive aspects and the growth areas and outlined some next steps and action items that the school's leadership team committed to putting in place in response to the survey results.

Board members asked questions about

- the STAR reading data and whether it represented a particular grade or an overall average
- whether humanities teachers were also able to focus on reading instruction and what other resources can be made available to shore up literacy such as tutoring

**B. Treasurer's Report**

**1. FY22 Audited Financial Statements**

Ms. Laura Saverin gave the Treasurer's report highlighting the results of the annual Audit. She shared that once again the audit received an unmodified opinion or clean opinion and there were no issues identified by the auditors. She also mentioned that the results of the Federal and State single audits were also clean, unmodified opinions. She touched on the use of ESSR federal funding and the increased expenses seen this year associated with items such as meals and busing, resulting from school being fully in-person.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Ferguson took the board through approval of the minutes



Motion by Laura Saverin  
Second by Prish Pierce.  
All in favor

The Elm City College Prep Board members subsequently joined members of the Amistad Academy Board, the AF Bridgeport Academy Board and the AF Hartford Academy Board for the Joint CT Board meeting.