

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**  
**Elm City College Prep**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**

Venue: Virtual Meeting

Zoom: <https://achievementfirst.zoom.us/j/83872689979>

Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 5:30-7:00 pm

**I. Call to Order**

Richard Ferguson called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

Attendees

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

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

**Also in attendance:** Lisa Margosian, LaNelle Alexander, Blakely Simoneau, Shannon Miller, Lauren D’Adario, Tanesha Foreman, Karolyn Belcher, John Sharkey, and Charmayne Joseph.

**II. Public Comment**

No members of the public were present.

**III. Resolutions and Approvals** Previous Meeting’s minutes, Leadership Slate, Committees, Interim Principals, Family Handbook

Mr. Ferguson requested the board approve the consent agenda. Patrick Gregory moved, Laura Saverin seconded. All in favor, none abstained.

Consent Agenda:

1. IT WAS RESOLVED, the Elm City College Prep Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from May 30, 2023.
2. IT WAS RESOLVED, that the Elm City College Prep Board of Directors hereby elects the following leadership slate for the 2023-2024 fiscal year:

- a. Dick Ferguson, Chair
  - b. Laura Saverin, Treasurer
  - c. Stephanie Ma, Secretary
3. IT WAS RESOLVED, that the Elm City College Prep 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
4. IT WAS RESOLVED that the Elm City College Prep Board of Directors hereby approves the following individuals to serve as interim principal, as needed, for a period of time not to exceed sixteen weeks through June 30, 2024, based on the recommendations by Achievement First.
- a. Elementary School: Julia Cricchi
  - b. Middle School: Serena Johnson
5. IT WAS RESOLVED, that the Elm City College Prep Board of Directors hereby approves the 2023-2024 AF Family Handbook.

#### **IV. Discussion with Achievement First**

##### **A. CEO Welcome**

Ms. Margosian welcomed the board and thanked them for their service. She thanked the Achievement First staff for the work being done. She introduced LaNelle Alexander, the new Chief Equity Officer, and Kiersten Gibson-Cooper, the new Regional Superintendent, and the new Chief People Officer, Ru Sharma.

##### **B. Principal Reports (10 min)**

Principals from Elm City Middle School and Elm City Elementary School presented to the board about the beginning of the school year, and provided some highlights.

##### **C. Joint Amistad HS Committee Report**

Kierson Gibson-Cooper presented the joint committee report on behalf of Dr. Simon Obas.

#### D. Graduate Goals and Aims

Dumar Paden presented the Graduate Goals and Aims, describing how they were created with the community. Mr. Paden noted that Achievement First started in elementary school and gradually grew, so there is a need to revisit the goals and aims. Mr. Paden referenced the mission and vision of Achievement First, which informs what the graduate aims should be, and the graduate aims then inform the Design Pillars. Mr. Paden noted that there is a connection between social-emotional health and these Goals and Aims. Mr. Paden connected this work with post-secondary pathways.

#### E. New Curriculum Implementation and Academic Goals

John Sharkey presented the Academic Goals for the 2023 - 2024 school year. Mr. Sharkey provided an outline of the growth goals and the overall academic goals. Mr. Sharkey provided details about the elementary, middle school, and high school goals. Mr. Ferguson asked how the high school ranked against other Connecticut high schools, and both Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Gregory noted that the rankings were impressive.

Mr. Ferguson asked about summer programs, and Ms. Margosian noted that this was paused but committed to coming back to the board with an answer about where the programs are now. Mr. Sharkey offered to come back to the board as well.

Mr. Sharkey acknowledged that academic performance is not where Achievement First wants it to be, but noted that there has been growth. Mr. Sharkey noted that the elementary schools surpass the district but not the state results, however he also noted that this is not the goal. Mr. Sharkey presented on middle school results, which were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Sharkey presented the new curriculum adoption to the board, giving details about which curriculum is being implemented in which academy levels. He noted that the teachers have been responding to the new curriculum largely positively.

#### F. Finance Committee Report

Mr. Shah presented the Finance Committee Report.

### V. Adjourn

Mr. Ferguson thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 6:46 PM. Mr. Gregory motioned, and Laura seconded.