



Minutes

Elm City College Prep Special Board Meeting

Venue: Virtual Meeting

Zoom: <https://achievementfirst.zoom.us/j/87038066814>

Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 5:00 pm

Attendees:

Board Members: Dick Ferguson, Kevin Torres, Lavonta Bryant, Stephanie Ma

AF Staff: Amy D'Angelo, Dumar Paden, Mirtha Camille Sabio, Kiersten Gibson-Cooper, Sulafa Bashir

Guests: AJ Lowe, Frank Fedak, Shannon Breslin and other members of the public

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dick Ferguson at 5:12 pm.

II. Public Comment

There were several members of the public present on the call and principal AJ Lowe requested to address the board. He stated his understanding that the board was convening to discuss his termination. Mr. Lowe expressed his concerns regarding the circumstances that had led to the termination recommendation and he argued his case before the board.

Mr. Ferguson thanked Mr. Lowe and stated that the board will take his comments under consideration.

III. Executive Session: Personnel discussion: Amistad High School

Mr. Ferguson stated that the board needed an executive session for the topic of Amistad HS personnel discussion, and made a motion for the board to enter into executive session, inviting the present AF network staff members to join. The motion was seconded by LaVonta Bryant. All were in favor and the board entered executive session at 5:20 pm and exited at 5:58 pm.



IV. Business and Resolutions

Mr. Ferguson moved to voting on the proposed board resolutions. He asked if there were any questions about the consent agenda. Hearing none, he requested a motion to approve the consent agenda. Stephanie Ma motioned, seconded by LaVonta Bryant. All were in favor and the consent agenda passed.

Consent Agenda:

1. WHEREAS, the Board engaged in full and fair discussion regarding a personnel matter occurring in executive session of the Board; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Elm City College Prep Board of Directors hereby approves the recommendation to terminate the employment of A.J. Lowe, as principal of Amistad Academy High School effective January 23, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the Executive Director of Connecticut, or their designee, to take all necessary steps to effectuate this action, including the issuance of required notices, execution of any related documents, and communication of the decision as appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the discussion held in executive session shall remain confidential as required by law and Board policy.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, the Elm City College Prep Board of Directors hereby approves Jasmine Watts to serve as interim principal of Amistad Academy High School through the end of the 25-26 school year, based on the recommendation by Achievement First.

V. Adjourn

There being no other business, Mr. Ferguson requested a motion to adjourn. LaVonta Bryant motioned, seconded by Stephanie Ma. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:02 pm.