Elm City College Preparatory Board Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Achievement First
Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM EDT
Elm City College Preparatory, 407 James Street, New Haven, CT 06513
and via Zoom: https://achievementfirst.zoom.us/j/81874494763

Attendees:

Members: Shannon Garfield (Chair), Kevin Torres, Jada Stinnie (upon election)

Members present via Zoom: LaVonta Bryant, Dick Ferguson

Absentees: Latisha Douglas, Brian Fan

AF Staff: Geoffrey Cramton, Amy D'Angelo, Mitchell Johnson, Samantha Lucky, Michael Rabin, Liesel Renaud, Ben Schanback, Jeffery Wooten

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Shannon Garfield called the Elm City College Preparatory, Inc. Board of Directors into session at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

II. Welcome and Agenda Overview

Ms. Garfield welcomed all attendees and gave an overview of the agenda. The board moved Board Business forward on the agenda to follow Public Comment.

III. Public Comment

No members of the public were present for public comment.

IV. Board Business

The board considered the nomination of Jada Stinnie, a teacher at Elm City College Preparatory Middle School, to the reserved teacher Director seat.

ACTION: Upon a motion duly made by Dick Ferguson and seconded by Kevin Torres, the board adopted the resolution electing Jada Stinnie to the Board of Directors. All directors present voted in favor. No objections or abstentions were noted.

> NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby elects Jada Stinnie, a teacher at Elm City College Preparatory Middle School, to the reserved teacher Director seat as a Class I Director, for a term expiring at the 2027 Annual Meeting.

ACTION: Ms. Garfield called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was made by LaVonta Bryant and seconded by Kevin Torres. No objections or abstentions were noted. The consent agenda passed.

Consent Agenda

1. BE IT RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from September 23, 2026.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the updated accounting policies and procedures manual (APPM) titled "Achievement First Charter Schools Fiscal Policies" dated September 2026.

V. Mission Moment

The board heard from Regional Superintendent Samantha Lucky, who shared a mission moment on the start of the school year, including family and student survey results and attendance trends.

VI. Academic Update: SY 2025-26 State Test Results

The board received an update from Amy D'Angelo, Executive Director, on SY 2025-26 Connecticut state assessment results for Elm City College Preparatory, including comparisons to the host district, statewide averages, and Connecticut charter peers. Ms. Lucky reviewed the key foundations of focus for the current school year.

Board discussion addressed principal coaching and development and the narrowed set of priorities school leaders are being asked to hold this year.

VII. One AF: K-12 School Design

The board received an update from Ms. D'Angelo on the One AF K-12 school design, including the design guiding principles, the planning approach, and the goal of finalizing the design by May 2027.

Board discussion addressed continuity for students transitioning between academies, the timeline for full implementation, and the implications of the design approach for the middle school grades.

VIII. Teacher Recruitment and Retention Overview and Strategy

The board received an update from Jeffery Wooten, Chief People Officer, on teacher recruitment and retention, including SY 2026-27 staffing results for Elm City College Preparatory and strategies for the SY 2027-28 hiring season, among them an earlier recruitment launch, deeper principal development of teachers, and compensation.

Board discussion addressed factors affecting teacher retention, support and feedback mechanisms for principal development, and alignment of school leader priorities across schools.

IX. Finance: FY26 Q4 Preliminary Report

The board received the FY26 fourth quarter preliminary financial report from Ben Schanback, Chief Financial Officer. The board was informed that the Finance Committee will meet in November to review the audit.

Board discussion addressed the implications for FY27 financial goals, including anticipated compensation increases, and strategies for philanthropic support.

X. Executive Session

Ms. Garfield stated that the board would enter executive session to discuss the charter authorizer's monitoring of the school's corrective action plan. Upon a motion duly made by Dick Ferguson and seconded by Kevin Torres, the board voted to enter executive session with all members present voting in favor.

The board entered executive session at 6:54 p.m. and returned to open session at 7:02 p.m. No action was taken in the executive session.

XI. Adjourn

There being no further business, Ms. Garfield asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon a motion duly made, seconded, and approved, the board adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Draft reviewed by MDG

Upon a motion duly made and seconded on January 7, 2027, the Elm City College Preparatory, Inc. Board of Directors approved the October 22, 2026, meeting minutes.

In witness whereof,

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Shannon Garfield, Chair Date