

Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors Meeting

November 16, 2016
495 Blake Street, New Haven

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The following directors and staff were in attendance:

Richard Ferguson, ECCP Board Chair - Yes	Donovan Tracey, ECCP Board - Yes
William Heins, ECCP Vice Chair - Yes	Patric Gregory, ECCP Board - No
Laura Saverin, ECCP Treasurer - Yes	
Genevive Walker, ECCP Board - Yes	Andrew Poole, School Leadership - Yes
Carlos Torre, ECCP Board - No	Robert Hawke, School Leadership - Yes
Patricia Pierce, ECCP Board - Yes	Karin Gould, School Leadership - Yes
Samuel Brill, ECCP Board - Yes	Megan Tokarski, AF Network Support - Yes
Stephanie Ma, ECCP Board - Yes (phone)	Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes
Magaly Cajigas, ECCP Board - Yes (phone)	Lenny Speiller, AF Network Support - Yes

Additional attendees: Marilyn Carson, ECCP Grandparent

II. Open Session For Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from 9/13/16.

Motion by Laura Saverin
Seconded by Patricia Pierce
All in favor

IV. Reports and Discussion

A. Principal Report (Andrew Poole and Robert Hawke)

Robert Hawke (Elm City College Prep Middle)

- Highlights:
 - Elm City College Prep Middle's 2016 SBAC results were solid. In math, 53% of Elm City College Prep Middle 8th graders were at/above proficient, as compared to 17% of

district students and 73% of students in DRG-A. In ELA, 64% of Elm City College Prep Middle 8th graders were at/above proficient, as compared to 35% of district students and 85% of students in DRG-A. Mr. Hawke shared some eighth-grade reading and writing samples - students are accessing complex texts and thinking about them more deeply than ever before.

- For the second year in a row, Elm City College Prep Middle's teacher retention rate was 100%.
- The school recently administered a mini Org Health Survey, and Elm City College Prep Middle's satisfaction rates were significantly above the AF network average.
- Challenges:
 - The school's biggest current challenge is facilitating truly breakthrough SBAC results. Mr Hawke believes that increasing student investment is a key to this.
 - Elm City College Prep Middle's FY17 budget is super tight, but the school is currently on track to meet its budget targets. As a result of budget cuts, the school no longer takes students on end-of-year college trips. With more financial resources, Mr. Hawke believes that increasing the school's enrichment offerings could also be a high-impact investment. The Parent Leadership Team (PLT) may try to fundraise for some of these things, and at the board's request, Karin Gould will share the prospective budgets that have been prepared.

Andrew Poole (Elm City College Prep Elementary)

- Highlights:
 - Elm City College Prep Elementary just completed its first round of Expeditions, which were successful in increasing student investment and passion. The school's daily student attendance rate was the highest it's been all year during the two weeks of Expeditions. As soon as Expeditions were over, students began asking when the next Expeditions would begin (in January).
 - The school just completed its Dream Team meeting window, which was another opportunity to include families and community members and to increase student ownership and investment. During Dream Team meetings, each student sets three goals: 1) an academic goal, 2) a habit goal, and 3) a passion goal.
 - Elm City College Prep Elementary is starting to see traction with Self-Directed Learning (SDL), which happens in grades 2-6, particularly with regard to student ownership and intrinsic motivation.
- Challenges:
 - Elm City College Prep Elementary has not yet figured out how to best support struggling students, particularly students in grades 5-6 who just do not have the academic foundation necessary to access the curriculum (approximately 5-10% of students).

B. Joint High School Committee Report (Dick Ferguson)

Principal Morgan Barth reported that the 2016-17 school year at AF Amistad High is off to a solid start:

- AF Amistad High's 2015-16 student choice attrition rate was very low (2.5%). (One of the reasons that some students choose to leave is the desire to play sports at a larger/more competitive high school.)
- Year-over-year suspension and detention rates are down significantly.
- To date, only one teacher has departed, and she was able to be replaced by a former AF Amistad High teacher who wanted to come back.
- The student leaders who led the demonstration last spring have continued meeting with school leaders and generally feel positive about their level of input.

Challenges:

- AF Amistad High has a very large number of new teachers, who require a lot of coaching. Fortunately, the school has five Academic Deans (Science/Math, ELA, History, College, and Special Services), as well as two Deans of Students.

C. Board Chair Report (Dick Ferguson)

Elm City College Prep's charter renewal application was filed on September 2, 2016. The renewal site visit is scheduled for December 6, 2016, and the public hearing will be on January 26, 2017, at Wilbur Cross High School. Amistad Academy's public hearing is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., and Elm City College Prep's will be at 7:00 p.m.

The lunchtime principal pipeline and AF Through College deep dives were excellent. Dick would like to eventually revisit both topics with the full board, but in the meantime, he suggested that everyone review the decks. In particular, it is very important that all board members understand and internalize the principal development and selection processes because hiring and evaluating principals is one of the board's primary responsibilities.

D. Financial Report (Laura Saverin)

As of September 30, 2016, Elm City College Prep Middle is tracking on budget, and AF Amistad High is forecasting a slight deficit. At Elm City College Prep Elementary, as a result of the addition of two new grades, the transition to the Greenfield model, and a Director of School Operations (DSO) transition, the school is currently projecting a nearly \$300,000 deficit. AF and the school are working to reduce this by both cutting costs and seeking to capitalize some costs (or at least to appropriately reflect them as one-time transitional costs).

Elm City College Prep's FY16 audit is still underway and will likely be presented at January board

meeting.

1. Approve Financial Report

RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the financial report as presented.

Moved by Patricia Pierce

Seconded by Genevive Walker

All in favor

V. Executive Session (personnel)

The Board entered into Executive Session at 6:59 p.m.

The Board exited Executive Session at 7:05 p.m.

VI. Additional Board Business

Lenny Speiller, VP External Relations.

- Following the November 8th elections, the Connecticut General Assembly saw some significant changes. The Democratic majority narrowed significantly in the House (now only a 7-seat majority) and was eliminated in Senate (now an 18/18 split).
- Regardless, AF's legislative agenda for 2017 remains same and is anchored in funding. We desperately need a per-pupil increase in 2017-18 after several years of flat funding and are advocating for a \$520 per-pupil increase, as well as additional capital bonding - although Connecticut's broader budget crisis is a real barrier.
- Of course, our overarching, long-term goal is equitable funding. As a result of CCJEF v. Rell, sometime in the next year or two, Connecticut's school funding formula will be reopened. We are hoping it will happen during the 2017 legislative session, and Governor Malloy is pushing for that as well. AF is working hard to position ourselves so that charters do not get left out of the ultimate solution. We are working with our advocacy partners to keep the funding formula front-and-center in the press, to engage with key elected officials prior to the start of the legislative session, and to develop our parent advocates

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m. by Dick Ferguson

Motion by Will Heins

Seconded by Laura Saverin

All in favor