

# **Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors Meeting**

January 27, 2016

580 Dixwell Avenue, New Haven

## **I. Call to Order & Attendance**

The following directors and staff were in attendance:

Richard Ferguson, ECCP Board - Yes	Patricia Pierce, ECCP Board - Yes
William Heins, ECCP Board - No	Sean Williams, ECCP Board - No
Laura Saverin, ECCP Board - Yes	Sharon Oster, ECCP Board - Yes
Lystra Richardson, ECCP Board - Yes	Stephanie Ma, ECCP Board - Yes
Carlos Torre, ECCP Board - No	Marnie Halsey, ECCP Board - Yes
Genevive Walker, ECCP Board - Yes (phone)	Patric Gregory, ECCP Board - Yes
Kaitlyn Stasik, ECCP Board - Yes	Ken Paul - AF Network Support - Yes
Magaly Cajigas, ECCP Board - No	Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes
	John Furniss, AF Network Support - Yes

Public: Bill Bouton

## **II. Open Session For Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **III. Reports and Discussion**

### **A. Joint High School Committee Report (Dick Ferguson)**

Mr. Ferguson reported on Amistad Joint HS Committee. Ms. Polcrack has hit the ground running and is very impressive. Ms. Stasik also discussed how much more student voice has been heard in classrooms this year. Teachers are no longer in charge of assemblies, and students have been much more involved in running the school. They hired a math teacher so that Ms. Polcrack can focus on being a Principal. More students are taking AP classes (68 sitting for AP Bio test), next year will be adding AP Physics.

### **B. Governance Committee (Bill Bouton)**

Mr. Bouton led a discussion of the bylaws. He explained that originally the schools were incorporated as member organizations but that has now changed. The boards no longer have any member relationship with Achievement First. In addition, the board number has been limited to 6-20. Every Director is elected to three year terms including the Parent and Teacher Representatives. If someone leaves before his or her term, someone will be appointed to fill in the space. They have changed some of the language surrounding the relationship between AF and ECCP per new state legislation passed last year. The Board will have two standing committees - Finance and Governance.

Directors are entitled to Indemnification protection. A suggestion was made to have an annual

checklist for the board or chair to review which would include renewing indemnification protection. In addition, an anti-nepotism clause was added to coincide with state requirements.

Mr Ferguson explained that teacher reps will serve for 3 years, and the Board will work with Regional Superintendents to identify and recruit teachers who are excited to serve. No term limits were written into the Bylaws but the policy of determining the appropriate time for any individual board member to cycle off will be considered by the Governance Committee.

Ms. Halsey led a discussion of the Governance Committee meeting. There are a number of people on the ECCP board whose terms are ending soon. The Governance Committee will be meeting individually with Board members whose terms are coming to a close to see whether they will continue to serve and what their feelings are about working on the Board. Term limits are in the Board books that were distributed at the last retreat in August. The Governance Committee has begun to vet four to five possible new candidates, hoping to vote in May. The Governance Committee will meet again in six weeks to discuss annual self-evaluation of the Board.

On compliance: background checks are still an issue. All sitting Directors need to be fingerprinted. Achievement First will not be hosting another fingerprinting session. Directors must be responsible for getting themselves fingerprinted.

Ms. Oster explained that she will be leaving the Board, but would still love to be a help moving forward.

#### **C. School Leader Appreciation (Dick Ferguson)**

Mr. Ferguson led a brainstorming session, looking for ideas that carry some sort of symbolism. Mr. Ferguson will solicit additional ideas and guidelines, circulate to the Board and collect feedback.

#### **D. AF Workshop Series (Dick Ferguson)**

Achievement First is hosting a series of workshops over the next few weeks. All will be happening from 12-1:30 at James St. Mr. Ferguson asked if there is the option of bringing outside people.

#### **E. Finance Committee Report (Laura Saverin)**

Ms. Saverin led a discussion of the Financial Report. The deficit at the HS has lowered, and there are surpluses at the Elementary and Middle Schools.

### **IV. Board Business**

Motion to enter Executive Session by Dick Ferguson at 7:05

Seconded by Patric Gregory

Motion to exit Executive Session by Laura Saverin at 7:41

Seconded by Prish Price

**WHEREAS the Board of Elm City College Preparatory has reviewed, fully considered, and vetted the relevant facts and circumstances concerning the subject of these Resolutions,**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of Elm City College Preparatory hereby approves the expansion of the Greenfield educational model to grades K-6 in the 2016-17 school year;

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of Elm City College Preparatory hereby approves 407 James St and/or 403 James St as locations for the grades approved to use the Greenfield educational model; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that Achievement First and its designees are hereby, jointly and severally, authorized and directed, in the name of Elm City College Preparatory, to submit such documents needed to seek charter revisions from the State Board of Education in order to effectuate the foregoing resolutions.

Motion to approve by Dick Ferguson

Seconded by Sharon Oster

All in Favor

Abstention: Marnie Halsey

**RESOLVED**, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from November 18, 2015, January 14 and January 21, 2016.

Moved by Prish Pierce

Seconded by Lystra Richardson

All in favor

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

Moved by Laura Saverin

Seconded by Lystra Richardson

All in favor

**RESOLVED**, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves an amendment to the Fiscal Policies and Procedures requiring that any expenditures equal to or exceeding \$10,000 must be approved by the Principal and Board's Treasurer or Chair.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, Achievement First and its designees are hereby, jointly and severally, authorized and directed, at the name of Elm City College Preparatory, to update the Fiscal Policies and Procedures as needed in order to effectuate the foregoing resolution.

Motion by Pat Sweet

Seconded by Marnie Halsey

All in Favor

**RESOLVED**, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the Conflict of Interest Policy as presented.

Motion by Dick Ferguson

Seconded by Laura Saverin  
All in favor

**RESOLVED, the Elm City College Preparatory Board of Directors hereby approves the the updated Bylaws as presented.**

Tabled - no quorum

The meeting was adjourned by Dick Ferguson at 8:21 pm.

Moved by Pat Gregory

Seconded by Laura Saverin