



The mission of Einstein Charter Schools is to nurture students to be academically STRONG as well as socially and emotionally resilient.

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
4801 Maid Marion Drive
New Orleans, Louisiana 70128

The Board of Trustees of The Einstein Group will hold its **EGI Finance Committee Meeting at 5:00 PM on Thursday, March 20, 2025**. The meeting will be held in person in the library at **Sherwood Forest Elementary (4801 Maid Marion Drive, New Orleans, LA 70128)**.

Topic: **EGI Finance Committee Meeting**
 Time: 5:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA:

- 1. Call to Order:**
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM.
- 2. Roll Call:**
 - a. Present:
 - i. Durrell Laurent
 - ii. Cammon Chavez
- 3. Approval of Agenda:**
 - a. Durrell Laurent moved for approval.
 - b. Cammon Chavez seconded.
 - c. Motion approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 4. Financial Reports**
 - a. Monthly Financial Statements (Revenue & Expenses Overview):
 - i. Board Question: What is the average MFP per student?
 1. A: This fiscal year is still being paid out based on last year's allocation. Projected MFP per student: \$14,781. Current year's MFP: \$13,537
 - ii. Board Question: : Why are we incurring projected costs related to staffing?
 1. Some vacant positions remain unfilled, typically between 3 and 5 positions.
 - iii. CEO Comment:
 1. Considering transitioning Instructional Coaches to a Mentor Teacher Model for cost savings and increased effectiveness.
 - iv. Board Comment: Suggestion to incentivize educators based on performance. Proposal: Top 5 or 10 performing teachers enter a lottery for a \$15,000 bonus, while all others receive a \$2,500 bonus.



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- b. Budget vs. Actual Report
- c. Cash Flow Update:
 - i. Board Question/Comment: Any updates on cash flow?
 - 1. CEO: The superintendent is currently assessing system-wide financial needs and reviewing available balances.
- d. Grant and Funding Updates:
 - i. LAMP Fund: Generates \$25,000 per month in interest.
 - ii. Board Member Request: A breakdown of job duties and functions within the finance department for better understanding.

5. Budget Review & Adjustments

- a. Current Fiscal Year Budget Updates:
 - i. Page 7: The projected deficit is now \$1.8 million, compared to the original budget of \$1.4 million.
- b. Board Question: When can we apply for the 21st Century Grant?
 - i. Now is the time to apply for funding. No funding gaps identified.
- c. Mid-Year Adjustments (if applicable):
 - i. No adjustments needed.
- d. Board Comments about the Steve Carter Grant.

6. Audit & Compliance Updates

- a. Status of External/Internal Audits:
 - i. Completed.
 - ii. No findings reported.

7. Other Business

- a. Q: What is the status of the gym/capital improvement projects?
 - i. The specialist responsible for repairs is currently addressing the following:
 - 1. Bleachers
 - 2. Gym floor
 - 3. Lights
 - 4. Showers
 - 5. Lockers
 - 6. New Equipment & Procurement:
 - a. 50 new football lockers are being procured through a state contract.
 - 7. Weight room floor replacement with rubber flooring.
 - 8. Saints equipment has been moved back to the high school.
 - ii. Facility upgrades:
 - 1. Each school will receive a renovated room/space.
 - 2. Dance room floor repairs and painting are planned.
 - 3. School logos will be installed in designated areas.



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b. Board Comment on Gym Floor Replacement:

- i. Suggested exploring used or reclaimed gym floors, which can be purchased at a fraction of the usual cost.
Recommendation to seek a donation for the gym floor.

8. Public Comments

- a. No public comments were made.

9. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn:
 - i. Durrell Laurent motioned to adjourn at 5:43 PM.
 - ii. Chavez Cammon seconded.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 5:43 PM.

Public comments can be submitted in-person via public comment card. Public comments submitted prior to the start of a particular meeting will be addressed. Public comments can only be made on action items listed in the meeting agenda and will be limited to a maximum of 2 minutes per individual.



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EGI Public Board Meeting Minutes

THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
4801 Maid Marion Drive
New Orleans, Louisiana 70128

The Board of Trustees of The Einstein Group will hold its **EGI Public Board Meeting at 6:00 PM on Thursday, March 20, 2025**. The meeting will be held in person in the library at **Sherwood Forest Elementary (4801 Maid Marion Drive, New Orleans, LA. 70128)**.

Topic: **EGI Public Board Meeting**
Time: 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

BOARD MEETING AGENDA:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
 - a) Durrell Laurent
 - b) Joseph Rochelle, Esq.
 - c) Maya Edwards
 - d) Angela Vance
 - e) Edwin Escobar
 - f) Chavez Cammon
 - g) Robbie Robertson - Absent
 - h) Dr. Raymond Delaney, Jr. - Absent
 - i) Clarice Kirkland - Absent
- 3) Adoption of February Public Meeting Minutes:
 - a) Approval of February Public Meeting Minutes:
 - i) Motion to approve February meeting minutes made by Joe Rochelle.
 - ii) Seconded by Durrell Laurent.
 - iii) Unanimous approval.
 - b) Motion adopted.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 4) **Finance Report – District Finance Updates**
 - a) A financial update was provided, highlighting key district finance matters.
 - b) Forth Sector provided a brief overview, noting that the ECS is accruing approximately \$25,000 per month in interest from the LAMP fund investment. . He also referenced a recent \$10 million financial ruling,



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explaining that a judge mandated the City of New Orleans pay the Orleans Parish School board \$10 million which was budgeted by the New Orleans City Council.

- c) Board Comment: The Board reminded attendees that public comments require a completed public comment card. As there is only one action item on the agenda, those wishing to speak must follow this procedure.

5) Academic Report – District Academic Updates

- a) Projections indicate that all district schools are expected to demonstrate growth and achieve a C letter grade.
 - i) Upcoming Assessments:
 - (1) Workkeys Assessment (4/1-4/3)
 - (2) ACT District & State Administration (3/25-3/28)
 - (3) ASVAB Administration (4/1-4/3)
 - (4) LEAP: 8th & 12th Grades (4/9-4/16)
 - (5) LEAP: 3rd-11th Grades (4/30-5/7)
 - (6) CLEP Testing (5/12-5/16)
 - ii) PBIS/CULTURE
 - (1) VDLE Honor Society Induction Ceremony (2/25)
 - (2) EMS Spelling Bee Round # 2 @ Dillard University (3/22)
 - (3) “Dyn-O-Mite Day” Band Recruitment Day (3/29)
 - (4) Scholastic Book Fair @ SF & VDLE (3/24-3/28)
 - (5) Muffins with Mom @ VDLE (3/27)
 - (6) Donuts with Dad @ SF (3/28)

6) Operations Report – Facilities and Operational Updates

- a) VDLE: Roof Replacement.
 - i) Replace TPO roof as it has slopes and soft spots indicating damaged decking below, discoloration and bubbling. Main building flashing to be replaced with new roof covering. (This construction project will begin in May 2025)
 - ii) All inspections for VDLE are current and in compliance
- b) SF
 - i) 2025 Unannounced Fire Inspection 3/10
 - ii) HVAC system inspection current and 100%
- c) Sarah T. Reed/EMS
 - i) Door Replacement (NOLA-PS)
 - (1) Stalling Construction has begin the door replacement

7) CEO Report - CEO Network Updates

- a) ACT II: Accountability, Change, Transformation
- b) The Path to the Finale:
 - i) Bell-to-Bell Teaching
 - ii) Structured Lesson Execution



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- iii) Accountability
 - iv) Data-Driven Instruction
 - v) Positive Classroom Culture
 - vi) Differentiated Instruction
 - vii) High Expectations for All
 - c) Einstein Advisory Council
 - i) Formed Einstein Advisory Council
 - (1) Mission: The EAC Advisory Council is dedicated to fostering collaboration between families, educators, and community stakeholders to enhance student achievement and well-being.
 - (2) Objectives:
 - (a) Provide recommendations on policies, programs, and initiatives that impact student learning, safety, and well-being at ECS.
 - (b) Foster effective communication and engagement between the school system and the community.
 - (c) Support the development of innovative strategies to address academic achievement, equity, and student support services.
 - (d) Serve as a forum to discuss and address school performance, initiatives, and strategic goals.
 - d) We are Toasting to Twenty Years – Scholarship Fundraiser Brunch
- **Agenda Amendment:**
 - Durrell Laurent made a motion to amend the agenda to address **Resolution 3-20-25-01: Approval of the Charter School Operating Agreement** before the **Board of Directors Report – Board Communications**, allowing for public comments to be heard first.
 - Motion made by: Durrell Laurent
 - Seconded by: Angela Vance
 - Approved unanimously
 - Motion: Approved

ACTION ITEMS:

- 8) Resolution 3-20-25-01: Approval of Charter School Operating Agreement
 - a) Angela Vance made a motion to approve the resolution.
 - b) Joseph Rochelle seconded the motion.
 - c) Unanimous approval.
 - d) Motion adopted.

9) Board of Directors Report - Board Communications



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- a) Durrell Laurent read a public comment card from a community member addressing the recent incident at Sarah T. Reed High School.
- b) Public Comments:
 - i) Parent #1 (Nance)
 - (1) Why weren't parents notified about the brawl, and how was an outsider able to gain access to the school?
 - (a) Addressed.
 - (2) What about other incidents that occur in the school that parents are not informed about?
 - (a) Addressed.
 - (3) Asked for updates on Senior Activities and the Homecoming Dance.
 - (a) Addressed.
 - ii) Parent #2 (Williams)
 - (1) Why were parents not contacted immediately after the incident?
 - (a) Addressed.
 - (2) Asked about school safety concerns.
 - (a) Addressed.
 - (3) Questioned why her children were suspended.

10) Adjournment

- a) Durrell Laurent motioned to adjourn
- b) Joe Rochelle seconded the motion
- c) Unanimous approval.
- d) Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

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