



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

## 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 Tuesday, May 21, 2024**. 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 - May**  
Time: 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

### Board Meeting Agenda

- 1) Call to Order @ 6:06pm
- 2) Roll Call
  - Clarice Kirkland (P)
  - Maya Edwards (P)
  - Angela Vance (P)
  - Robbie Robertson (P)
  - Durrell Laurent (P)
  - Raymond Delaney (P)
  - Joe Rochelle (NP)
  - Edwin EsEscobar (NP)

3) Adoption of April 2024 Public Meeting Minutes  
Motioned to approve Durrell Laurent; Robbie Robertson seconded the motion

### DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1) Academic Report - District Academics Updates
  - a) Instruction & PD
    - i) LDOE Teacher Leader Summit May 28-30
  - b) Curriculum & Culture
    - i) EOY Celebration May 24th at 8pm
  - c) Achievement Data
    - i) LEAP 2023 and ELPT scores are not yet available
  - d) Report Cards
    - i) 4th Qtr Report Cards will be sent home with students by May 22nd
  - e) School Updates
    - i) Sherwood - Successful Spring Fest
      - (1) Successful Spring Fest
      - (2) 100% of 5th Grade students meet requirements for promotion to middle school
      - (3) LEAP connect scores are in: 1 student scored unsatisfactory; all others at basic or above
      - (4) More than 90% of employees are committed to return; interviews to replace retirees, resignations, separations currently underway
      - (5) Summer School Registration for REAL Tutorian at 100%; Academic Program at 80%

- ii) Village de l'Est
    - (1) Round #2 teacher evaluations wrapping up
    - (2) Last day for scholars 5/22
    - (3) Last day for teachers 5/24
    - (4) Summer Program registration in progress
  - Board asked about the necessities of having a big fundraiser at the end of the school year, in the last week
  - Board asks about fundraising dollars and where do funds go once they are received. Board also asked if funds that are raised are easily accessible.
    - All school leaders stated they have access to funds that are raised.
  - iii) Einstein Middle
    - (1) Round #2 observations complete
    - (2) Last day for scholars 5/22; last day for staff 5/24
    - (3) Commitment Letters will be completed by May 23rd
  - iv) Sarah T. Reed
    - (1) 100% Graduation Rate for Class of 2024
    - (2) EOY SLT Submission
    - (3) COMPASS SLT Submission
    - (4) Summer Academic Program Registration in Progress
    - (5) Currently, 24-25 Commitment Letters are being signed. Staff recruitment/interviews for vacancies are in progress
- 2) Finance Report - Monthly Financial Statements and Updates as of March 31, 2024
- a) Balance sheet = \$20,313,318
  - b) Cash Flow Projections/Dash board = slight increase of \$104K since last month's report
  - c) Budget vs Actual = net operating\$5,205,617
    - i) SF= \$2,031,417
    - ii) VDLE =\$1,809.837
    - iii) STR = \$652,288
    - iv) EMS = \$712,075
  - d) Fundraising and Student Activity
    - i) Fundraising = \$8,019.36
    - ii) Student Activity = 116,870.35
  - e) Yearly Comparisons presented
    - i) Sherwood = \$23,979.21
    - ii) VDLE = \$26,938.71
    - iii) EMS = \$29,338.22
    - iv) STR = \$23,979.21
  - Board asked a question about the LAMP investment and whether or not a return had been established
  - There were questions about the LAMP contract that is being presented to the board via 4th Sector
  - Board asked about funds being raised and the purchase request process
    - Is there a chance that people feel as though funds are raised and they don't get access to make purchases
    - If someone is interested in a fundraiser and it has to do with the band, is the process fair and balanced?
  - Explain the process for determining what amount of funds are allocated to specific programs
    - The budget is created by the CEO and finance team ensuring equity
    - Prior to Mrs. Johnson's tenure, a large amount of money was allocated to Athletics
    - Weekly finance meetings are happening between CEO, finance team, and 4th Sector
    - Because of ESSER funds being depleted, Einstein made decisions to stop spending frivolous funds in order to get results; Because of the surplus, Einstein will be able to stand strong, even in the absence of ESSER funding. This is a result of the 5 year financial sustainability plan
  - Board chair explains that under his leadership, he has been transparent and working hard to ensure equitable practices
  - Board asks if there are measures in place to track funds that are raised/ submitted. Einstein is moving to School Funds online July 1, 2024
  - Board asks that the finance department prepare a report, for transparency, to demonstrate the total costs of activities/programs as well as funds raised when applicable.

Public Comment- employee speaks on the measures that are in place to feed students continuously before and after events

- Board asks about the costs of feeding all parade participants
- Board ask to again quantify the purchases and provide full transparency after events

Public Comment - Staff are aware that leadership genuinely cares about the students and will ensure they have all necessary resources

Board asks if there are written policies that all staff are aware of regarding purchase requests.

- A suggestion is made to send letters to parents letting them know what their financial obligations are for students

3) Operations Report - Facilities and Operational Updates

- a) NOLA-PS Facilities Projects starting late May
  - i) VDLE roof project
  - ii) STR boiler and HVAC; Exterior Doors
- b) General Updates
  - i) Summer Program updates (Dates/times)

Board asked for an update on the Capital Improvement Grant Project at Sarah T. Reed

CEO explains to the board that, because there was no movement on the project, she appointed a Capital Improvement Team. Committee members are listed below:

**Reed Capital Improvement Project Committee**

1. Rodney McDonald
2. John Dobard
3. Justin Hughes
4. Clinton Baldwin
5. Shaundra Moore
6. Teisha Goudeau
7. Nicholas Bijou
8. Solomon Lebeau

4) CEO Report - CEO Network Updates

- a) Audits - NOLA-PS/SPLC
  - i) June 11th SpEd Audit at EMS
- b) RTI/SPED/504 High School Cum Folders- Quality
- c) State of the Network
  - i) School Renewals are of utter importance
  - ii) CEO speaks about a request for Board to provide a formal letter to reverse reconfiguration decision
- d) Good News/Highlights
  - i) Athletic Banquet was a huge success and many guests spoke so highly of the decorations
  - ii) New Orleans Saints Yearbook partnership
    - (1) All scholars will be featured in the yearbook (it's not just for athletics)
  - iii) Vegetable give-away at all schools
    - (1) Families and staff received an abundance of greens
  - iv) Staff Graduates
    - (1) Tuition Reimbursement for staff
    - (2) A large number of staff are attending college and getting bachelors and masters degrees
  - v) Sovereign Hope Nursing Home
  - vi) New Grant Writer hired and has already submitted 6 grants
  - vii) Shifts are being made at the start of the 24-25 School year to ensure the network is moving forward
    - (1) Dr Henderson Lewis and Dr Christopher Blair are still consulting
  - viii) Intentionality with hiring practices

5) Board of Directors Report - Board Communications

- a) Board President Signed MOU between NOLA-PS and Einstein for Capital Projects at Sarah T. Reed
- b) Board Member recruit - Chavez Cammon (Board Members will review resume before voting)

The Board Chair speaks on his tenure as chair and is proud of the work that is demonstrated at schools when visiting; Chair thanks staff for their commitment and hard work.

Meeting adjourned

Raymond Delaney motioned to adjourn at 7:22pm

Durrell Laurent Seconded the motion.

**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.**

