



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 Thursday, August 15, 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**
 Time: 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

BOARD MEETING AGENDA:

1) Call to Order

- a) Time: 6:08 PM

2) Roll Call

- a) Clarice Kirkland
- b) Angela Vance
- c) Chavez Cammon
- d) Maya Edwards
- e) Durrell Laurent
- f) Edwin Escobar
- g) Raymond Delaney
- h) Joe Rochelle
- i) Robbie Robertson (Absent)

3) Approval of Public Board Meeting Minutes (June 22, 2024)

- Angela Vance moved to approve the minutes.
- Clarice Kirkland seconded the motion.
- The minutes were approved unanimously.

4) DISCUSSION ITEMS:

o Finance Report

- i) Durrell Laurent states that we just had a finance committee meeting and asked 4th Sector to give an overview of what was discussed in the finance committee meeting.
- ii) Budget Overview Presented:
 - 1.4 Million dollar deficit budget
 - (a) It won't actually be a deficit budget, it will be a utilize Fund Balance to create a



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Break even budget

- Three main changes that caused the 1.7 Million Dollar Deficit Budget to decrease to 1.4 million dollars
 - (a) Actual cost for PTO Payouts was lower (250K savings from what was originally budgeted)
 - (b) CMO level position eliminate (160K savings including benefits)
- 15% added to the athletic and band budgets which increased the expenses by \$50,000
- iii) **Board Question:** Did we give a 15% increase to band and a 15% increase to sports and another 5% increase to other enrichment programs?
 - **Response:** There is not a specific line item for other enrichment programs so there is no way to spread out the other 5% because it's spread across other educational supplies and other categories.
 - Two other changes that the board members will see is where it says educational consultants, it will be changed to Service Providers.
- iv) **Board Comment:** I did sign the LAMP investment of 7 million dollars.
 - Response: That is something we discussed but we would want to review to make sure that is still a reasonable number.
- v) **Board Comment:** Board asked to be provided with interim reports, quarterly, so that the board knows what it is investing in.
- **Academic Report**
 - i) The Elementary and Middle Schools has seen a 6% – 8% increase in its SPS over the last three years (2021-2023)
 - ii) The High School has experienced decreases in the SPS score, we are encouraged by the LEAP scores.
 - iii) Across all four schools, a large percentage of our students are within 10-12 points of scoring at the mastery level. This is hopeful because if they have one year of growth, these students can achieve mastery.
 - iv) **Board Question:** What are the grade levels?
 - Response: That is all of our grade levels averaged together.
 - v) **Board Question:** Could it be broken down?
 - *Response:* It can and we will get that information to you.
 - vi) **Board Comment:** Moving forward, that is how we will require the data to be presented, broken down by school/grade level.
 - vii) Academic Goals Presented
 - A or B rated schools
 - 100% Graduation Rate
 - 97% Average Daily Attendance Rate
 - 70% Reduction in OSS
 - 90% LEAP Proficiency Scores for all Learners
 - 100% College Acceptance Rate
 - 90% College Graduation Rate
 - ACT Scores of 18+



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- viii) **Board Question:** On the 70% reduction of OSS, do we have a measurement or comparison of what the data says for the last two years so that we can compare it?
 - *Response:* We will get that for you.
- ix) **Board Comment:** Are we able to gather the percentage of students who were accepted into college and/or the military? Can we gather that data and the average class GPA?
 - *Response:* Yes, we can get that information for the board.
- x) **Board Question:** Have you all discussed what interventions we are using to reduce the number of OSS?
 - *Response:* Yes, for us it is aligned to the RTI process. What is the antecedent or the trigger for getting kids to a point where these behavior takes place? We are having conversations about when a student has been happening to the student prior to that point? SEL needs? Academic needs? What is going on in the student's home? Our goal is to talk about the student in totality not just the specific behavior. If an incident occurs because the student has an emotional need that has not been met, let's see what we can do for the student's emotional need. We are working hard to make sure that every part of a child is being addressed when we have these conversations.
- xi) **Board Question/Comment:** In regards to demographics, we used to give a breakdown of demographics of students, female, male, ethnicity, inclusive of faculty. The board would like to see this again.
- xii) **Board Question:** How many EMS graduates we had from the 8th Grade and how many transferred to another school and why?
 - *Response:* 50% transferred. Parent Choice. Students are going to Ben Franklin, Warren Easton, etc.
- xiii) **Board Comment:** I understand academics is important but we have to come up with strategies to get EMS students to the H.S. We have to get creative because 50% is a lot of students who transfer from EMS to other schools.
- xiv) **Board Question:** How many 9th Graders do we have at REED?
 - *Response:*
 - (a) Enrollment of Each School
 - (i) SF Enrollment - 365
 - (ii) EMS: 309
 - (iii) VDLE: 442
 - (iv) STR : 448
 - 1. 9th Grade: 96
 - 2. 10th Grade: 126
 - 3. 11th Grade: 119
 - 4. 12th Grade: 107
- xv) **Board Comment:** We should do a lot more to encourage the hispanic population to attend Einstein Charter Schools.
 - *Response:* We have a hispanic social worker. We offer interpretation services for free. We also have a large volume of hispanic workers that are employed at ECS.
- xvi) Academic Strategies are centered around the following:



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- Strategic Teaching
 - Curriculum
 - Assessment
 - Engagement - if students are not engaged they won't learn!
- xvii) Outcomes:
- Highly rated and Consistently Improving Schools
 - Various pathways to College and Career Readiness and Success
 - High Level of Student Engagement, Achievement and Progress for all students regardless of exceptionality.
- xviii) **Board Comment:** Board member asked Ms. Brown to expand further on Career Readiness for the next board meeting.
- **Operations Report:**
- i) Current Projects:
 - VDLE Roof Replacement: NOLA-PS Project - Currently in their bidding process. Project will start in summer 2025.
 - SF Campus Chiller #2: Project will start in 2 weeks.
 - STR/EMS Door Replacement: NOLA-PS Project - Currently in their bidding process. We are looking at October 2024.
 - Board Question: Which doors?
 - (a) Response: Every exterior door will be replaced.
 - STR/EMS AC Upgrades: We are 2 weeks away from them installing the new AC. They are currently doing the plumbing and in about 2.5 weeks, we should have full functioning AC.
 - STR Capital Improvement Project: Einstein Led Project
 - ii) **Board Comment:** We also talked about some strategies in the finance committee about how to find additional funding.
 - iii) **Board Comment:** Board member would also like to see the current Operations Director look over the Capital Improvement Project Plan and any revisions he see fit, make any revisions and to have more back-up documentation in regards to pricing.
 - iv) **Board Question:** Do we incur the cost and get reimbursed?
 - Response: We have to submit everything to NOLA-PS for approval once we get the bids, and NOLA-PS will direct us from them. In the past, we would incur the cost first and then we would get reimbursed.
- 5) CEO Report
- ACT II
 - i) Accountability
 - High Standards for Academic Performance and Behavior
 - Ensure Transparency
 - ii) Change
 - Embracing Innovative Teaching Methods and Technology
 - Adapting to New Challenges with Flexibility and Resilience
 - Fostering a culture of continuous improvement



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- iii) Transformation
 - Empower students to reach their full potential.
 - Building a legacy of Excellence & Growth
 - Transforming our School Community through Collaboration
- iv) Staff Introductions
- v) Events
 - Family Movie Nights at each of our campuses
 - Fall Festival
 - Spring Festival
- vi) Facility
 - Facility Rental
 - **Board Question:** In reference to facility rentals, who provides security?
 - (a) Response: Renters will have to approve the forms.
 - (b) **Board Comment:** Route the facility rental request through the governance committee.
- vii) Audits
 - EMS - Not in corrective action.
 - SF - No CAP, not in corrective action.
 - All schools have successfully passed our audits.
- **Board Question:** Do you know the retention rate for our teachers?
 - i) Response: We will give it to you before October 1?
- **Board Question:** Must we comply with the governor's new rule about the 10 commandments?
 - i) Response: Not yet. Currently we are halted until november but we will receive the updated guidance. Once they pass the guidance, we have to comply.
- **Board Question:** Board members ask about cell phones?
 - i) Response: We were collecting cell phones before the law passed.
- 6) Board of Directors Communications:
 - **Board Comment:**
 - i) Board member commends ECS for the Billboard near the Superdome
 - ii) Board member commends the activity on Social Media
 - **Board Comment:** The board would like to see an associate degree program started at STRHS.
 - **Board Comment:** Board commends the band/color guards for coming out to the STR Alumni Picnic
 - **Board Comment:** Mrs. Johnson made a donation to the Alumni of STR. They will receive \$1500

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) Resolution 8-15-24-1: Approval of SY 24-25 Fiscal Year Budget
 - a) Durrell Lauren moved to approve the FY 24-25 Budget
 - b) Cammon Chavez seconded the motion.
 - c) No public comments
 - d) The budget was approved unanimously.



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- 2) Resolution 8-15-24-2: Approval of SY 24-25 EGI Public Board Meeting Calendar
 - a) Cammon Chavez made a motion that we move/accept the new calendar dates.
 - b) Clarice Kirkland seconded the motion.
 - c) No public comments
 - d) The calendar was approved unanimously.

- 7) Adjournment
 - o Raymond Delaney motioned to adjourn the meeting.
 - o Angela Vance seconded the motion.
 - o Time: 7:30M

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.