



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 Notice

**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, November 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**  
Time: 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

### **BOARD MEETING AGENDA:**

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Adoption of October Public Meeting Minutes

#### **1. Call to Order:**

- a. Time: 6:08 PM

#### **2. Roll Call:**

- a. Clarice Kirkland
- b. Durrell Laurant
- c. Maya Edwards
- d. Angela Vance
- e. Joe Rohelle
- f. Chavez Cammon
- g. Raymond Delaney

#### **3. Approval of Public Board Meeting Minutes (October 16, 2024)**

- a. Mrs. Kirkland moved to approve the minutes.
- b. Mr. Cammon Chavez seconded the motion.
- c. The minutes were approved unanimously.



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## DISCUSSION ITEMS:

### 1) Board Committee Report - Finance Committee

#### a) **Citywide Needs Fund**

There is still a lack of clarity regarding how the funds will be distributed. The target is schools experiencing financial hardships. The surplus funding did not include mention of repayment plans.

#### b) **Lawsuit Settlement Announcement**

The school board and the city recently held a press conference (yesterday or the day before) to announce they had settled a lawsuit. The settlement amount is \$20 million, providing additional funding.

#### c) **Discussion Points**

- i) **Laurant:** Emphasized the importance of not refusing funds outright but also stressed not accepting funds solely because of the school's record of being good stewards of public funds.
- ii) **Rochelle:** Questioned, "What's going on, and how did this happen? Who is responsible?"
- iii) **Answer:** There has been no clear explanation of how this occurred. It was noted that the CFO announced his departure before these issues came to light.

#### d) **Tax Issues**

- i) There were two issues: sales tax and property tax.
  - (1) *Ad Valorem Tax:* Projected an 18% increase; actual receipts reflect an 8% increase.
  - (2) *Sales Tax:* Projected a 6% increase; actual receipts were negative.

#### e) **Enrollment and Demographics:**

- i) **Laurant:** Asked about the status of enrollment.
- ii) **Mrs. Johnson:** Reported that most enrollment targets have been met but noted the need to provide actual numbers.
- iii) **Dr. Delaney:** Requested a detailed report including demographics, staff breakdowns, and other relevant data.

#### f) **Action Item**

- i) 11-21-24-1: Board of Directors Resolution
- ii) No Objections
- iii) Resolution Passed Unanimously

### 2) Board Committee Report - Academic Committee

#### a) Mrs. Johnson provided academic updates.

#### b) **Dr. Delaney's Recommendation:** Suggested collaborating with external groups to address the formula used, which places the district at a disadvantage due to its unique student population.

#### c) **Dr. Mayes:**

- i) Noted a continued increase in special education (SPED) students, particularly those aging out of Medicaid eligibility. Many of these students are entering school for the first time, requiring placement in 3rd-grade classes.

#### d) **Mr. Laurant:** Inquired about the "Butterfly Program" and the Renew Therapeutic Program, admitting it was the first time hearing about them.

#### e) **Dr. Mayes:** Explained the programs and their organizational impact.



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- f) **Mrs. Kirkland:** Asked whether SPED classes include a paraprofessional alongside the teacher.
- g) **Dr. Mayes:** Confirmed that both SPED and ELL students have a paraprofessional.
- h) **Mr. Laurant:** Asked about the process for students entering from therapeutic programs, specifically whether the school is responsible for diagnosing or simply placing them.
- i) **Dr. Mayes:** Clarified that both diagnosed and undiagnosed students are accepted. Provided an example.
- j) **Mr. Laurant:** Emphasized the need for the board to advocate using the resources and data available.

### 3) Operations Report

#### a) Facilities and Operational Updates

- i) Updates provided on ongoing facilities and operational projects.

### 4) CEO Report

#### a) Network Updates

##### i) Upcoming Events:

- (1) Fall Festival at SF, VDLE, EMS/STR: October 30–November 1, 2024.
- (2) Christmas Party: Friday, December 13, 2024, themed “Life, Love, and Laughter.”

##### ii) Student Recognition:

- (1) Jayven Marin was honored by NOLAPS for academic and athletic achievement.

##### iii) Athletics Updates:

- (1) Einstein Charter Schools have 32 athletic programs.
- (2) VDLE won the 5/6 soccer championship.
- (3) Sherwood Forest Soccer Team placed 3rd.
- (4) Elementary basketball starts next month.

##### iv) Sarah T. Reed Athletics:

- (1) Football team made its first playoff appearance since 2008.
- (2) Volleyball team reached the playoffs for the 6th time.
- (3) Boys basketball team is 2-0 and ranked #8 in the state.
- (4) Girls basketball team is 1-1.
- (5) Cross country team advanced to regionals.
- (6) Boys soccer team is off to a strong start, ranked #16 in the state.
- (7) Adding baseball and softball this year.
- (8) Girls flag football team is sponsored by Nike.

### 5) Board of Directors Report

#### a) Board Communications

## ACTION ITEM

- 1. Resolution 11-21-24-1: Board of Directors Resolution
  - a. Clarice Kirkland moved to pass the motion.
  - b. Durrell Laurent seconded the motion.
  - c. Resolution Passed Unanimously



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## 2. Adjournment

- a. Raymond Delaney motioned to adjourn the meeting
- b. Angela Vance seconded the motion
- c. Time: 7:15 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.**