



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 Wednesday, October 16, 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 September Public Meeting Minutes

1) Call to Order

- a) Time: 6:13 PM

2) Roll Call

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

● Motion to Amend the Agenda

- Dr. Delaney proposed a motion to amend the agenda.
- The amendment prioritized addressing action items first and beginning discussion items with item six (6), Board Communications.
- The motion was seconded by Durrell Laura

3) Approval of Public Board Meeting Minutes (September 19, 2024)



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

- a) Durrell Laurent moved to approve the minutes.
- b) Maya Edwards seconded the motion.
- c) The minutes were approved unanimously.

ACTION ITEM

1. Resolution 10-16-24-1: Approval of the 24-25 Pupil Progression Plan
 - a. Durrell Laurent motioned to approve the 24-25 Pupil Progression Plan
 - b. Maya Edwards seconded.
 - c. No Public Comments.
 - d. Motion Passed

2. Resolution 10-16-24-2: Board Authorization
 - a. Durrell Laurent motioned to to approve the Board Authorization
 - b. Maya Edwards seconded.
 - c. Motion Passed
 - Board Question: Up to what dollar amount?
 - Board Question: What was the hurdle that caused the need for this authorization?
 - Answer: This has to be a certified document by the board as a formality that gives the CEO permission to sign contracts.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 6) Board of Directors Report:
 - a) Board Communication by Cammon Chavez:
 - i) Gratitude to Mrs. Johnson for allowing access to the alumni account
 - ii) Shoutout to Mr. McDonald for helping to sell T-Shirts
 - iii) The Alumni were able \$1350.00 in T-shirt sales. Donations will go to STR High
 - iv) The Alumni has created an Alumni Association
 - b) Board Communication by Robbie Robertson:
 - i) Robbie Robertson proposed a motion addressing the need to prepare students for the rapidly changing world of the mid-21st century.
 - ii) The motion emphasized nurturing emotional intelligence, creativity, and the "4 Cs" (Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity) as essential skills for the future.
 - iii) Robertson suggested requesting written input from the engaged consultants on how these critical issues will be addressed with teachers and students.

- 1) Board Committee Report - Governance Committee
 - a) No Correspondence to Report.

- 2) Academic Report - District Academics Updates
 - a) *Academic Report Given*



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

- i) **Interim Exams:**
 - Interim exams have been administered since the last board meeting.
 - At the elementary level, 60% of students achieved mastery in several areas/grades.
- ii) **Instructional Support:**
 - Re-teaching efforts and collaboration with instructional coaches are underway.
 - Notable progress in Civics and Geography was highlighted.
- iii) **High School Challenges:**
 - Persistent vacancies continue to impact high school staffing.
 - Instructional coaches are supporting substitute teachers.
 - Students are utilizing Edmentum to supplement instruction.
- b) **Board Discussions and Questions:**
 - i) **Question:** Have current results been compared to last year?
 - Response: Comparisons are not directly applicable due to a different assessment platform.
 - ii) **Comment:** Concerns were raised about students struggling with writing. It was emphasized that it is unacceptable for 46 students to lack writing proficiency, as parents entrust the school to provide a quality education.
 - Principal's Input:
 - (a) The English I class vacancy is a major challenge, particularly as it serves a high percentage of ELL students.
 - (b) Teachers are working to remediate existing gaps while substitutes teach the curriculum with instructional coach support.
 - iii) **Question:** What percentage of students qualify for the state's \$1,500 literacy tutoring program?
 - Response: 40 high school students are signed up, with incentives being developed to encourage attendance.
 - iv) **Question:** Can virtual tutoring options for the literacy program be utilized?
 - Response: Yes, but attendance cannot be mandated.
 - v) **Question:** How many ninth graders are enrolled?
 - Response: Not all ninth graders take English I due to the block schedule.
 - vi) **Question:** What issues are affecting Geometry performance?
 - Response: Pacing challenges and prioritizing key standards have been identified.
 - vii) **Other Updates:**
 - Monthly NOPD Literacy Initiative sessions continue.
 - Quarter 2 began on October 8th.
 - Report card conferences were held on October 9th and 10th.
 - WorkKeys assessments are nearing completion.
 - viii) **Board Concerns on Testing and Learning:**
 - A board member expressed concerns about the focus on various assessments (WorkKeys, iReady, Dibels, etc.) and questioned their relevance to actual student comprehension and application of knowledge.
 - It was emphasized that the system should prioritize authentic learning over "teaching to the test."



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

- Ms. Brown explained how WorkKeys benefits students.
- ix) **Additional Support for Students:**
 - Two teachers provide in-class support for ELL students.
 - ELL students show accelerated learning when working in peer groups ("pods") and engaging in collaborative conversations.

3) Finance Report - Monthly Financial Statements

a) Network Financial Overview

- i) **Total Assets:** \$19.5 million
- ii) **Total Liabilities:** \$1.2 million
- iii) **Total Equity:** \$18.2 million

b) Cash Flow:

- i) Current cash: \$13.6 million
- ii) This reflects a \$3.8 million increase compared to the same period last year.

c) Budget vs. Actual (July and August):

- i) **Total Revenue:** \$3.7 million
- ii) **Total Expenses:** \$3.8 million
- iii) **Net Deficit:** \$51,000
 - The deficit is attributed to front-loaded expenses, including professional development and curriculum, which are expected to balance out over time.

d) Comparison to Prior Year:

- i) Financials remain similar to the previous year, with slight increases in expenses related to curriculum and professional development.

e) Campus Financials:

i) STR:

- Revenue: Over \$1 million
- Expenses: Over \$1 million
- Surplus: \$45,000

ii) EMS:

- Revenue: \$742,000
- Expenses: \$784,000
- Deficit: \$42,000

iii) SF:

- Revenue: \$931,000
- Expenses: Over \$1 million
- Deficit: \$98,000

iv) VDLE:

- Revenue: Over \$1 million
- Expenses: Over \$1 million
- Surplus: \$43,000

v) Student Activity Accounts:



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

- VDLE: \$15,000
- STR: \$10,000
- EMS: \$26,000
- SF: \$16,000

(a) **Total Student Activity Budget: \$68,000**

vi) Forth Sector gives an update on the system wide budget crisis facing NOLA-Public Schools

4) Operations Report - Facilities and Operational Updates

a) Current Projects:

- i) VDLE Roof Replacement: NOLA-PS Project - Contractor Approved by NOLA-PS. Project will start in summer 2025.
 - Agreed to replace the HVAC system in the latter parts of 2025. (Controllers and new HVAC) - Pivotal Engineering LLC is the company that was awarded the contract.
- ii) SF Campus Chiller #2: Parts have been ordered.
 - Installation will start in November 2025.
- iii) STR/EMS Door Replacement: NOLA-PS Project - Pre-construction meeting. On October 18, NOLA-PS agreed to begin the project. 10 pairs of exterior doors to be replaced and 2 pairs of internal doors to be replaced.

b) STR/EMS AC Upgrades:

- i) Already completed, but we are awaiting an inspection and some parts that need to be installed.
- ii) By November 18, 2024 we should have a new AC and Heating System at the High School.

5) CEO Report - CEO Network Updates

a) Focus Pillars: Communication, Systems and Structures, Owning Your Job and Building a Strong Community

b) Compliance Updates:

- i) EMS/STRHS NOLA-PS AUDIT (*Tuesday, October 16, 2024*)
- ii) SF/VDLE NOLA-PS AUDIT (*Tuesday, October 29, 2024*)
- iii) Sovereign Hope Senior Center Activity/Band/Color Guards
- iv) Sarah T. Reed High School Homecoming 2024 (*Friday, October 18, 2024*)
- v) Fall Festival SF, VDLE, EMS/STR (*October 30th, October 31st and November 1st*)
- vi) Christmas Party (*Friday, December 13, 2024*)

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.