

The Einstein Charter Group, Inc.
4801 Maid Marion Dr.
New Orleans, LA 70128

Minutes

Board Meeting October 11, 2017

Board Members Present: Chris Bowman, Clarice Kirkland, Angela Vance, Lauren Narcisse

Board Members Excused: Sarah Dawkins, Durrell Laurent

Staff Present: Anna Caminita, Martha McKnight, Doug Guidry, Shawn Toranto, Phong Tran, Daniel Davis

Public Present: Emily Harris

The board meeting was called to order at 9:38 AM with the roll call.

CEO Report: EGI's applications for expansion in Nevada and Arkansas were approved. We chose to withdraw from Shreveport based on the advice of the Superintendent and our concerns regarding the facility, teacher pool, and support from Shreveport's BESE member. At this point expansion to Nevada is unlikely based on the shifting political situation and funding. EGI staff is in the process of completing a start-up funding grant for Arkansas. Lee Reid is negotiating the lease. Discussion ensued around the Nevada offer, the scope of which has changed. The 3 scenarios now offered are less beneficial for EGI both in terms of autonomy and the type of schools we have been offered. Toranto will notify the board if things change. We may go back to them at a later date.

Shawn lead a community event at Mary Queen of Vietnam Monday night at which the public asked questions of mayoral and council candidates. Ms Hypolite from OPSB will either attend the November retreat or the December board meeting to discuss SPS score calculations. Questions around Social Studies scores and their inclusion in SPS have not been resolved. We were under 1 site code last year, so it is unclear how our schools will be ranked now that each has its own code. Shawn prefers EGI's in house data as being more accurate and contemporary than the OPSB annual review. This year all school leaders are nervous about anticipated SPS score declines due to a change in testing metrics and students testing online. EGI is pleased that SPED population is growing and hopes to have students involved in Special Olympics and a student art show this year. EGI has 4 self contained SPED classes for the first time ever. Many kids work 1 on 1 with paras. The state will review our Middle School SPED department soon and we anticipate good scores should be good. Ms. Reno, SPED chair, is a strong leader. Bowman spoke about EGI's creativity, especially around ELL(EGI educates

50% of ELL kids in the city) and SPED. EGI competes against itself to track improvement, not against other schools.

Tran reported that, now that each school is its own LEA, we must do all state reporting ourselves. All school reports have been submitted and are error free, except the high school's. Problems remain around documenting T9 (failed 8th graders, of which there are 4) in the system. T9 students get an additional year and transitional work in 9th grade and lots of guidance. Our MFP report is in progress. Subsequently, Tran will complete a report on all classes offered. EGI is required to use the state's template for PEP now, which takes longer. October 1st student counts must be uploaded by October 20th to begin funds flowing. Ms. Toronto explained to Ms. Harris how MFP funds are apportioned.

Caminita reported that all students are testing this week. The majority of teachers have kids testing on computers in middle and high school. 25 of 86 high school students volunteered to take the PSAT. Elementary schools are using F&P to test for fluency and comprehension in K-3rd grades 4 times annually. MAP math assessment are given 3 times annually to grades K-3. Grades 4-10 are taking LEAP360 to prepare for the LEAP tests in May. EOC (End of Course) tests are also given in May. Students seem less anxious this year due to greater comfort with testing on computers. Bowman asked why all kids do not take the PSAT/SAT for National Merit. Toronto thinks number of kids will grow over time. ACT is still the standard test for many colleges. Career and Technical Education pathways are being developed as well including Digi/Graphics, Culinary, and PLTW Engineering that includes certification in CAD drawing. EGI plans to add a health sciences pathway next year and we are hopeful that the state will approve a civil service pathway within the next two years. Toronto noted that EGI's high school team leadership has a proven track record and are well prepared to build out our high school. Bowman noted that high schools are more complicated and expensive to run. To keep Board members informed, he requested that the CEO newsletter be shared with them from now on. We have 80+ kids in our first high school class.

The CSO reported on a grants received. After visiting the CTE program, YouthForce granted EGI \$40K now and promised \$360K if the program continues to go well now that experienced leadership is in place. As part of a reason contest, Einstein will receive 20 hours of donated services from the Re-Kraft pr firm around branding and promotion of our high school. McIlhenny (ELL teacher training) and Pro Bono Publico (internet access for EGI families) applications have been submitted. Tran noted that students cannot have unfiltered accounts without jeopardizing our E-rate funding. Dan reported that we are hiring a new 21st Century project director and have experienced a 32% increase in participation in afterschool programs. This year we are offering a variety of sports programs (about 50% of kids at Reed are taking part) in addition to academic tutoring and arts enrichment. EGI maintained our high quality grant recipient status for a 4th year. Our WestEd federal grant evaluation consultants found no significant issues. The consultants visiting again Oct. 24-25 if board members who have not previously participated wish to do so ie - Angela, Clarice, or Lauren. As previously mentioned,

EGL was approved for expansion in 3 states, making us the first CMO to be so. The AP and Ed Weekly picked up this story. The AK Democrat Gazette also wrote a feature.

The CFO reported that EGL still has over a million dollars outstanding in receivables from last school year, most of which resides in our school transformation and Title grants. EGL is in a good financial position despite this situation. The CFO's office has spend 2 and ½ months assiduously revamping the accounting system to serve 4 individual school sites. Guidry presented the financials for July and August, in both individual school and a combined institutional formats.. A copy of audit was also included; no findings were reported. State now requires a new protocol to audit the audit. This audit reviews your internal procedures. We will be able to expand cleanly to an additional school if necessary. Real time accounting is now available.

McKnight confirmed the proposed date and time for the retreat (Saturday, November 4, 2017 8AM until noon) and asked for board member input about a location. The Pontilly Cafe was suggested as well as Fair Grind. The retreat will include: a CEO report, board self evaluation, development training and messaging, board committee reports and a possible presentation from OPSB concerning SPS. McKnight also called the board's attention to the new board work timeline going forward.

First Week of the Month: Board meeting on Friday (90 minutes)

Third Week of the Month: Committee meetings and agenda development

Fourth Week of the Month: Send out minutes, agenda, etc.

Nominations for new officers commenced.

Narcise nominated Chris Bowman for President; Vance seconded and, there being no public comment, the board unanimously approved.

Bowman nominated Clarice Kirkland for Vice President; Narcise seconded and, there being no public comment, the board unanimously approved.

Bowman nominated Angela Vance for Secretary; Narcise seconded and, there being no public comment, the board unanimously approved.

Bowman announced that Sarah Dawkins had agreed to chair the Outreach Committee but that he had not heard from Durrell Laurant yet regarding chairing the Finance Committee. The board will act as a committee of the whole for the Academic Oversight Committee since that is the group's primary mission. The board and staff thanked Lauren Narcise for her excellent service as outgoing President.

The board altered the agenda to move on to the resolutions proposed for approval (please see attached).

There being no public comment on the minutes, Bowman moved that they be accepted; Kirkland seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

Davis explained that the state divides the 3-year 21st Century afterschool program payments into 2 18 month increments. The board needs to approve our continuation in the program for EGI to receive the second payment. Kirkland moved for approval of the resolution; Vance seconded and, there being no public comment, the resolution was unanimously approved.

Toronto explained that the resolution allowing non-certified teachers to serve on school leadership committees was designed to resolve any potential conflicts between state and charter requirements ie the state requires certification for teachers but charter schools do not. Our operating agreement with OPSB is unclear on this matter. Service after school on these committees provides leadership training and teachers are compensated financially. Kirkland moved for approval of Resolution 2; Narcise seconded and, there being no public comment, the resolution was unanimously approved.

The board entered executive session at 11:12AM to consider the professional review of Daniel Davis and the accompanying Resolution 3.

The board adjourned at 12:47 PM