

The Einstein Charter Group, Inc.
5316 Michoud Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70129

Minutes

Board Members Present: Lauren Narcisse, J. Christopher Bowman, Angela Vance, Sarah Dawkins, Clarice Kirkland

Absent: Durrell Laurent

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

Absent: Dan Davis

The meeting was called to order at 9:43 AM and the roll call taken. Bowman asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Vance moved; Dawkins seconded; and the minutes were approved unanimously. EGI received an email from Dana Hypolite at OPSB this morning announcing that Mrs. Hasiotis was unable to attend the board meeting to make her presentation. Ms. Hypolite will email the materials to be shared with the board.

Toranto reported that everyone in Arkansas has been very supportive of EGI@Garland and that the process is moving forward. The Arkansas salary schedule needs board review and approval before we can complete our submission. EGI will be renting administrative space from Mosaic Church beginning in January 2018. Church pastors will help EGI identify potential employees and students from the neighborhood. Student applications and teacher resumes will be gathered there. Garland is being beautifully renovated.

For the second time in two years, the RSD conducted the bid process for VDLE's renovation incorrectly. The new prediction is that the school will be renovated by July. Toranto has informed parents and urged them to keep pressure on the OPSB, RSD, and the DEQ. They have already spent \$600,000 renovating the trailers the children using as classrooms, but students have to be moved for severe, bad weather. Enrollment has dropped by 150, which is perfectly understandable.

Toranto noted that the way in which the SPS score is compiled has changed each year since Common Core. Furthermore, EGI changed from a single site code (cumulative data) to four site codes (individual school data) so it is almost impossible to compare numbers from one year to the next, particularly with Science scores as these were added at the last minute. Toranto is proud that Sarah T Reed posted a C in it first year. This is the first time ever that the Reed facility has a permanent school that is not a failing school. Tran shared additional specifics around the process, noting that EGI schools were not eligible for the extra progress points normally earned due to splitting the data by school.

Toronto announced that, despite our agreement, OPSB had refused mediation over transportation issues and had counter sued EGI. Shawn read her letter of response which will be made available to all board members. She noted that there is definitive interpretation of the state's transportation requirement. EGI prefers to spend fund on our 1,400 kids; many of whom are ELL or SPED. Shawn also reported on EGI's agreement with Special Olympics for our students to participate. The children need transportation and uniforms.

Board discussion turned to the benefits and disadvantages of One App. Kirkland noted that all schools should be good quality. Tran reported that EGI is hosting an enrollment session tomorrow and another in January to help parents with the OneApp process and to allow them to meet all the principals and lead teachers. This will save parents from having to go to a Family Resource Center and encourage our younger students to continue into Einstein middle and high school. Enrollment counts are October 1st. and February 1st.

Caminita reported on the Leap360 interim assessment. Teachers are still scoring essays but we should have the complete scores soon. In two weeks, the state will release comparative data allowing teachers to analyze student performance by each question. This way leaders and teachers will know what needs to be retaught and can see patterns of student mistakes. The questions on this test have several parts and often more than one right answer. Caminita noted that the middle school students' Achieve 3000 proficiency percentage had grown from 12 to 22% between the first and second tests. Our goal is that students score 75% or better. Multiple states use Achieve 3000 so students can be compared across the country.

There are 2 candidates for middle school principal remaining. Each will be interviewed by the faculty and do a walk-through with Dr. Caminita. She will speak to them afterwards regarding what they observed. After the principal is selected, there will be forums with both parents and students. NSNO reviewed the high school. Things went well. They observed that the faculty were cohesive and the children excited. Mr. Stockman is doing well.

McKnight reviewed the development report, noting that many local foundations have grants due in January and February. Discussion ensued regarding new sources of funds to properly equip the marching band. Tipitinas has been very generous with instruments, but uniforms remain an issue. The band is currently at 55 students but will grow to 100 along with cheerleaders, flag bearers, etc. The director estimates \$55,000 in start-up costs.

Guidry presented the monthly financial packet. He is required by state law to give statements for each school, budget to actuals, and a financial summary and memorandum. EGI is down to \$65,000 in receivables. Title I and LA4 applications will be due soon. Now that reimbursements are submitted directly to the state, funds arrive more promptly than under the previous system. We still do not have our final student count from the LDOE, but our MFP funds will likely be down by over \$1 million.

Bowman noted that EGI has a small, flexible board leading to quick communication. Thus, there is no need to send information out for one board meeting and vote on it at next. All communications will be shared by Chris.

The proposed salary schedule for EGI's Arkansas staff began. Tran reviewed the salaries by type, noting that he had reviewed compensation from 5 different Arkansas counties. EGI's would be in the upper middle if approved, though slightly lower than those in New Orleans due to the higher cost of living here. Teachers who acquire a Masters and Masters + 30 obviously would make more. EGI's benefits and retirement are significantly better than the Arkansas standard, however. The CMO tried to mirror what we do here within the Arkansas environment. Bowman asked for a motion to approve the salary schedule as submitted. Dawkins made the motion and Kirkland seconded. The board approved the schedule unanimously.

Kirkland made a motion to end the meeting and Vance seconded. The board meeting concluded at 11:11 AM.