

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

Minutes

Board Meeting September 1, 2017

Board members present: Angela Vance, Lauren Narcisse, Durrell Laurent, Sarah Dawkins
Chris Bowman excused. Clarice Kirkland absent.

Staff present: Shawn Toranto, Anna Caminita, Daniel Davis, Martha McKnight Doug Guidry
and Phong Tran excused.

The committee meeting was called to order at 9:33 AM. Doug Guidry sent a copy of his report, but no financials as the accountants are meeting with him to install the new Quickbooks system as this time. The board agreed that, in the future, committees should meet the 3rd week of each month in preparation for reporting to the board; but that the day and time would be up to the members. Board meetings would now start at 9:30 AM.

Dr. Caminita reported that PD went smoothly. Elementary school teachers met for 4 days in house. Teachers also participated in network-wide professional development classes by content area ie English, Social Studies, Math, and Science. Caminita is working with teachers to align Einstein's assessments to LEAP 2021 testing. For those that are not sufficiently aligned, she is working with teachers to get them up to standard. Caminita now previews Principals' and Instructional Coach's materials and presentations to keep them on target. Professional development topics this summer included: PBIS, mandatory reporting, curriculum, instructional techniques and goal setting. Teacher Think Tanks dive more deeply into these topics throughout the year. All positions at Einstein are currently filled with the exception of a bilingual paraprofessional at EMS. Teachers have been ranked with a 1,2, or 3 depending on the level of support needed with three being the lowest. Instructional coaches devise action plans to address teacher needs. All seventh graders are participating in SUMMIT. Teachers are working on their own to learn the platform. Four teachers are really rolling and the other two are getting help from our Blended Learning Facilitator. Additional blended learning programs include: Achieve3000, Lexia, Zerne, and Imagine Learning. The middle school also uses IXL. Einstein has practice tests and assessments tied to the new LEAP 360 state diagnostic but lacks a copy of the actual test at this time.

Tran is working to clean up our enrollment reports. The fall count takes place October first. He is missing the meeting today due to the biometrics for his US citizenship.

Dan reported receiving \$325,000 from the Walton Foundation with a possibility of applying for an additional \$500K. Charter request in Little Rock has been approved. If Walton agrees to the building renovation and start up funds, this would result in more than 2.4 million for the school. The school year would begin in 2018. We hope to have issues resolved by November first. EGI has applied for \$1.7 million in funds for two schools (large elementary split into two) in Nevada along with a charter. EGI is currently answering additional questions from them. Responses are due by September 11. Our current issues in Arkansas, besides having sufficient funds, center around the Superintendent. He would prefer to bus students across town rather than have a new charter school. The state board of education will discuss this in October. Shawn and Dan will also be meeting next week with the RSD superintendent to discuss funding for the potential take over school in Shreveport. The 21st Century afterschool grant is in its second year a Dan is working with our new coordinator to prepare for the beginning of classes on September 11th. Our federal grant evaluators rescheduled their visit for last week to October. Martha report and retreat dates.

Martha reported that she will be taking over much of the board meeting prep from Dan. She plans to meet with each board member individually to get to know them and learn about the skills and connections they bring to EGI. One of her goals is to increase individual and corporate gifts to the school. The board agreed that the November and March meetings would be moved to the first Saturday in these months to become morning retreats. Portion of these will be devoted to fundraising training and development planning. McKnight emphasized that the board's mission would be to open doors and bring people on tours to Einstein to being forging philanthropic relationships. Going forward, McKnight will provide minutes and resolutions for consideration prior to the board meetings. She will also work with Dan and Lauren to create a survey and review to be taken before the October retreat.

The board meeting began at 10:28. Shawn reported that she was pleased with the new leadership at several EGI schools and that school had begun on a positive note. She also mentioned the new Career and Technical Education Coordinator for the high school. Ms. Toranto will be sending the board contact information for several staff at RSD to encourage them to move more quickly in their negotiations with the DEQ around the asbestos issues at Village de l'Est. RSD has again bid the job and hopes to complete the process in October. However, as this is the second time through, Shawn is anxious to move forward. Despite everything the staff has done to make the portables inviting, the site is costing us students. School days are frequently interrupted as students must evacuate the building when severe weather strikes. Lauren suggested that parents should also call. Toranto praised the custodians for their great work in getting the building ready for school. She reported that the SUMMIT learning program is going very well and that each child has her own laptop and internet access at home.

Angela Vance and Sarah Dawkins moved that the board go into executive session at 10:44.

The board left executive session at 11:27 . Laurent moved that the August minutes be accepted as amended. Dawkins seconded and the board voted unanimously in favor. Mr. Laurent moved for the adoption of the March minutes. Ms. Vance seconded and they were unanimously accepted. Lauren moved that the May minutes be approved as edited. Vance seconded and the board unanimously approved. Vance moved that the resolution asking the board to accept and implement Shawn's recommendations flowing from the staff evaluation process be amended and approved. Durrell seconded and the board unanimously approved the resolution.

Lauren thanked everyone for their time and the meeting was adjourned at 11:48.