

THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.

Einstein Charter School Extension
5316 Michoud Blvd, NO, LA 70129

Minutes Board Meeting June 2, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

Call To Order: 6:13PM

Roll Call

Board members present: Lauren Narcisse, Laurin Jacobsen, Sheila Sundar, Mauricio Sierra, Chris Bowman

Board members absent: Durrell Laurent

Staff: Shawn Toranto, Douglas Guidry, Phong Tran, Daniel Davis, Julia Pockros

Public: Ron Midkiff

Discussion Items

1) Academic Report -- Shawn Toranto- Mrs. Toranto reported that they received DIBELS scores. She was disappointed with the Main Campus scores. She addressed it this morning with the school. A 6th grade student made it to Round 3 of the National Spelling Bee. Leases have been prepared for all sites for this coming school year. Shawn has not reviewed them yet. She will be looking closely at Einstein's responsibilities as it relates to the Reed facility. She has concerns about kitchen at the Reed facility and wants to make sure that those concerns are addressed. Mrs. Toranto will email leases to the Board for review. New Principals have all been brought on for the 15-16 school year. Mrs. Toranto conducted a principal meeting yesterday, and it went very well.

2) Finance Report – Dr. Douglas Guidry- Dr. Guidry passed out a financial packet to the Board. He reported that there a lot of receivables have been coming in, and more will be in soon. He also reported that no members of the public came to the Budget Hearing that was scheduled last month. The Board will be making a motion to approve the 2015-2016 budget this evening.

3) Development Report – Daniel Davis- Mr. Davis reported on grants awarded, and grants submitted since the last Board meeting. Einstein was awarded a total of \$65,000 in grants, and Mr. Davis applied for many other grants over the past two months. Also, Einstein received a bike safety grant that will last 3 years.

4) Operations Report – Phong Tran- Mr. Tran reported that the Main Campus is being refurbished and painted. There will be updates to the bathrooms, kitchens, ceilings, and water fountains.

5) Academic Excellence Committee Report -- Lauren Narcisse- Mrs. Narcisse reported that the Academic Excellence Committee did not meet during the month of May, therefore, there was no report to give.

6) Governance Committee Report – Laurin Jacobsen- Ms. Jacobsen reported that the Governance Committee did not meet during the month of May. She did

7) Finance Committee Report – Andrew Lorenz- The Finance Committee did not meet during the month of May, therefore, there was no report to give.

8) Outreach Committee Report – Chris Bowman – Mr. Bowman reported that the Outreach Committee did not meet during the month of May, therefore, there was no report to give.

Action Items

- Laurin Jacobsen made a motion to add an action item to the agenda, to vote on the 2015-2016 budget for The Einstein Group Inc.
- Chris Bowman seconded this motion.
- All Board Members present were in favor: Lauren Narcisse, Laurin Jacobsen, Sheila Sundar, Mauricio Sierra, Chris Bowman.

- Laurin Jacobsen made a motion to approve the 2015-2016 budget for The Einstein Group Inc.
- Mauricio Sierra seconded this motion.
- All Board Members present were in favor: Lauren Narcisse, Laurin Jacobsen, Sheila Sundar, Mauricio Sierra, Chris Bowman.

February 2015 Meeting Minutes

- Lauren Narcisse made a motion to approve the minutes.
- Sheila Sundar seconded this motion.
- Board Members Jacobsen, Narcisse, and Sundar were in favor.
- Board Members Sierra and Bowman abstained, because they were not present at this meeting.

March 2015 Meeting Minutes

- Sheila Sundar made a motion to approve the minutes.
- Lauren Narcisse seconded this motion.
- Board Members Jacobsen, Narcisse, Sierra, and Sundar were in favor.
- Board Member Bowman abstained, because he was not present at this meeting.

April 2015 Meeting Minutes

- Chris Bowman made a motion to approve the minutes.
- Mauricio Sierra seconded this motion.
- Board Members Jacobsen, Sierra, Bowman, and Sundar were in favor.
- Board Member Narcisse abstained, because she was not present at this meeting.

Public Comment

-Mr. Ron Midkiff had a question regarding school enrollment at both Einstein campuses. Ms. Shawn Toranto responded to his question. He also commented about the Einstein Extensions portables and what may happen to them once the school moves.

Adjournment: 7:38PM

7THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.

**Einstein Charter School
5100 Cannes St, NO, LA 70129
Einstein Charter School Extension
5316 Michoud Blvd, NO, LA 70129**

Minutes Board Meeting March 3, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

Call To Order: 6:10PM

Roll Call

Board members present: Andrew Lorenz, Lauren Narcisse, Laurin Jacobsen, Durrell Laurent, Sheila Sundar, Mauricio Sierra

Board members absent: Chris Bowman

Staff: Shawn Toranto, Douglas Guidry, Phong Tran, Daniel Davis, Glendalyn Lewis, Linda Nixon, Jamesha Baltiste, Julia Pockros, Michelle Cratchan, Shawn Gray, John Riddle

Public: Ron Midkiff, Mikiyah Moody

Discussion Items

- 1) Academic Report -- Shawn Toranto- Mrs. Toranto reported that they are requesting from OPSB an additional 4 Vietnamese translators for PARCC testing in March. The test is in Spanish, but not in Vietnamese. She is currently interviewing candidates for the middle school and high school principals. Board members are welcome to be present for the final interviews on March 24th starting at 3:30pm. Shawn will share resumes of final candidates with the board shortly. Both candidates will come on at the end of the school year to ensure smooth onboarding and start-up of schools. Mrs. Toranto attended a meeting about Sherwood Forest campus, and has digital photos of what the campus will look like.
- 2) Finance Report -- Dr. Douglas Guidry- Dr. Guidry passed out a financial packet to the Board that included tax return for 2014. Einstein was paid out for some receivables this past month (Title 1 and 2). Dr. Guidry is in the process of preparing budgets for next fiscal year. He is using actual budget numbers from KIPP in the Reed facility, so that we can project the costs of being in the Reed building next year.
- 3) Development Report -- Daniel Davis- Mr. Davis received 7 shipments of office supplies from Texaco, and \$400 from Donor's Choose. He has a good feeling that Einstein will be receiving a \$25,000 ELL grant from RSD. The winners should be announced this week. He has submitted 6 grants this past month. The student recruitment process for the 15-16 school year has begun.

4) Operations Report – Phong Tran- Mr. Tran reported that he finished the schedules and logistics for PARCC testing today. There are about 70 testing groups. He is researching programs that will help minimize the time between testing and when reports are available for leadership and teachers.

5) Academic Excellence Committee Report -- Lauren Narcisse- Mrs. Narcisse reported that the Academic Excellence committee met at the end of February to discuss the hiring process for principals of the middle school and high school, and also to review national high school models that fit with the Einstein values.

6) Governance Committee Report – Laurin Jacobsen- Ms. Jacobsen reported that the Governance committee did not meet this past month.

7) Finance Committee Report – Andrew Lorenz- Mr. Lorenz reported that the Finance committee did meet this past month to discuss

8) Outreach Committee Report – Chris Bowman – Mr. Daniel Davis reported that the Outreach committee did not meet this past month, but wants to schedule something in the next month to discuss a few upcoming events.

- Laurin Jacobsen motioned to hold an Executive Session
- Andrew Lorenz seconded this motion
- All Board Members present were in favor

Executive Session:

Start: 7:05PM

Personnel Review

Shawn Toranto
Douglas Guidry
Glendalyn Lewis
Linda Nixon
Phong Tran
Daniel Davis

End: 8:05PM

Action Items

- Approval of minutes for February 2, 2015 Board Meeting: Tabled approval of minutes until next meeting.
- Resolution 2015-6: Adopting Finance Committee's recommendations for changes to compensation for teachers and staff.
 - Andrew Lorenz motioned to approve Resolution 2015-6
 - Durrell Laurent seconded this motion

-All Board Members present were in favor

- Resolution 2015-7: Authorizing Shawn Toranto, C.E.O., to sign and receive tax refund on behalf of the Einstein Group, Inc.
 - Andrew motioned to approve Resolution 2015-7
 - Durrell seconded this motion
 - All board members present in favor

Public Comment

-Ron Midkiff encouraged the Board to be aware of the pay scale chart in the original charter of Einstein when giving raises to teachers and the leadership team.

Adjournment: 8:13PM

THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.

Einstein Charter School
5100 Cannes St, NO, LA 70129
Einstein Charter School Extension
5316 Michoud Blvd, NO, LA 70129

Minutes Board Meeting February 3, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

Call To Order: 6:09 P.M.

Roll Call

Board members present: Andrew Lorenz, Lauren Narcisse, Laurin Jacobsen, Durrell Laurent, Sheila Sundar

Board members absent: Mauricio Sierra, Chris Bowman

Staff: Shawn Toranto, Douglas Guidry, Phong Tran, Daniel Davis, Nick Walker, Glendalyn Lewis, Linda Nixon, Jamesha Batiste, Stacy Foley

Public: Ron Midkiff

Discussion Items

- 1) Academic Report – Shawn Toranto – Mrs. Toranto reported that the OPSB school review went well. Einstein got a “meets expectations” on all items. Mrs. Toranto also reported that we may be additional site codes for the 15-16 school year. She is working with OPSB on this matter and will report back to the Board. Mr. Tran gave the Board an update on testing.
- 2) Finance Report – Dr. Douglas Guidry – Dr. Guidry gave the Board a financial status report and updated everyone on the current account totals.
- 3) Development Report – Daniel Davis – Mr. Davis reported that 5 grants were awarded in the past month. Einstein was also selected to be a site for Toys for Tots. Mr. Davis is working on planning for a ribbon cutting at the Reed Facility that he will need the Board’s support with.
- 4) Academic Excellence Committee Report -- Lauren Narcisse – The Academic Excellence Committee did not meet this past month.
- 5) Governance Committee Report – Laurin Jacobsen – The Academic Excellence Committee did not meet this past month.
- 6) Finance & Development Committee Report – Andrew Lorenz – The Finance committee did meet to discuss compensation for teachers and staff, and are in the middle of researching to make a final recommendation to the Board.

- 7) Outreach Committee Report – Chris Bowman – The Outreach Committee did not meet this past month.

Action Items

- Approval of minutes for November 4, 2014 Board Meeting and December 6, 2014 Board Retreat.
 - November 4, 2014 Minutes:*
 - Durrell Laurent motioned to approve the minutes
 - Andrew Lorenz-seconded the motion
 - All board members present were in favor
 - December 6, 2014 Minutes:*
 - Andrew Lorenz motioned to approve the minutes with one correction under the Public Comment section to remove the word “due”
 - Durrell Laurent seconded the motion
 - All board members present were in favor.

- Resolution 2015-1: Adopting Finance Committee’s Recommendations for changes to compensation for teachers and staff:
This resolution was tabled for next meeting, because more research needed to be done by the Finance Committee.

- Resolution 2015-2: Authorizing Shawn Toranto, C.E.O., to accept control of the Sarah Towles Reed Facility and to open two new schools therein pending a favorable outcome of negotiations with the Recovery School District, Orleans Parish School Board and other stakeholders:
 - Durrell Laurent motioned to approve Resolution 2015-2
 - Andrew Lorenz seconded the motion
 - All board members present were in favor

- Resolution 2015-3: Is committed to seeking differentiated funding from Orleans Parish School Board and Louisiana Department of Education:
 - Andrew Lorenz motioned to approve Resolution 2015-3
 - Durrell Laurent seconded this motion
 - All board members present were in favor

- Resolution 2015-4: Authorizing Shawn Toranto, C.E.O., to accept three new site codes from the State, with prior notice to the Board about configurations of said site codes:
 - Lauren Narcisse motioned to approve Resolution 2015-4
 - Sheila Sundar seconded this motion
 - All board members present were in favor

- Resolution 2015-5: Authorizing Shawn Toranto, C.E.O., to pursue all means necessary to ensure English Language Learning students are provided all appropriate testing accommodations on state mandated testing this spring:

- Durrell Laurent motioned to approve Resolution 2015-5
- Sheila Sundar seconded this motion
- All board members present were in favor

Public Comment

Adjournment: 7:57 PM

THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.

Einstein Charter School

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Einstein Charter School Extension

5316 Michoud Blvd, NO, LA 70129

Board Retreat Minutes December 6, 2014 at 10:00 A.M.

Robert E. Smith Library, 6301 Canal Blvd.

Call To Order: 10:12 A.M.

Roll Call

Board members present: Sheila Sundar, Lauren Narcisse, Laurin Jacobsen, Chris Bowman, Durrell Laurent

Board members absent: Andrew Lorenz

Staff: Shawn Toranto, Douglas Guidry, Phong Tran, Daniel Davis

Public: Ron Midkiff

Discussion Items

1) Review of Board Meeting Procedures- Laurin Jacobsen

2) Academic Report – Shawn Toranto – Shawn has hired for 3 new positions (CAO, Business Manager, Principal). Once they have accepted the position, she will let us know who has been hired. She would like to work with the Board to create a policy for CMO Leadership salaries. This is in place for teachers and staff, but is needed for the leadership team. Shawn shared that the Einstein Christmas party, at The Continental on Downman Road. December 18th 6:30-9:30pm. All Board members are invited to attend. Einstein Charter Schools is a finalist for reopening Sarah T. Reed High School. Shawn and the Board will need to research some high school models that we fit with the current culture the Einstein elementary schools, and some HS principals or CMO's that have high schools to help guide us through this process. Shawn would like to schedule an Academic Excellence committee meeting to begin researching these topics.

3) Finance Report – Dr. Douglas Guidry – Dr. Guidry reported that we are still in a good financial position with over \$4,000,000 in cash on hand. He also reported that he moved \$750,000 from the operating account to the savings account, like discussed at the previous Board meeting.

4) Development Report – Daniel Davis – Mr. Davis reported that we had received 4 new grant awards totaling over \$32,000. Mr. Davis also reported about some

upcoming events. There will be a City Hall press conference on December 12th at 10:00am. There will also be a City Council meeting on December 11th to discuss the Sherwood Forest site. It was announced that the Coast Guard through Toys for Tots has volunteered to provide each student at Einstein up to 12 years old with a toy for Christmas.

5) Committee Reports – There were no committee reports for the Board Retreat.

6) Board Membership/Introduction of New Board Members – Laurin Jacobsen – Ms. Jacobsen has appointed a new board member, Mauricio Sierra. He will be joining us at our next Board Meeting in February. Durrell Laurent, new Board Member introduced himself and shared his background. He will be joining the Finance committee.

7) Committee Purposes and Goals – Laurin Jacobsen – Ms. Jacobsen requested that the Board create a Handbook, so that when new Board members join, they have something to help them learn about Board policies and the different Committees. The Board worked to draft one page document outlining the purpose and goals of each committee. Some policies that need to be drafted for the Handbook are a discrimination clause, open meeting laws, confidentiality, public record laws, and an amendment process for the policy listed in the Handbook. For the next Board meeting, Committees should come with a completed first draft of their Committee's one page document. We will review and vote on these at the next meeting.

Action Items

- Approval of Minutes: tabled until February Board meeting
- Public comment; vote

Public Comment

-Mr. Ron Midkiff advised the Board and CEO to think through the process of opening a high school. He likes the idea of separating the Elementary grades from the Middle school grades, but is worried about the extra expenses that come along with a High School. He recommends putting cameras in the Middle School to prevent behavior problems.

Adjournment: 1:26 PM

THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.

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Minutes Board Meeting November 4, 2014 at 6:00 P.M.

Call To Order: 6:09 P.M.

Roll Call

Board members present: Sheila Sundar, Lauren Narcisse, Laurin Jacobsen, Chris Bowman

Board members absent: Zachary Wool, Andrew Lorenz

Staff: Shawn Toranto, Douglas Guidry, Phong Tran, Daniel Davis

Public: Ron Midkiff

Discussion Items

- 1) Review of Board Meeting Procedures- Laurin Jacobsen
- 2) Finance Report – Dr. Douglas Guidry – Dr. Guidry reported that he transferred \$750,000 from the checking account to the savings account due to the large amount of money in the checking account. The MFP count is 899 as of October 1st. That is greater than expected, so we will be receiving more funding because of that.
- 3) Academic Report – Shawn Toranto – Mrs. Toranto presented copies of the LDOE report card. She is extremely proud of being able to maintain a B grade this year with the opening the Extension site. Friday, November 21st is the Thanksgiving luncheon for teachers and staff for both campuses. Shawn would like Board support with finding someone to cater it. The RFP for Sarah T. Reed has been submitted. The Recovery School District will make a decision in January. The Chief Academic Officer position has been posted. Interviews will begin next week and Shawn would love support from the Board with conducting interviews. She will email the Board with all interview dates and times.
- 4) Development Report – Daniel Davis – Mr. Davis reported that he has made some major progress on the business plan, but there is still some work that needs to occur before it's completed. The Einstein Holiday party will be on December 18th from 6:30-9:30pm. The mid-year Board Retreat will be on December 6th. It will most likely be at the Lakeview Library again. A contract from the website development company has been created and needs to be signed. Mr. Davis is currently working on the website content.

- 5) Academic Excellence Committee Report -- Lauren Narcisse -- The Academic Excellence Committee has created a document that states its' purpose and goals. It needs to be reviewed by Shawn and shared out to the Board. They are still setting all meeting dates for the year. Document will be completed and shared with the Board by the end of this week.
- 6) Governance Committee Report -- Laurin Jacobsen -- Two potential new Board candidates. One candidate has been interviewed, and the other will be interviewed next week.
- 7) Finance & Development Committee Report -- Zachary Wool -- (tabled)
- 8) Outreach Committee Report -- Chris Bowman -- The Outreach Committee is struggling to determine their purpose. They would like to discuss this at our Board Retreat in December.

Action Items

- Approval of minutes for October 7, 2014 Board Meeting -- Lauren Narcisse motioned to approve this item. The motion passed with all Board members voting in favor.
- Public comment; vote
- Election of New Board Members -- Laurin Jacobsen would like to nominate Mr. Durrell Laurent. Chris Bowman seconded this motion. The motion passed with all Board members voting in favor.
- Public comment; vote

Public Comment

-Mr. Ron Midkiff communicated that he does not agree with the Einstein organizational chart and feels there needs to be more focus on teachers and not administrators. He also encourages the Board to recruit Board members from the neighborhood, rather than continuing to recruit from organizations such as the Eastbank Collaborative.

Adjournment: 7:57 PM

THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.

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RE: Board Meeting October 7 at 6:00 P.M.

The Board of Trustees of the Einstein Group, Inc., will hold a board meeting at 6:00 P.M. at 5100 Cannes St, New Orleans, LA on October, 7 2014.

Minutes

Call To Order: 6:09PM

Roll Call: Board Members Present: Laurin Jacobsen, Andrew Lorez, Sheila Sundar, Emily Danielson, Chris Bowman, Lauren Narcisse

Board Members Absent: Zachary Wool

Others Present: Douglas Guidry, Chuck Gasho, Phong Tran, Daniel Davis, Ron Midkiff, Glendalyn Lewis, Stacy Foley

Discussion Items

1) Review of board meeting procedures – Laurin Jacobsen

Moving forward, the Board will be doing public comment after each action item, but before putting anything to vote. This will give the public a chance to speak before the Board votes on anything. We will still be using public comment cards. Each person has three minutes per comment, and comments need to be tied to an action item.

2) Academic Report – Shawn Toranto

- Future of the Orleans Parish millage
School board will vote on this in November, and then it will be put up for vote by the public.
- Site code for Einstein Charter School Extension
Shawn informed the Board that this is still an ongoing conversations with OPSB. LDOE Testing coordinator says she had 2 site codes for the schools. Ms. Padin was not aware of this. Paper work for a second site code was on hold and was not supposed to be submitted yet. Ms. Padin is looking into the matter and will get back to her. If there are two sites codes, then more staff will be necessary due to twice the amount of reporting.
- New Positions: Project manager (Grant Funded); CAO; Operations; Financial Staffer; Development Assistant.
-Development Assistant: We have been awarded two grants. Each grant allows a part-time staff person. Combined, that could be turned into one full-time position. This will all depend on the decision made by Einstein staff and staff from the other charter schools that are involved in the USDOE School Climate Transformation grant. Everyone will need to decide whether they would like the Project Manager to be held within Einstein Charter or with OPSB. Shawn has already been conducting interviews for Project Manager.

-Chief Academic Officer: There is currently only two Instructional Coaches. Each school could use three Instructional Coaches. Shawn stated that this is a high priority to help improve the instruction at both campuses. If a Chief Academic Officer is hired, they could assist the current Instructional Coaches with their workload and continue to improve instruction for all students.

-There is also a great need for Dr. Guidry to have some assistance. That is why Shawn would like to hire a Financial Staffer.

- Laurin Jacobsen will work with Shawn to create the job descriptions, so that Shawn can move forward with the hiring process.

3) Data Report – Phong Tran

- Mr. Tran gave an overview of current testing and scores. Einstein just administered DIBELS and Achieve testing for all students. There have been having Elective Interventions for upperclassmen in the afternoon who need extra support in reading. Eureka math is being used for students who need additional math support. Both are computer based programs.
- Mid-year testing will occur in December and January. The first phase of PARCC testing (writing) will take place in early March. The rest of the standardized testing will occur in April. At this time, there has not been a decision from the state whether the testing will be computer-based or paper-based. Scores will not come back on this spring testing until early Fall 2015.

4) Finance Report – Dr. Douglas Guidry

- Dr. Guidry informed the Board that the audit went extremely well. There were no findings.
- With \$2,000,000 in the Einstein checking account, Mr. Guidry requested to move \$500,000 to the savings account. The Board supported this decision.

5) Development Report – Daniel Davis

- Daniel Davis gave his Development update. He shared that the engineering program has begun at the Extension site. Also, 11 Promethean boards have arrived at the Extension site through the award from The RosaMary Foundation.
- There are a total of 1,000 students at both the Main Campus and Extension schools as of October 1st.
- Daniel updated the Board on recent grants received: USDOE School Climate Transformation grant, which will provide a school psychologist at each school for the next 5 years. Also, the Innovative Approach to Literacy grant which will provide an additional interventionist for the next 2 years to split time between both schools, and money for more library books.
- Construction began on 9/29/14 for the Sherwood Forest site and is set to end in Fall of 2016.

6) School website and email addresses – Laurin Jacobsen

- The Board requested an update on the status of the Einstein website. Daniel Davis informed the Board that they were deciding between two website development companies, and would make a decision in the next week. The website will begin to be updated shortly after that.
- The Board requested to have Einstein email addresses to use for all Einstein Board business. Mr. Phong Tran will get all Board members set-up with an email address.

- 7) Officer nominations for positions of President, Vice President and Secretary–
Laurin Jacobsen
This vote will take place under the Action Items section of our Agenda.
- 8) Establishment of committee goals for 2014-2015 – Committee Chairs
Each committee needs to have a written purpose, goals, and calendar for the rest of this year. This will be included as part of the overall Board handbook. This needs to be completed by the next Board meeting.
- 9) Establishment of committee meeting dates for 2014-2015 – Committee Chairs
There should be a prepared calendar of committee meetings to be presented at the next Board meeting.
- 10) Academic Excellence Committee Report - Lauren Narcisse
The Academic Excellence Committee did not meet this past month.
- 11) Governance Committee Report – Laurin Jacobsen
 - Laurin Jacobsen got copies of the Guide to Charter School Law for all Board members and distributed these during the meeting.
 - Laurin has reached out to LAPCS for resumes of potential board members to continue the recruitment process.
- 12) Finance & Development Committee Report – Zachary Wool
The Finance & Development Committee did not meet this past month.
- 13) Outreach Committee Report – Emily Danielson
The Outreach Committee did not meet this past month.

Action Items

1. Approval of minutes from August 25, 2014, Board Meeting.
Emily Danielson motioned to approve the minutes.
Emily Danielson, Chris Bowman, Andrew Lorenz, Sheila Sundar are all in favor.
Laurin Jacobsen and Lauren Narcisse abstain due to their absence at this meeting.
2. Public comment: No comment from public
3. Election of Board Officers
Secretary:
 - Laurin Jacobsen nominates Lauren Narcisse.
 - Emily Danielson, Chris Bowman, Andrew Lorenz, Sheila Sundar, Laurin Jacobsen, and Lauren Narcisse are all in favor.
 - Lauren Narcisse will continue as Secretary.
 Vice President:
 - Andrew Lorenz nominates Zachary Wool. Laurin Jacobsen nominates Lauren Narcisse.
 - Emily Danielson, Chris Bowman, Andrew Lorenz, Sheila Sundar, and Lauren Narcisse vote for Zachary Wool as Vice President.
 - Laurin Jacobsen votes for Lauren Narcisse.
 - Zachary Wool has been elected as Vice President.
 President:
 - Andrew Lorenz nominates Laurin Jacobsen.
 - Emily Danielson, Chris Bowman, Andrew Lorenz, Sheila Sundar, Laurin Jacobsen, and Lauren Narcisse are all in favor.
4. Public comment: No comment from public.
5. Committee Calendar Adoption for the Year 2014-2015
This action item has been postponed until the next board meeting.
6. Public comment:
-Mr. Ron Midkiff: He feels that Einstein has a bottom-up model vs. top-down model. He stated that children's education needs to be a larger priority. He makes

the suggestion to recruit board members in the surrounding community and at the neighborhood churches.

-Mr. Chuck Gasho: He commented about the proposed Chief Academic Officer position. He reminded the Board to closely review the credentials and salaries of all candidates being looked at for this position, and to make sure that the salary for this position follows all rules and regulations.

Adjournment: 7:58PM

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Minutes Board Meeting August 26, 2014

Call To Order: 6:50 P.M.

Roll Call

Board members present: Zachary Wool, Chuck Gasho, Andrew Lorenz, Sheila Sundar, Emily Danielson, Chris Bowman

Board members absent: Lauren Narcisse, Laurin Jacobsen

Staff: Shawn Toranto, Douglas Guidry, Phong Tran, Daniel Davis

Public: Ron Midkiff

Discussion Items

- 1) Review of Board Meeting Procedures (tabled)
- 2) Finance Report – Dr. Douglas Guidry – Dr. Guidry reported that the audit was progressing favorably; Einstein should anticipate a \$ 1.2 million surplus, and that our financial position remains healthy.
- 3) Development Report – Daniel Davis – Mr. Davis reported that it has been a busy month for development and that we are looking forward to forging a relationship with coast guard, applying for a grant from Target to fund a field trip and looking into implemented a personalized and blended learning pilot to improve and augment the existing instructional program at both Einstein schools.
- 4) Academic Report – Shawn Toranto – Ms. Toranto reported that we had 983 MFP students and 981 total students enrolled. She also reported that diagnostic testing to identify student academic deficits has begun.
- 5) Academic Excellence Committee Report- Lauren Narcisse (tabled)
- 6) Governance Committee Report – Lauren Jacobsen (tabled)
- 7) Finance & Development Committee Report – Zachary Wool – Mr. Wool reported that he looks forward to working with Mr. Davis to prepare charitable solicitations.

8) Outreach Committee Report – Emily Danielson – Ms. Danielson reported that the next Outreach Committee meeting will be held in October.

Action Items

- Approval of revised minutes for July 1, 2014 Board Meeting – Mr. Wool motioned to approve this item, Mr. Gasho seconded the motion and the motion passed with all members voting in favor.
- Mr. Wool presented an agenda amendment by motioning to add an action item to approve the minutes of the board retreat held on August 2, 2014; Mr. Bowman seconded the motion and the motion passed with all members voting in favor.
- Mr. Gasho motioned to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2014, board retreat; Mr. Lorenz seconded the motion and it passed with all members voting in favor.
- 2014-2015 Teacher & staff pay raise –Mr. Wool motioned to approve this item; Mr. Gasho seconded the motion and the motion passed with all members voting in favor.
- Resolution Supporting Personalized Learning Grant – Mr. Wool motioned to approve this item; Mr. Lorenz seconded the motion and the motion passed with all members voting in favor.
- Calendar Adoption for the year 2014-2015 - Mr. Wool motioned to pass the calendar in part, specifically only the dates for the board meetings; this motion was seconded by Chris Bowman, and the motion passed with all members voting in favor.
- A motion to renew Ms. Jacobsen’s term on the board was presented by Mr. Gasho; Mr. Bowman seconded the motion and it passed with all members voting in favor.
- A motion to renew Ms. Narcisse’s term on the board was presented by Mr. Bowman; Ms. Danielson seconded the motion, and the motion passed with all members voting in favor.
- A motion to renew Mr. Gasho’s term on the board was presented by Mr. Bowman; Mr. Gasho seconded the motion. The motion failed after receiving a favorable vote from Mr. Gasho, a favorable vote from Mr. Bowman, an abstention from Ms. Danielson, an abstention from Ms. Sundar, a no vote from Mr. Wool and a no vote from Mr. Lorenz.
- Elections of Board Officers (tabled)

Public Comment

Mr. Midkiff communicated his displeasure that board compensated the C.E.O. at market rate and not a teacher's salary plus twenty percent.

Adjournment: 7:57 PM

THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.

ANNUAL BOARD RETREAT

August 2, 2014 10:00am-4:00pm

Robert E. Smith Library

6301 Canal Blvd. New Orleans, LA 70124

Board Retreat August 2, 2014 at 10:00AM.

Call To Order: 10:05am

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: Laurin Jacobsen, Andrew Lorenz, Chris Bowman, Lauren Narcisse, Chuck Gasho, Zachary Wool, & Emily Danielson

Board Members Absent: Sheila Sundar

Others Present: Shawn Toronto, Daniel Davis, Ron Midkiff, Phong Tran, Sean Perkins, Cory Sparks, Douglas Guidry, Madeline Champagne, Linda Manint

Discussion Items

- 1) Board Governance Presentation – Mr. Cory Sparks, Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations
 - Mr. Sparks shared a presentation about the purpose and responsibilities of a Board of Directors.
 - He shared ways that a Board should be supporting a CEO versus micromanaging a CEO, and tips for improving the work that the Einstein Board is currently doing.
- 2) Presentation – Shawn Toronto
 - Mrs. Toronto gave a brief history of Einstein, from approval of the charter in 2005 until the present to give the Board some context for their work.
 - Mrs. Toronto gave information about the Louisiana Department of Education report cards that everyone school receives and how they determine these scores.
- 3) Presentation – Phong Tran
 - Mr. Tran gave a presentation about the different types of student diagnostic testing given throughout the school year and the purpose.
 - He discussed the process of inputting the tests scores into the running data file, and how this is used with administration and teachers to determine student groupings, student work, intervention plans, and individual student goals for the year.
 - Einstein will be using both the Compass and MATCH Coaching to evaluate teachers this upcoming school year.
- 4) Presentation – Dr. Douglas Guidry
 - Dr. Guidry gave a financial report and shared the revenue and expenses anticipated for the 2014-2015 school year.
 - In Dr. Guidry's finance report he noted that the MFP formula for calculating funding per pupil may increase if new legislation is passed.

5) Presentation – Daniel Davis

-Mr. Davis gave a presentation to update the Board on the Development work that he did this past school year. He shared which grants he applied to, and what kinds of funds that he was able to raise.

-Mr. Davis also shared ways that he would like Board support in Development for this upcoming school year, including some suggested fundraising strategies.

6) Purpose and Role of Committees

This discussion item was postponed until another Board meeting.

7) Board Created Policy

This discussion item was postponed until another Board meeting.

Public Comment

No public comment

Adjournment: 3:32pm

THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.

Einstein Charter School
5100 Cannes St, NO, LA 70129
Einstein Charter School Extension
5316 Michoud Blvd, NO, LA 70129

Board Meeting July 1, 2014 at 6:00 P.M.

The Board of Trustees of the Einstein Group, Inc. will hold a board meeting at 6:00 P.M. at 5316 Michoud Blvd, New Orleans, LA on July 1, 2014.

Board Meeting Minutes

Call To Order: 6:20pm

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: Laurin Jacobsen, Andrew Lorenz, Chris Bowman, Sheila Sunder, Lauren Narcisse, Chuck Gasho, & Zachary Wool

Board Members Absent: Emily Danielson, & Donnica Conway

Others Present: Shawn Toranto, Douglas Guidry, Tran Phong, Daniel Davis, Ted Stewart, Sonya Harris, Lela V. Stewart, Ron Midkiff, Donna Grant, Linda Manint, Verna Davis, Madeline Champagne, & Barbara Jefferson

Discussion Items

- 1) Finance Report – Dr. Douglas Guidry
 - Doug gave the Board an update on the current finances.
 - All reimbursements have been requested for the 2013-2014 school year.
- 2) Development Report & Year End Summary – Daniel Davis
 - Daniel gave an update on all grants that were applied for and which were awarded.
 - If current progress continues, the 5-year fundraising goal will be achieved in the next 16 months.
- 3) Academic Report – Shawn Toranto
 - Shawn gave an academic review of both the main campus and extension.
 - DIBELS data has come in. There were many increases, but there are still areas that need improvement.
- 4) Receipt of waiver from personnel to be discussed during executive session – Laurin Jacobsen
- 5) Governance & Finance Committee Report – Zachary Wool
 - Committee has been working on retooling the Board Committees, and thinking about concrete goals for each Committee.
 - This will be discussed further at the Board Retreat in August.
- 6) Outreach Committee Report – Emily Danielson
 - Emily was not present to give update from the Outreach committee.

Action Items

1. Approval for revised minutes for FY 2013-14

Dec. 7th: Approved with changing Laurin Jacobsen's name from Absent to Present

Feb. 11th: Approved

March 25th: Approved with changing Chuck Gasho's name from Absent to Present

April 8th: Approved

May 6th: Approved with correcting the date, and changing Lauren Narcisse from Present to Absent

June 10th: Approved with adding Lauren Narcisse to Absent.

Lauren Narcisse makes a motion to approve all of the above minutes with the proper edits.
All Board members in favor: Jacobsen, Lorenz, Bowman, Sunder, Gasho, & Wool

Laurin Jacobsen makes a motion to move the Executive Session until after Public Comment.
Chris Bowman seconds this motion.

Public Comment

1. Lela Stewart: Voiced concerns about lack of an organizational chart and transparency with the Board of Directors. Provided an Academic Review for Board to read through.
2. Linda Maint, 7th grade teacher: Voiced support for Ms. Lela Stewart and the work that she has done at Einstein.
3. Ron Midkiff: Voiced support for Ms. Lela Stewart.
4. Verna Davis, 8th grade teacher: Voiced support for Ms. Lela Stewart and the work that she has done during the 2013-2014 school year.

Executive Session – personnel review

1. Linda Nixon
2. Daniel Davis
3. Phong Tran

Laurin Jacobsen motions to adjourn the meeting.
Zachary Wool seconds this motion.

Adjournment: 8:07pm