

**The Einstein Group, Inc.
Sherwood Forest Library
4801 Maid Marion
New Orleans, LA 70128**

**Board Meeting Friday, February 2, 2018
9:30 AM**

Minutes

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

Absent: Durrell Laurent

Excused: Sarah Dawkins, Shawn Toranto

Staff Present: Dan Davis, Anna Caminita, Martha McKnight, Doug Guidry, Phong Tran

The meeting was called to order at 9:40AM and the roll call taken. Bowman asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Kirkland moved: Vance seconded; and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The CEO report was given by Phong Tran as Shawn Toranto was indisposed. Tran said that EGI had been closed for 3 days for winter weather and Village De l'Est for several additional days due to a burst pipe. All testing is going forward as planned. Tran met with the architect and contractors for Garland School in Arkansas. The playground, turn-around, and window reconfigurations are in progress. EGI was awarded 1.25 million from Walton Foundation towards new school startup: half in the first school year and half second year. Tran is visiting Arkansas once per month. The Garland e-rate process is in progress and public relations plan is ready. We need to begin hiring. Tran also showed samples of building materials to be used inside Garland.

In his role as Deputy CEO, Tran reported on preparations for testing at EGI. We are beginning ELPS (ELL) testing for approximately 400 K-10 students in early February. The process will be completed March 16th. ELPS tests children's listening speaking, reading, and writing. For the first time, all testing is computer based with the exception of K-1 which have booklets for writing. Speaking is the longest part of the process, but is easier now that they students can speak into microphones. We are testing for English proficiency in all areas. The state's goal is that 20% of our ELL population will exit the program annually. If this percentage is not met, the school has to execute a remediation plan for the following year. If children are bilingual at home, they are

initially designated ELL at school until they take the LAS test. They then continue in ELL or place out depending on their score. 5 is proficient. If they score a 4, we look at their LEAP scores to see if they are proficient. This testing process is state mandated. Tran noted that EGI has children speaking other languages besides Spanish and Vietnamese.

Caminita reported on our winter midterm LEAP scores. 35% students scored "proficient" which is in line with the state's midterm numbers but not where we want to be. All teachers have analysed individual student's issues and have made a reteaching or BLITZ plan. According to the Achieve 3000 measurement, VDLE has demonstrated excellent growth. The 4th grade at Sherwood Forest, in contrast, needs to improve. Science is being field tested this year but is no longer based on memorization. For example, a student may be asked why water condenses on a window at a particular temperature. Teachers provide articles and data which students read and research. They then make a claim/give an answer and substantiate it with information they have read or discovered. This process begins in third grade. The state has only curriculum guidance, not a full curriculum, at this point. The lexile level is not appropriate for the articles yet at every grade. NAEPS testing yesterday was a trial run. Kids did an actual science experiment as part of this process.

Social Studies state testing changed last year. Teachers need to be taught how to teach to the new test. The process is ongoing. The new curriculum has 7 themes (migration, culture, history, politics, etc.) used all the way from K-12. Students read texts and then answer questions. Tier I materials are aligned to LEAP. We are doing 3-12 novels based on this approach. The LDOE GuideBook also instructs teachers how to teach vocabulary in a new way. Rather than memorization students are asked to read a story and describe how the word is used. This is challenging for ELL students for whom everything is literal. There has been a lot of co-teaching in grades 3-5 as this method is new for everyone. This process is also taking place in math. This is a better way to prepare students for college but much more difficult in the short run on schools, children, and parents. Caminita believes the process should have been rolled out more slowly to give teachers a chance to change instructional methods. Teachers undergo a lesson study with a coach or principle to make sure they are comfortable teaching in the new way once a week.

The CFO reviewed EGI's monthly financial statements cash. We have \$259K in accounts receivable. \$370K in expenses need to be submitted to the USDOE before Mardi Gras. We are expecting MFP adjustments in March to lead to budget adjustments. We are over 100 students below the originally projected budget so the February 1st count will reduce revenue for the rest of the year. We have adjusted staffing accordingly. We have 161 students in our high school, but it is growing. They are offering AP courses and CTE certifications now as an investment in student growth. No reserves have been transferred to operating funds. Last year we exceeded our student predictions. VDLE dropped from 515 to 460 students due to continuing facility issues. We have heard that the RSD is proceeding on asbestos remediation at Cannes Street; but we have no official notice. Renovation was scheduled for this summer. The contractor

requires 60 days to stage the site before beginning work. The building must be emptied completely.

Daniel Davis reported on grants received (\$1,299,000), applications submitted (\$101,000), applications declined (\$25,000), and current grants administration. Our evaluator designated our 21st Century program “worthwhile” and planning is going forward for the summer and next academic year. Our budget has been approved by the USDOE for Charter School Replication and our evaluation plan finalized. In partnership with LPHI, we will be initiating a Comprehensive Health Education process by beginning to get curriculum approved and constituting a parent review board. EGI’s board will be asked for a resolution of support further into the future.

The board then considered Resolution 2-2-18-1, affirming EGI’s Title IX anti-discrimination policy and permitting it to be posted on the website. Kirkland moved approval; Vance seconded; and the board approved unanimously.

Having previously reviewed EGI’s Pupil Progression Plan as presented by Dr. Caminita, Vance motioned for approval; Kirkland seconded; and the board unanimously approved the document.

Narcisse motioned that the board enter executive session; Kirkland seconded; and the board voted unanimously to enter executive session at 10:42 AM to discuss the lawsuit. After discussion, Kirkland motion for the board to leave executive session; Vance seconded; and the board approved unanimously to leave executive session at 11:05 PM.

Angela Vance motioned for adjournment at 11:07 PM. Kirkland seconded and the board voted unanimously to adjourn.