

THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
4801 Maid Marion Drive

Minutes
Board Meeting April 6, @9:30 AM, VDLE Library

Board Present: Chris Bowman, Clarice Kirkland, Angela Vance, Maya Edwards, Sarah Dawkins

Staff Present: Daniel Davis, Phong Tran, Martha McKnight, April Caterella, Darius Manchak, Doug Guidry, Anna Caminita, Lee Reid

Board excused : Durrell Laurent, Lauren Narcisse

The meeting called to order at 9:37 AM. The roll was called with all board members answering “present” with the exception of Durrell Laurent and Lauren Narcisse.

Bowman asked for a motion to adopt the revised agenda. Sarah Dawkins made the motion; Clarice Kirkland seconded and all voted unanimously to adopt the revised agenda.

Bowman called for a motion to adopt the board meeting minutes as submitted for March 2, March 21, and April 3, 2018 as submitted. Kirkland made the motion; Vance seconded; and all minutes were unanimously adopted.

Interim CEO, Dan Davis, began his report by suggesting that EGI withdraw from Arkansas due to the need to refocus on New Orleans. According to his conversation with representatives from the Walton Foundation, they are still interested in to partnering with Einstein on a school in the future. EGI has expended \$41,000 on the Little Rock school project to day and would also need to return the first Walton Foundation grant payment. Davis is concerned about teacher and staff retention and would like to make sure that all 10 month employees remain insured through August 30th. Guidry responded that this was already in the Einstein budget and would cost under \$10,000. EGI will operate at a loss this year due to decreased student enrollment. Einstein will begin our values-driven budgeting process for next academic year in May 2018. Major rebranding efforts for marketing and fundraising will also be necessary. Finish Strong is the theme for the remainder of this school year. Equity, transparency, and accountability must drive all decisions. We also have issues around SPED that need to be addressed. Staff and families have received a letter explaining or current situation and Dan met parents in carpool lines and at coffee this morning. Parents and teachers were supportive. The CMO also need to schedule listening sessions in April. Principals will be key to building community confidence.

The board and staff began to discuss Einstein @ Garland in Little Rock, Arkansas. Tran noted that the CMO had put in a year's worth of work and relationship building in Arkansas. EGI said we will open this school and has already met with pastors and community representatives. Part of our mission to serve poor, minority children like those in Garland's neighborhood. What does this do to our image? Will we ever get funded again from Walton and other national funders if we withdraw? Millions of dollars have been poured into the Garland building by Walton. Tran and his family would be willing to go to Arkansas to get the school open and report to EGI's board. EGI is at the point of leasing two offices, hiring a secretary, and working with our public relations firm around recruitment. No teachers have been hired nor students enrolled yet as contracts have yet to be signed. Bowman and Kirkland were sympathetic but believed we need to focus on our viability in New Orleans and resolving our relationships with OPSB. Dan was concerned about the amount of work that would need to be done on the allotted timeline to do the project well. Caminita commented that this issue must be resolved today as we have an employee preparing to move to Little Rock. Other Einstein department heads also need clarity as well. Dan does not want to export strong leaders when we may lose staff. He believes the door will stay open at Walton. The coming year in New Orleans will be difficult and we need to concentrate our efforts here.

In the interest of time, Sarah moved that the agenda again be altered to move up the executive session. Clarice seconded and the board unanimously voted to change the agenda. Vance motioned to enter executive session at 10:10AM; Dawkins seconded; and the board voted unanimously to begin. Topics to be discussed included the lawsuit with OPSB, the workers comp. Settlement with Gwendolyn Brooks, and

Kirkland moved that the board leave executive session at 11:20 AM. Vance seconded and the board voted unanimously to return to regular session and address the action items.

4-6-18-1

The Board of Einstein Group, Inc., hereby authorizes the board president to finalize the settlement of Orleans Parish School Board, et al. v. The Einstein Group, Inc., CDC No. 2017-11398 and execute any documents necessary to memorialize such settlement.

The board had discussed the status of the lawsuit with OPSB in executive session alongs with terms and strategy. This resolution will provide Chris and Lee to finalize the settlement and withdraw motions that have been filed. Kirkland moved for approval and Vance seconded. There being neither public nor board comment; the resolution was unanimously approved.

4-6-18-2

The Board of Einstein Group, Inc., hereby adopts the contract with Scholar's First as proposed and authorizes the board president, acting CEO, and attorney to review and execute the document.

Lee has made revisions around the busing contract with Scholar's First. It is similar to other network's bussing contracts and the pricing is similar. This contract would be for one year, concluding on June 30, 2019. If EGI is satisfied, we can renew. Darius asked about the availability of substitute buses when breakdowns occur. Caminita asked about the bus driver's disciplinary authority vs that of the school. EGI needs to develop behavior policies for bus riders. Lee promised to research the answers to these questions. Kirkland made a motion to approve the contract provided Lee found satisfactory answers to the questions raised. Vance seconded and, there being no comments from board members or the public, the board unanimously approved the contract.

4-6-18-3

The Board of Einstein Group, Inc., authorizes the acting CEO and attorney to review health coverage for all 10 month employees to further encourage teacher retention.

Dan wants to make sure that current employees are covered through August 30th. Kirkland moved in favor; Edwards seconded and, there being no comments from board members or the public, the board unanimously approved the action.

4-6-18-4

The Board of Einstein Group, Inc. hereby authorizes the Interim Chief Executive Officer to terminate all efforts for replication of the school in Arkansas where practicable, including return of grant funding from the Walton Family Foundation if necessary.

Kirkland made the motion and Young seconded. There being neither public nor board comment, the board passed the resolution to withdraw unanimously.

4-8-18-5

The Board of Einstein Group, Inc. hereby approves the Joint Petition for Approval of Compromise Settlement arising from Gwendolyn Washington v. Einstein Charter Schools and Office of Worker's Compensation State of Louisiana authorizes the Board President to executive all documents related to this matter.

This resolution is a formality required by our worker's comp insurance. Young made the motion and Edwards seconded. There being neither public nor board comment, the action was unanimously approved.

The Deputy CEO reported that both busing and testing were going forward as planned.

The CAO reported that all schools about half-way through the COMPASS evaluation cycle. Louisiana's COMPASS rubric is useful but not comprehensive so Einstein augments. Leaders are focused on understanding and using Tier I materials more effectively. The average teacher sees higher student growth with Tier I materials and NSNO is making grants in support of these materials and the professional development to use them properly.

The CFO call the board's attention to the financial memorandum. EGI has \$439,000 today in receivables. Our cash is lower as our MFP was reduced by 20% or \$200,000 per month until the next student count in October. EGI will have another million in receivables from the state before the end of their fiscal year and we do have reserves.

The Development Director gave her report, noting that the additional Arkansas foundation applications would have to be withdrawn and that letters were going out to local funders updating them on transportation and other issues.

There being no further business, Vance moved that the meeting be adjourned. Edwards seconded and the board adjourned at 11:27 AM.