

Empowerment Academy Charter School

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Thursday, December 8, 2022, 7:30PM

240 Ege Avenue

Jersey City, New Jersey 07304

Minutes

A. Call to Order

B. Welcome

C. Roll Call

Board Member	Present	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X		
Tom Gallagher	X		
Lonnie Sobel	X		
Thomas Ogorzalek	X		
Dami Kabiawu	X		
Sapreet Saluja	X		

D. Approval of November 10,2022 Minutes

Board Member	Present	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X		
Tom Gallagher	X		
Lonnie Sobel	X		
Thomas Ogorzalek	X		
Dami Kabiawu	X		
Sapreet Saluja		X	

Motion: T. Gallagher

Second: L. Sobel

Yes: L. Sobel, D. Kabiawu, T. Gallagher, M. Zaslower, T. Ogorzalek, S. Saluja

No: None

E. Facilities

Roll Call Vote on Items 1

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Dami Kabiawu

Yes: L. Sobel, D. Kabiawu, T. Gallagher, M. Zaslower, T. Ogorzalek,

Absent: S. Saluja

1. **22-12-08-01** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the request to the Commissioner of NJDOE for a charter amendment requesting permission for the school to operate at 68 Claremont Avenue.

F. Lease with Our Lady of Sorrows

Roll Call Vote on Items 1 - 3

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Lonnie Sobel

Yes: L. Sobel, D. Kabiawu, T. Gallagher, M. Zaslower, T. Ogorzalek,

Absent: S. Saluja

1. **22-12-08-02** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the request to make the length of the first renewal term 1 year so we do not have to execute a longer renewal lease if the high school is not ready by 2025.
2. **22-12-08-03** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the request to operate Fifth and Six Grade at Claremont Avenue in SY23-24, instead of high school grade levels.
3. **22-12-08-04** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of entering into a second lease with Our Lady of Sorrows for the large parking area and garages adjoining the parish hall and former parochial school building.

G. Lauz Settlement Agreement M.L. et al v Empowerment Academy Charter School

Roll Call Vote on Items 1

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Lonnie Sobel

Yes: L. Sobel, D. Kabiawu, T. Gallagher, M. Zaslower, T. Ogorzalek,

Absent: S. Saluja

1. **22-12-08-05** Resolved, the EA Board of Trustees approves and authorizes the School Business Administrator to sign the Lauz Settlement Agreement and issue a check to the Petitioners of \$19,434.76.

K. Human Resources

Roll Call Vote on Items 1

Motion: Dami Kabiawu

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

Yes: L. Sobel, D. Kabiawu, T. Gallagher, M. Zaslower, T. Ogorzalek,

Absent: S. Saluja

1. **22-12-08-06** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following SY23 hires effective September 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023:

Employee	Position	Salary/Hourly	Effective
Patricia Bernaerts	Permanent Sub	\$39,000	12/01/22
Amna Sandhu	Science teacher – MS	\$67,000	11/28/22
Mallory Gadye	RTI – LES	\$65,000	11/29/22
Madison Nelson	SPED – LES	\$64,000	01/03/23
Krizia Gonzalez	Permanent Substitute	\$42,000	01/3/23
Alexandra Jesus	Staff Substitute – LES	\$40,000	12/12/22
Denica Holmes	Paraprofessional – LES	\$32,000	01/03/23
Tyana Edwards	Staff Substitute	\$60,000	12/09/22
Herman Sanford	Substitute Teacher	\$43,000	12/08/22

L. Business

Roll Call Vote on Items 1 - 4

Motion: Dami Kabiawu

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

Yes: L. Sobel, D. Kabiawu, T. Gallagher, M. Zaslower, T. Ogorzalek,

Absent: S. Saluja

1. **22-12-08-07** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount \$704,722.29 for the period 11/2/22 – 12/01/22.
2. **22-12-08-08** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of December 15 ,2022 in the amount of \$500,000 and December 31,2022 in the amount of \$500,000, respectively. Employer Taxes are included in each Payroll.
3. **22-12-08-09** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the Board Secretary Reports for the months September 2022 through October, 2022.
4. **22-12-08-10** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves an up to \$4,500 (\$47/hr for up to 75 hours) consulting contract with Alrica Boler to assist school leadership

in planning for an effective kickoff in SY23-24 of the school's Ninth Grade Academy.