

EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 11, 2024, 7:30PM
240 Ege Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey 07304

Minutes

A. Call to Order

B. Welcome

C. Roll Call

Present: M. Zaslower, President, L. Sobel, Vice –President, T. Gallagher, Treasurer, T. Ogorzalek,
D. Kabiawu

Absent: None

Also in Attendance:

Bret Schundler, Acting Head Dean
Angela Thomas, Director of Curriculum
Richard Raschdorf, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Robert Seetaram, Director of Operations

D. Approval of December 14,2023 Minutes

Motion: T. Gallagher Seconded: L. Sobel

Approved: M. Zaslower, President, L. Sobel, Vice –President, T. Gallagher, Treasurer,
D. Kabiawu

No: None

Abstain: T. Ogorzalek

E. Public Comment: None

F. Reading of Censure Resolution

School Ethics Commission, Docket No: D03-23

Whereas, Sapreet Saluja (Respondent) is a school official, as defined in the School Ethics Act (Act), serving as a Trustee of the Empowerment Academy Charter School, located in Hudson County; and

Whereas, by decision dated October 17, 2023, the School Ethics Commission (Commission) found that Respondent failed to file her Personal/Relative and Financial Disclosure Statements (Disclosure Statements) as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:12-25, N.J.S.A. 18A:12-26, and N.J.A.C. 6A:28-3.1; and

Whereas, the Commission recommended that the Commissioner of Education impose a penalty of censure, as Respondent filed her Disclosure Statements after the Commission issued an Order to Show Cause; and

Whereas, by decision dated November 20, 2023, the Commissioner of Education concurred that a penalty of censure was the appropriate penalty in the above-captioned matter; and

Whereas, N.J.A.C. 6A:28-9.11(d) provides that for a penalty of censure, suspension or removal, a Resolution shall be adopted at the Commission's next meeting following the Commissioner's imposition of the sanction, and the Resolution shall be read at the Board's next public meeting following adoption by the Commission, shall be posted in such places as the Board posts its public notices for no less than thirty (30) days, shall be published online on the District's website, if available, for no less than thirty (30) days, and the reading of the resolution shall be memorialized in the Board's meeting minutes, and once approved, a copy of the minutes shall be forwarded to the Commission; and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Commission adopts this Resolution stating that Respondent is hereby CENSURED as a penalty for having been found to have violated N.J.S.A. 18A:12-25, N.J.S.A. 18A:12-26, and N.J.A.C. 6A:28-3.1; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Empowerment Academy Charter School is ordered to read this Resolution at its next regularly scheduled public meeting following the Commission's adoption, to post it in such places as the Charter School posts its public notices for a period of thirty (30) days, and to publish it online on the District's website, if available, for no less than thirty (30) days; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Empowerment Academy Charter School shall provide the Commission with the minutes, once adopted, from the meeting at which it reads the within Resolution.

Robert W. Bender, Chairperson School Ethics Commission

G. Policies

1. **Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the revised process for awarding a \$250 Bonus for Staff Referrals.

Roll Call Vote on Item1

Motion: M. Zaslower Seconded: D. Kabiawu

Approved: M. Zaslower, President, L. Sobel, Vice –President, T. Gallagher, Treasurer,
D. Kabiawu, T. Ogorzalek

No: None

H. Human Resources

Roll Call Vote for Items 1-2

Motion: M. Zaslower Seconded: D. Kabiawu

Approved: M. Zaslower, President, L. Sobel, Vice –President, T. Gallagher, Treasurer,
D. Kabiawu, T. Ogorzalek

No: None

1. **Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves SY24 hires effective January 4, 2024, through June

30,2024 per Appendix A Schedule 1.

2. **Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves SY24 Stipends effective January 3, 2024 through June 30,2024 per Appendix A, Schedule 2.

I. Business

Roll Call Vote for Items 1-4

Motion: M. Zaslower Seconded: D. Kabiawu

Approved: M. Zaslower, President, L. Sobel, Vice –President, T. Gallagher, Treasurer,
D. Kabiawu, T. Ogorzalek

No: None

1. **Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount \$790,670.20 for the period 1/02/24 – 2/01/24.
2. **Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of January 15,2024 in the amount of \$770,000 and January 31,2024 in the amount of \$770,000, respectively. Employer Taxes are included in each Payroll.
3. **Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Board Secretary Report dated December 2023 and its submission to the NJDOE.
4. **Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter a lease with Atlantic Tomorrow’s Office for three copy machines at an annual cost of \$28,800 for the UES Campus for three years. Prior lease with Kyocera expired.