

**EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**Board of Trustees Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 12, 2024, 7:30PM**  
**240 Ege Avenue**  
**Jersey City, New Jersey 07304**

**MINUTES**

**A. Call to Order**

**B. Welcome**

**C. Roll Call**

Present: M. Zaslower, L. Sobel, T. Ogarzalek, T. Gallagher  
Absent: D. Kabiawu

Bret Schundler, Acting Head Dean  
Angela Thomas, Director of Education  
Richard Raschdorf, School Business Administrator  
Bobby Seetaram, Director of Operations

**D. Approval of August 8,2024 Minutes**

Motion: T. Ogarzalek      Seconded: L. Sobel

Approved: M. Zaslower, L. Sobel, T. Ogarzalek T. Gallagher  
Absent: D. Kabiawu

**H. Policies/Handbooks**

Roll Call Vote for Items 1 - 2

Motion: M. Zaslower      Seconded: T. Ogarzalek

Approved: M. Zaslower, L. Sobel, T. Ogarzalek T. Gallagher  
Absent: D. Kabiawu

1. **24-09-12-01 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following Handbooks:
  - a. Employee Handbook
  - b. Purchasing Manual
  
2. **24-09-12-02 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following Handbooks:
  - a. Student Cultural Plan – Elementary School
  - b. Student Cultural Plan – Middle School
  - c. Student Cultural Plan – High School
  - d. Family Handbook – High School
  - e. Family Handbook – Middle School

f. Family Handbook – Elementary School

**I. Human Resources**

Roll Call Vote for Items 1 - 4

Motion: M. Zaslower      Seconded: T. Ogarzalek

Approved: M. Zaslower, L. Sobel, T. Ogarzalek T. Gallagher  
Absent: D. Kabiawu

1. **24-09-12-03 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the SY25 New Hires effective per Start Date noted on Appendix A, Schedule 1.
2. **24-09-12-04 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the SY25 Replacement Contracts effective per Start Date noted on Appendix A, Schedule 2.
3. **24-09-12-05 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the SY25 Stipends effective per Start Date noted on Appendix A, Schedule 3.
4. **24-09-12-06 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following Resignations/Termination with the effective dates listed per Appendix A Schedule 4.

**J. Business**

Roll Call Vote for Items 1 - 45

Motion: T. Gallagher      Seconded: M. Zaslower

Approved: M. Zaslower, L. Sobel, T. Ogarzalek T. Gallagher  
Absent: D. Kabiawu

1. **24-09-12-07 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount \$1,522,621.22 for the period 9/02/24 – 10/01/24.
2. **24-09-12-08 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of September 15, 2024 in the amount of \$850,000 and September 30, 2024 in the amount of \$850,000, respectively. Employer Taxes are included in each Payroll.
3. **24-09-12-09 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the SY24 Treasurer's Report for August 2024.
4. **24-0-12-10 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Platt Psychiatric Associates LLC for the purpose of performing an independent psychiatric consultation of a student and issuance of a report. Cost of Evaluation is \$4,700.

**5. 24-09-12-11 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the following three-year leases for copy machines leased with Wells Fargo Financial Services at:

LES #603-0293580	\$16,032
LES #603-0273946	\$ 6,167
MS #450-0027696	\$16,546
MS #603-0288371	\$35,232
HS #603-0278271	\$17,659

**6. 24-09-12-12 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the following lease for Waste and Cardbox pickup with Bin-Drop Waste Services at UES in the amount of \$14,400.

**7. 24-09-12-13 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$33,910 for licensing fees for Infinite Campus Student Information System.

**8. 24-09-12-14 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$13,483 for the Student User Fee for Infinite Campus Student Information System.

**9. 24-09-12-15 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the following one-year lease for Allworx Telephone Managed Service in the amount of \$4,902.

**10. 24-09-12-16 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the following one-year leases for waste pickup with Cali Carting:

LES	\$17,784
MS	\$18,804

**11. 24-09-12-17 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the following one-year leases with Bayonne Exterminating at:

LES	\$2,662
MS	\$2,559
HS	\$2,790

**12. 24-09-12-18 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$17,100 for radiator covers from Kates Covers for the High School.

**13. 24-09-12-19 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$38,000 to Paychex for Payroll Fees.

**14. 24-09-12-20 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the reimbursements of \$200,000 (approximately) to employees for healthcare expenses enrolled in EA's Healthcare Program.

**15. 24-09-12-21 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$3,360 to PowerSchool Group for migration of information from Infinite Campus to School Messenger.

**16. 24-09-12-22 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$5,101

to Crowd Control Warehouse for Water/Sand Fillable Roadway barriers at Canal Crossing.

**17. 24-09-12-23 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$11,559 to HD Supply for flooring material for classrooms at the Middle School.

**18. 24-09-12-24 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$13,677 for Lockers for grade 10 at the High School.

**19. 24-09-12-25 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$15,380 to Charter technology Solutions for the purchase and installation on the Stage and Classrooms at the High School.

**20. 24-09-12-26 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$6,600 to Integrated Register Systems for the Annual License Fee for the In Touch Payment Platform.

**21. 24-09-12-27 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$4,250 for Membership Fees in the Charter School Athletic League.

**22. 24-09-12-28 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the following one-year leases for copy machines leased with First Citizens Bank & Trust at:

LES	#900-0336487	\$2,477
LES	#900-0336487	\$14,190
LES	#900-0322647	\$ 5,465

**23. 24-09-12-29 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$21,800 to Akaveil Technologies for the following:

Dark Web Domain Scanning	\$ 2,400
Monitoring of Chromebooks & Laptops	\$14,880
Backup to the Cloud	\$ 3,485
Microsoft 365 License Fees	\$ 1,035

**24. 24-09-12-30 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$17,100 for materials and labor for plumbing repairs to bathrooms at all three campuses.

**25. 24-09-12-31 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$24,000 to Atlantic, A Program of DeLage Landen for lease payments the software docuware for AP Document Storage to the Cloud.

**26. 24-09-12-32 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of 17,390 to Oncourse Systems for Education for the use of the Student Information System and Assessment Modules.

**27. 24-09-12-33 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$12,848 to PBG Networks for the purchase and configuration Vertiv Power Supply.

- 28. 24-09-12-34 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$27,248 to American Paper and Supply Company for to stock each campus with custodial supplies.
- 29. 24-09-12-35 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$6,749 to Rich Tree Service to remove and Flush Cut Stump.
- 30. 24-09-12-36 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the lease payments of \$7,000 to T-Mobile for connection to the internet for tables used for busing applications.
- 31. 24-09-12-37 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves payment of \$131,452 to Hartford Insurance Company for Workman Comp Insurance.
- 32. 24-09-12-38 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$16,020 to Akaveil Technologies for Sophos Central Managed Virus Detection and Response.
- 33. 24-09-12-39 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$12,695 to the Benefits Consulting Group for Cyber Security Insurance.
- 34. 24-09-12-40 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$170,000 to Association of Community Service Agencies (an Aetna Trust) for Dental and Vision Premiums. Premiums are offset by employee contributions.
- 35. 24-09-12-41 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$4,450 to Educational Data Services for membership in a coop school supply purchasing service.
- 36. 24-09-12-42 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$20,818 to JourneyEd.com for the purchase of Microsoft 365 Renewal Licenses.
- 37. 24-09-12-43 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the payment of \$123,413 to Philadelphia Insurance Companies for Property and Liability Insurance.
- 38. 24-09-12-44 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the payment of \$1,250,000 to Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield for Healthcare Coverage. Cost is offset by employee contributions of approximately 25%.
- 39. 24-09-12-45 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$16,288 for fiber optic cabling of modular classrooms at the High School.
- 40. 24-09-12-46 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$62,230 to Charter technology Solutions for a Valcom Paging System at the Middle School.
- 41. 24-09-12-47 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of 13,500 to Dan's Construction & Drain Service to remove ceiling tiles in the gym, install lights and paint.
- 42. 24-09-12-48 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the lease payments to Aries Building Systems LLC of \$220,800 for modular classrooms at Lower Elementary School.
- 43. 24-09-12-49 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$11,090 to SHI for Wireless Authentication of Sign-on Credentials.

**44. 24-09-12-50 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the purchase of a Ford E450 Box Truck from U-Haul Truck Sales for the cost of \$9,094. This will eliminate renting a truck for movement of furniture and storage items from each campus.

**45. 24-09-12-51 Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Tutor by Teachers for an afternoon tutoring program up to a cost of \$200,000.