

**Empowerment Academy Charter School  
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting  
Thursday, January 13, 2022, 7:30 pm  
240 Ege Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ 07304**

**Regular Board Meeting  
Conference Dial-in Number: (605) 313-4802  
Participant Access Code: 739211#**

**Minutes**

A. Call to Order!

B. Welcome

C. Roll Call

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

D. Approval of December 9, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Sapreet Saluja

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

Abstain: J. Pharnes

No: None

E. Facilities Update/High School

1. **22-01-13-01** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the revision to the Pre-Development and Lease Commitment Agreement between Empowerment Academy Charter School and Friends of Quality Education whereby Section 3 is revised to include higher reimbursement limits, and in regard to Canal Crossing Property, percentages of the predevelopment reimbursement obligations to be reimbursed to the Landlord by Empowerment Academy Charter School and by Beloved Community Charter School, which is expected to lease a portion of the charter school and its ancillary facilities to be developed.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Monica Zaslower

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

No: None

F. Human Resources

1. **22-01-13-02** Trustees approves of the following new hires for SY22 effective on the dates listed through June 30, 2022:

Employee	Position	Salary	Attendance Bonus	Start Date
Maureen Hargrove- Kerns	SPED Teacher	\$60,000	\$750	2/10/22

Motion: Monica Zaslower

Second: Dami Kabiawu

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

No: None

2. **22-01-13-03** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves for SY2022 - 2023 a \$4,500 across the board increase for Teachers, Nurses, Social Workers and Counselors, with our starting Teacher Salaries rising by \$3,000 from \$59,000 to \$62,000.

Motion: Monica Zaslower

Second: Dami Kabiawu

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

No: None

3. **22-01-13-04** Resolved, The EA of Board of Trustees approves the payment of stipends to employees for monitoring AfterSchool Activities at UES for a rate of \$50 per day effective January 31, 2022 – June 3, 2022. Total Estimated Cost \$18,000.

Employee	Activity	Days Per Week
Ziv Zamechek	Chess Club	1
Myronda Clinton	Girl's Mentoring Group	2
Shondell Davis	Boy's Mentoring Group	2
Jalyza Dragunov	Art	2
Juliana Baurkot Art	Art	2
Kendra Houser	Drama Club	2
Arica Morbit	Debate Club	1
Jessica Haro	Debate Club	1
Salwa Saadwh	Book Club	1
Sofia Cuccio	Multicultural Club	1
Alexis Haddock	Book Club	1

Motion: Monica Zaslower

Second: Dami Kabiawu

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

No: None

G. Business

1. **22-01-13-05** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount of \$805,356.48 for the period 1/01/22 – 1/31/22.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel  
Second: Thomas Gallagher

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

No: None

2. **22-01-13-06** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of January 15, 2021 for \$460,000 and for January 31, 2021 for \$460,000. Employer Taxes are included in each payroll.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel  
Second: Thomas Gallagher

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

No: None

3. **22-01-13-07** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the December's Board Secretary Report and its submission to the NJDOE.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel  
Second: Thomas Gallagher

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

No: None

4. **22-01-13-08** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of reimbursing employees at UES for parking up to \$13/day for the months of January - March. Average monthly cost \$260. Parking at UES is difficult and will worsen during the winter months.

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

No: None

5. **22-01-13-09** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$15,000 to Workable Inc for an online recruitment and evaluation software. Cost to be split with Beloved Community Charter School.

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

No: None

6. **22-01-13-10** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the expenditure Richard Raschdorf in the amount of \$2,530.80 for the purchase of 15 Winix 5500-2 Air Purifiers from Amazon for UES.

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

No: None

7. **22-01-13-11** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees accepts and approves of the Coronavirus Response and Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSA) & Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) and its submission to the NJ DOE:

a. CRRSA- ESSER II	\$1,147,175
b. Learning Acceleration	\$ 73,620
c. Mental Health	\$ 45,000

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

No: None

8. **22-01-13-12** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees accepts and approves of the American Rescue Plan – ESSER and its submission to the NJ DOE:

a. ESSER	\$2,578,201
b. Accelerated Learning, Coaching, and Educator Support Grant	\$ 112,482
c. Evidence Based Summer Learning & Enrichment Activities Grant	\$ 40,000
d. Evidence-Based Comprehensive Beyond the School Day Activities Grant	\$ 40,000
e. NJTSS Mental Health Support Staffing Grant	\$ 45,000

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

No: None

9. **22-01-13-13** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to purchase modular classrooms either through a formalized bid or state contract with a cost not to exceed \$100,000 per year.

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

No: None

Adjournment