

Empowerment Academy Charter School

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Thursday, April 14, 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
Monica Zaslower	X	
Jermaine Pharmes		X
Tom Gallagher		X
Lonnie Sobel	X	
Thomas Ogorzalek	X	
Dami Kabiawu	X	
Sapreet Saluja	X	

D. Approval of March 10,2022 Minutes

Motion: Sapreet Saluja

Second: Dami Kabiawu

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

Absent: J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher

No: None

Abstain: T. Ogorzalek

E. Safe Return Policy Revisions

Roll Call Vote on Item 1

Motion: Sapreet Saluja

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

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

Absent: J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher

No: None

1. **22-04-14-01** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees re-affirms: the Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services that was adopted by the Board in response to the Covid-19 virus and posted on the School's website, dated June 8, 2021; the modifications made to the Plan that were posted on the school's website, dated December 5, 2021, and, and the additional modifications made to the Plan that were adopted by the Board on March 10, 2022, and electronically communicated to school community members.

Now, in light of the continuing decline in COVID transmission and hospitalization rates in Jersey City, where discretion on the part of local education agencies is permitted by the State of New Jersey, the Board hereby resolves, beginning on April 25, 2022, to provide discretion to the school's Lead Person to maintain, revise, or end the protocols that were implemented in accordance with the aforementioned Board-approved Plan and its revisions.

The Lead Person shall exercise such discretion in consultation with the school's Director of Education, Nurse, and Director of Operations, and shall do so in such manner as shall produce educational, social, emotional or operational benefits for the school's students, families and staff, while being in accord with sound health and safety practices.

F. Human Resources

Roll Call Vote on Human Resource Items 1 – 6

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Sapreet Saluja

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

Absent: J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher

No: None

1. **22-04-14-02** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following new hires for SY22 effective with the dates listed through June 30,2022:

Employee	Position	Salary	Start Date
Cort Enoksen	ELA Teacher – UES	\$62,000	4/04/22
Nasifah Hankerson	PT Custodian	\$15.50/Hr	3/28/22
Cedric Thorbes	Dean of Students - UES	\$81,800	4/25/22
Jamie Hastings	ELA Writing Support Teacher	\$72,000	5/31/22
Nancy Padua	SPED Teacher – UES	\$74,000	4/25/22
Scott Horowitz	ELA Teacher – UES	\$69,000	3/21/22

2. **22-04-14-03** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following new hires for the SY23 effective 7/1/22 through 6/30/23:

Employee	Position	Salary	Start Date
Jung (Esther) Kim	Math Teacher - MS	\$71,000	8/17/22

3. **22-04-14-04** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the rehiring, proposed salaries and distribution of SY22-23 to the faculty members, student support professionals and school leaders listed in the attached Rehire Matrices.
4. **22-04-14-05** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the revision to Carly Gigl's SY23 Contract to include the following clause in Section 2: "Effective April 15, 2022, this Employee shall generally work an average of 15 hours per week (the equivalent of 3 hours per weekday), but will be able to be compensated for additional work hours during a pay period if the additional work hours worked are approved by the Lead Person.
5. **22-04-14-06** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following stipends for the spring season sports program:

Employee	Position	Stipend
Melanie Cohen	Coed Soccer Head Coach	\$1,500
Micaela Rispoli	Track & Field Head Coach	\$1,500
Armani Royster	Cheerleading Head Coach	\$1,500

6. **22-04-14-07** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees acknowledges the resignations of the following individuals, who despite warnings that it could result in the suspension of their teaching license and a contractual financial penalty have communicated their

intent to make Effective Date of their Resignation one that violates their professional and contractual “60-Day Notice” obligation.

Employee	Position	Effective Date Communicated by Employee
Jorge Colon	Spanish Teacher - UES	2/10/22
Scott Horowitz	ELA Teacher - UES	3/29/22
Cort Enoksen	ELA Teacher - UES	4/4/22

Roll Call Vote on Business Items 1 – 11

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek

Second: Dami Kabiawu

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

Absent: J. Pharnes, T. Gallagher

No: None

G. Business

1. **22-04-14-08** Resolved, The Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount \$250,883.76 for the period 4/1/22 - 4/30/22
2. **22-04-14-09** Resolved, The Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of April 15,2022 and April 30,2022 in the amount of \$480,000, respectively. Employer Taxes are included in each Payroll.
3. **22-04-14-10** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the March 2022 Board Secretary Report and its submission to the NJ DOE.
4. **22-04-14-11** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the expenditure to Greg Fuehrer for the damage a waste container that rolled into his vehicle from high winds on Sherman Avenue.
5. **22-04-14-12** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of expenditures not to exceed \$2,500 for Teacher Appreciation Related Activities in accordance with our Board-approved Staff Culture Plan.
6. **22-04-14-13** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Audit and Auditors Management Report.

7. **22-04-14-14** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the SY21 Correct Action Plan resulting from the SY21 Audit.
8. **22-04-14-15** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into leasehold improvement contracts for the following maximum amounts related to preparing its soon to be expanded schoolyard at 240 Ege Avenue for the siting there of additional modular classrooms.

<u>Improvement</u>	<u>Maximum Amount of Contract(s)</u>
Hook-Up of New Gas Line and Transformation of Boiler from Oil to Gas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Road Closure \$400 - Pipes and boiler conversion \$6,000 - Chimney Cleaning \$1000 - PSEG Charges TBD 	\$9,000
Removal of Oil Tank and Capping of Underground Pipes	\$6,000
Demolish Garages, Fences and Masonry Wall	\$60,000
Add Fencing and gates around perimeter	\$6,000
Repave Where Necessary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Necessary for ADA Compliance 1:20 slope 	\$30,000
Remove Utility Pole	\$5,000
Exterminator	\$300
Environmental Testing and Material Disposal	\$15,000
Municipal Applications and Permits (est. \$105/doc) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zoning - Planning - Building - Fire - Electrical - Plumbing - JCMUA 	\$1,500

-	PSEG – Service Disconnect	
-	PSEG – Service Reconnect	
-	PSEG – Post removal	
-	PSEG – Increase of Power	
-	Board of Health	

9. **22-04-14-16** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with JS Held LLC proposal for Asbestos Containing Materials Survey including site inspection, sampling and analyses of selected presumed asbestos containing materials (PACM. Cost - \$2,500.
10. **22-04-14-17** Resolved, THE EA Board of Trustees approves the purchase of 60 Microsoft Laptops from GovConnection Inc with Emergency Connectivity Funds. Total cost \$54,000 with a reimbursement from ECF III of \$400 per unit (\$24,000). Net Cost \$30,000
11. **22-04-14-18** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the compensation to Julio Caceres and Bryant Caceres \$10,000 to vacate the premises they lease (Garage and Storage Rental) from SANDR Realty LLC at INS Virginia, Jersey City, NJ 07306. Friends of Quality Education or its assignee is the contract purchaser of the property which is to be improved for the expansion of Empowerment Academy Charter School.