

**Empowerment Academy Charter School
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 9, 2020 7:30 pm
240 Ege Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07304**

A. Call to Order

- B. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 *et seq.*, adequate notification of this meeting has been provided by advertising in the Jersey Journal and the Jersey City Reporter, and by posting in the Public Library at 472 Jersey Avenue, Jersey City.

C. Roll Call

Board Member	Present	Absent
Monica Zaslower	X	
Jermaine Pharmes		X
Tom Gallagher	X	
Lonnie Sobel	X	
Thomas Ogorzalek	X	

D. Approval of June 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Monica Zaslower

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes			X	
Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			
Thomas Ogorzalek	X			

E. School Review

Educational – Carly Gigl

Financial – Richard Raschdorf

F. School Facilities

G. COVID-19 Related Issues

1. **2020-07-09-01** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves only for the month of July, 2020 that the School Business Administrator can sign checks issued for invoices listed on the Payment of Claims and released without any other Board Member signature. This resolution will be revisited in August if “Social Distancing “due to Corvid-19 is still in place.

Motion: Monica Zaslower

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes			X	

Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			
Thomas Ogorzalek	X			

2. **2020-07-09-02** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of Empowerment's School Re-Opening Plan for SY21 contingent upon approval by the NJDOE County Superintendent.

Motion: Monica Zaslower

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes			X	
Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			
Thomas Ogorzalek	X			

H. Organization Chart

1. **2020-07-09-03** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the SY21 Organization Chart

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Monica Zaslower

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes			X	
Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			
Thomas Ogorzalek	X			

I. **2020-07-09-04** School Leader and Teacher Evaluations

1. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees re-approves the use of the current School Leader and Teacher Evaluation forms for SY21.

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek

Second: Thomas Gallagher

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes			X	
Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			
Thomas Ogorzalek	X			

J. Annual Report

1. **2020-07-09-05** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the SY20 Annual Report and its submission to the NJDOE.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Lonnie Sobel

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes			X	

Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			
Thomas Ogorzalek	X			

K. Human Resources

1. **2020-07-09-06** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following new hires for SY21 effective September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Employee	Position	Salary	Attendance Bonus
Kari Pollio	Classroom Lead Teacher	\$57,500	\$750
Chizomo Uwakwe	School Nurse – UES	\$78,000	\$750
Ashley Bynum	Classroom Lead Teacher	\$62,000	750
Shyamadat Seepaul	Head Custodian – UES	\$50,000	\$0
Raul Araujo	Custodian/Security	\$40,000	\$0
Julio Gonzalez	Security	\$15/Hr	\$0
Wilfred Colon	Custodian	\$15/Hr	\$0
Patricia Araujo	Custodian/Security	\$15/Hr	\$0
Juliana Baurkot	6 th Grade SPED Teacher	\$56,500	\$750
Soyoun Chung	6 th Grade Math Teacher	\$63,500	\$750
Rubens Emmanuel	IT Support Help	\$46,000	\$0
Sreeja Leju	Teacher Assistant	\$29,000	\$450
Katerina Schneidman	ESL Teacher - UES	\$59,000	\$750

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes			X	
Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			
Thomas Ogorzalek	X			

2. **2020-07-09-07** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves on increasing the salaries of Ilyssa Thomas and Kaity McNeil for fulfilling the qualifications of the Master Teacher Program. Amount of increase per employee is \$2,000.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes			X	
Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			
Thomas Ogorzalek	X			

3. **2020-07-09-08** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following employee's salaries to be paid with Title I Funds:

Employee	Position	Salary
Angela Suarez	Teacher Assistant	\$30,750
Sima El Ali	Teacher Assistant	\$31,750

Sahar Al-Qaisi	Teacher Assistant	\$30,000
Nicole Mestre	Teacher Assistant	\$31,430
Maura Elmegeed	Teacher Assistant	\$31,750
Anthony Williams	Teacher Assistant	\$33,550
Sreeja Leju	Teacher Assistant	\$29,000
Joseph Rodriquez	Teacher Assistant	\$31,750
Alexis Haddock	Teacher Assistant	\$36,000
Myronda Clinton	Teacher Assistant	\$33,020

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

Board Member		Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower		X			
Jermaine Pharmes				X	
Tom Gallagher		X			
Lonnie Sobel		X			
Thomas Ogorzalek		X			

4. **2020-07-09-09** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following employee's salary to be paid with a portion of prorated Title I Reallocated Funds:

Employee	Position	Salary
Liza Ibrahim	Counselor	\$20,055

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek

Second: Thomas Gallagher

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes			X	
Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			
Thomas Ogorzalek	X			

5. **2020-07-09-10** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following stipends to be paid for SY21:

Employee	Position	Stipend
Bobby Seetaram	Bus Route Coordination	\$2,500

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek

Second: Thomas Gallagher

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes			X	
Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			
Thomas Ogorzalek	X			

6. **2020-07-09-11** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the resignations of the following employees:

Employee	Position
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Christine Thompson	Classroom Lead Teacher
Christina Chatman	Grade Level Lead Teacher

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek

Second: Thomas Gallagher

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes			X	
Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			
Thomas Ogorzalek	X			

N. Business

1. **2020-07-09-12** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount of \$263,605.44 for the period 7/2/20 – 8/1/20

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes			X	
Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			
Thomas Ogorzalek	X			

2. **2020-07-09-13** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of July 15, 2020 and July 31, 2020 for \$100,000 respectively. Employer Taxes are included in each payroll.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes			X	
Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			
Thomas Ogorzalek	X			

3. **2020-07-09-14** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of Summer Pay of July 15, 2020 and July 31, 2020 in the amounts of \$61,400 respectively. Payrolls are reimbursements for funds deducted from their Paychecks.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes			X	
Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			

Thomas Ogorzalek	X			
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4. **2020-07-09-15** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Board Secretary Report for June 2020 and its submission to the NJ DOE.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes			X	
Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			
Thomas Ogorzalek	X			

5. **2020-07-09-16** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees appoints Gerald D Longo, CPA EACS's Auditor for SY20.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Monica Zaslower

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes			X	
Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			
Thomas Ogorzalek	X			

6. **2020-07-09-17** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with NJ Architects to review existing plan documentation of intended modifications at 240 Ege Avenue. Cost to not to exceed \$2,400.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes			X	
Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			
Thomas Ogorzalek	X			

7. **2020-07-09-18** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement for Garber Consulting Group LLC. Annual Cost \$6,000.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes			X	
Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			

Thomas Ogorzalek	X			
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8. **2020-07-09-19** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into agreement with Benco, Inc for Bathroom Partitions at UES. Cost - \$5,510.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher
Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes			X	
Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			
Thomas Ogorzalek	X			

9. **2020-07-09-21** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves to increase the expenditure to OnCourse Systems for Education from \$11,602.88 to \$23,503.50. Increase in cost is due to include OnCourse Assessment Module, OnCourse Classroom, OnCourse Student Stats, Implementation and Training.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher
Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes			X	
Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			
Thomas Ogorzalek	X			

10. **2020-07-09-22** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the Year End Auditor Information Report and its submission to the NJ DOE.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher
Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes			X	
Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			
Thomas Ogorzalek	X			

11. **2020-07-09-23** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3(a) and N.J.A.C. 5:34-5.4, establishes and sets the bid threshold amount of \$44,000 for the Board of trustees and further authorizes Richard Raschdorf, the Qualified Purchasing Agent , to award contracts, in full accordance with N.J.S.A 18A:18A-3(a) for those purchases that do not exceed in the aggregate of the newly established bid threshold amount.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher
Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			

Jermaine Pharmes			X	
Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			
Thomas Ogorzalek	X			

12. **2020-07-09-24** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees has authorizes the establishment of a Capital Reserve in the amount of \$1,035,000 based on the Revised Lease Agreeemnt with Friends of Quality Education executed June 11, 2020. The amount to be reserved is based on the reimbursement of development costs noted in Paragraph 3 of said agreement ass follows:

Due Diligence	\$ 75,000
Architectural Planning	\$900,000
Land Acquisition	\$350,000

Motion: Thomas Gallagher
Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes			X	
Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			
Thomas Ogorzalek	X			

Adjournment
Submitted By: Richard Raschdorf