

**Empowerment Academy Charter School  
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting  
Thursday, August 13, 2020 7:30 pm  
240 Ege Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ 07304**

**Minutes**

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 August 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek

Second: Lonnie Sobel

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

E. COVID-19 Related Issues

1. **2020-08-13-01** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves only for the month of August, 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 September if “Social Distancing “due to Corvid-19 is still in place.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Monica Zaslower

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

2. **2020-08-13-02** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustee approves of the final School Re-Opening Plan subject to revisions for temporary opening for SY21.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel  
Second: Tom Ogarzalek

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

F. Policies/Plans/Handbooks

1. **2020-08-13-03** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following:
- Employee Handbook
  - Family Handbook
  - Donation Policy
  - LES Staff Culture Plan
  - UES Staff Culture Plan

Motion: Tom Ogarzalek  
Second: Lonnie Sobel

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

G. Human Resources

1. **2020-08-13-04** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following new hires for SY21 effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Employee	Position	Salary	Attendance Bonus
Jeneen Brown-Williamson	School Nurse	\$67,000	\$750
Lisa Morrow	Classroom Lead Teacher	\$57,500	\$750
Patrick Aiello	Permanent Substitute	\$31,000	\$450
Loriana LaBruno	Classroom Lead Teacher	\$59,000	\$750
Michele McAvoy	Reading Specialists – UES	\$59,000	\$750
Thomas Brown	Senior Custodian	\$45,000	\$0
Nandee Malebranche	Maternity Leave TA/Permanent Substitute	\$29,000	\$450
Micaal Florian	ESL Paraprofessional	\$28,000	\$450
Odalís Perez	One to One Aide	\$28,000	\$300
Rainah Goguen	Substitute Teacher/Maternity Leave Teacher	\$32,000/\$58,000	\$450

Gina Miseo-Ibarra	Technology Teacher – LES	\$60,000	\$750
Jacaria Moore	Classroom Lead Teacher	\$60,000	\$750
Elizabeth Forina	Classroom Lead Teacher	\$56,000	\$750
Jalzya Krizza Pascual	Art Teacher – UES	\$57,000	\$750
Alexander Rocha	Technology Teacher – UES	\$56,000	\$750

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Tom Ogarzalek

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

2. **2020-08-13-05** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following stipends to be paid for SY21:

Employee	Position	Stipend
Marcus Conde	Grade Level Lead	\$4,000
Samantha Finn	Grade Level Lead	\$4,000
Kendra Houser	Pandemic Response Team	\$750
Henrietta Johnson	Pandemic Response Team	\$1,400
Molly Frawley	Parent Survey via Phone	\$350
Myronda Clinton	Parent Survey via Phone	\$237.50
Nathalia Mejia	Parent Survey via Phone	\$350
Sima El-Ali	Parent Survey via Phone	\$200

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Tom Ogarzalek

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

3. **2020-08-13-06** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the hiring of a following individual to assist in the preparation of UEs for SY21. Filing in for person who resigned prior to school year.

Employee	Position	Stipend
Curtlee Augustine	Summer Help	\$16/hr

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Tom Ogarzalek

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent
Monica Zaslower	X		

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

4. **2020-08-13-07** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the hiring of the following employee. Compensation will be paid with Title III.

Employee	Position	Salary
Michael Florian	Teacher Assistant	\$29,000

Motion: Lonnie Sobel  
Second: Tom Ogorzalek

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

5. **2020-08-13-08** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the resignations of the following employees:

Employee	Position
Lizandra Alcantara	One to One Aid
ChizomoUwakwe	School Nurse
Nandee Malebranche	Maternity Leave TA/Permanent Substitute

Motion: Lonnie Sobel  
Second: Tom Ogorzalek

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

## H. Business

1. **2020-08-13-09** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount of \$389,098.91 for the period 8/2/20 – 9/1/20

Motion: Lonnie Sobel  
Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

Lonnie Sobel	X		
Thomas Ogorzalek	X		

2. **2020-08-13-10** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of August 15, 2020 and August 31, 2020 for \$60,000 respectively. Employer Taxes are included in each payroll.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel  
Second: Jermaine Pharmses

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

3. **2020-08-13-11** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of Summer Pay of August 15, 2020 and August 31, 2020 in the amounts of \$61,400 respectively. Payrolls are reimbursements for funds deducted from their Paychecks.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel  
Second: Jermaine Pharmses

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

4. **2020-08-13-12** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter in an agreement with T-Mobile for Education for 50 HotSpots for families without internet service. Annual Cost \$12,000. Reimbursed by ESSER.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel  
Second: Jermaine Pharmses

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

5. **2020-08-13-13** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with ECON to provide HVAC construction for the lobby renovation area. Cost - \$23,176.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel  
Second: Jermaine Pharmses

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

6. **2020-08-13-14** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into agreements with Complete Security Systems for Thermal Temperature Cameras at main entrances to 240 Ege Avenur and 211 Sherman Avenue. Total Cost \$30, 200. \$15,100 for each school. Deposit required for each school \$7,550. Reimbursed by ESSER Funds.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Jermaine Pharnes

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

7. **2020-08-13-15** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the expenditure of \$990 for Membership Dues for Richrd Raschdorf, School Business Administrator, to the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Jermaine Pharnes

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

8. **2020-08-13-16** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the expenditure of appoximately \$2,100 for reimbursement of the cost parking permits at UES.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Jermaine Pharnes

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

9. **2020-08-13-17** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the expenditure of \$1,413 to Go-Box for a automatic chromebook enrollment and configuration device. Present can only configured three chromebooks at a time. This device allows sixteen chromebooks at one time.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel  
Second: Jermaine Pharms

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

10. **2020-08-13-18** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Dude Solutions for Project Management Software. This software will enhance all work orders for maintenance and repairs on both the LES & UES Campuses. Annual Cost - \$2,446

Motion: Lonnie Sobel  
Second: Jermaine Pharms

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

11. **2020-08-13-19** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the expenditure of \$116,499.60 to Staples Technology Solutions for 536 Chromebooks. Cost to be reimbursed by Digital Divide Funding and ESSER Funds.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel  
Second: Jermaine Pharms

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

12. **2020-08-13-20** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter in an agreement with Swivl in the amount of \$51,742 for 360 Cameras and Swivel Stands . Cost to be reimbursed by ESSER Funds.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel  
Second: Jermaine Pharms

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

13. **2020-08-13-21** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into a Lease Agreement with CIT for three copiers at UES. Lease is for 39 months. Total Cost - \$52,878 at \$1,355.85 per month.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Jermaine Pharmses

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

14. **2020-08-13-22** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Language Line Services, Inc for an annual cost of \$1,200 per year.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Jermaine Pharmses

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

15. **2020-08-13-23** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Zoom Video Communications for virtual conferencing software. Annual Cost - \$7,500. Cost to be reimbursed by ESSER Funds.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Jermaine Pharmses

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

16. **2020-08-13-24** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authories the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with A1 Wiring Solutions LLC for hard wiring the existing alarm system and addition wiring due to renovation of school lobby. Cost \$4,475.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Jermaine Pharmses

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent
Monica Zaslower	X		
Jermaine Pharmses	X		
Tom Gallagher			X



Lonnie Sobel	X		
Thomas Ogorzalek	X		

17. **2020-08-13-25** Resolved, THE EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$4,842.91 to Duanne Moeller for the purchase of front doors (\$3,900) and other building supplies for the main lobby renovtion. Doors were originally quoted at \$11,000.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

18. **2020-08-13-26** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into agreement with Don Dowling Plumbing to install toilettes, wate lines and wate fountains at UES. Cost \$11,424.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

19. **2020-08-13-27** Resolved, The EA Bord of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into agreement with Akaveil for the installation of cabling and phone and data connections for new front office, main office and isolation room. Cost \$5,752.62

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

20. **2020-08-13-28** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the expenditure in the amount of \$4,300 to the following individuals for the construcion of renovating the main lobby and main offive:

Jose. P Dubon	\$1,050
William Bransky	\$1,150
Luis Diaz	\$ 750
Gunthrope Deon	\$1,350
Samuel Donato	\$ 128

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Jermaine Pharms

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

21. **2020-08-13-29** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the Bridging the Digital Divide Grant to transition from in-person instruction to learning remote/virtually. Amount of grant - \$116,527.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Jermaine Pharms

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

22. **2020-08-13-30** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Chelsea Construction for renovation of Teacher Lounge, repairs all bathrooms abb a drop ceiling and scarping and painting all bathrooms below drop ceilings. Cost \$18,900.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Jermaine Pharms

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

23. **2020-08-13-31** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the expenditure in the amount of \$2,500 to reimburse Richard Raschdorf, School Businesss Administrator, for the purchase of face masks with cloth drape. Company only accepted credit cards.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel  
Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

Adjournment  
Submitted By: Richard Raschdorf