

**Empowerment Academy Charter School
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 12, 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 October 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek

Second: Thomas Gallagher

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

E. HIB

1. **20-112-12-01** Resolved, The Board of Trustees approves of the SY20 HIB Statement of Assurances.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

2. **20-11-12-02** Resolved, The Board of Trustees approves of the SY20 Online Self Assessment

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharmses

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

F. Evaluation Instruments

1. **20-11-12-03** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the Evaluation Instrument for Lead Teachers.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Thomas Gallagher

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

G. COVID-19 Related Issues

1. **20-11-12-04** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves only for the month of November, 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 December if “Social Distancing “due to Corvid-19 is still in place.

Motion: Tom Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharmses

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

2. **20-11-12-05** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of closing the school for In-Person Instruction until January 15, 2021.

Motion: Monica Zaslower

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

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

H. Human Resources

1. **20-11-12-06** 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
Michael Lorca	Director of Operations	\$85,000	\$0
Katherine Molinari	Teacher Assistant	\$31,000	\$450
Adam Shuzman	Staff Substitute Teacher	\$30,000	\$450
Dwayne Waiters	Head Custodian - Les	\$50,000	\$0
Elizabeth London	Teacher Assistant/Maternity Leave Replacement	\$30,000/\$56,500	\$450

Motion: Monica Zaslower

Second: Thomas Gallagher

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

2. **20-11-12-07** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the resignation/Terminations of the following employee:

Employee	Position	Resignation/Termination
Nathalia Mejia	One to One Aid	Resignation
Michael Russell	Director of Operations	Termination

Motion: Monica Zaslower

Second: Thomas Gallagher

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

3. **20-11-12-08** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the hiring of Michael Lorca as Director of Operations at an annual of salary of \$85,000.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Thomas Gallagher

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

I. Business

1. **20-11-12-09** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount of \$368,200.59 for the period 11/2/20 – 12/1/20.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharnes

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

2. **20-11-12-10** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of December 15, 2020 for \$353,100 and for December 31, 2020 for \$353,100. Employer Taxes are included in each payroll.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharnes

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

3. **20-11-12-11** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the Board Secretary Report for November, 2020 and its submission to the NJ DOE.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharnes

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

4. **20-11-12-12** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the Lease Revision with Friends of Quality Education to Section 2 Subsection a, as follows:

- a. Landlord shall make commercially reasonable effort to negotiate and enter into agreements (i) with Our Lady of Victories Church for the purchase of a portion of the property located at 240-242 Ege Avenue, Block 20901 Lot 59, and the entirety of 239 Ege Avenue, Block 20902 Lot 32, in the City of Jersey City, (the "Ege Property"); (ii) with Steven Vasiliades for the purchase of property located at Ins. Virginia Avenue, Block 20901 Lot 58 in the City of Jersey City (the "Virginia Property"); and (iii) with the City of Jersey City, the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency, and the Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority for the purchase of a portion of the properties located at 20 and 65 Commercial

Street, Jersey City ("Canal Crossing Property," and together with the Ege Property and Virginia Property, the "Properties"), with each such agreement being subject to such contingencies for environmental and title matters, financing, governmental approvals, subdivision (as to the School Property) and other matters as shall be reasonably necessary for the development of the Properties as described herein and reasonably acceptable to Tenant.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

5. **20-11-12-13** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of extending the Due Diligence Option with Steven Vasiliades for the purchase of Ins. Virginia, Block 20901 Lot 32 in the amount of \$10,000 payable 11/20/20.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

6. **20-11-12-14** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure for Holiday Gifts for staff in lieu of a Holiday Party up to an amount of \$3,000.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

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