

**Empowerment Academy Charter School
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 10, 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 November 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

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

E. COVID-19 Related Issues

1. **20-11-12-01** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves only for the month of December, 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 January 2021 if “Social Distancing “due to Corvid-19 is still in place.

Motion: Tom Ogorzalek

Second: Lonnie Sobel

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

F. Evaluation Instructions

1. **2020-12-10-02** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following revised Staff Evaluations for SY21:

- a. Reading Specialists
- b. School Counselor
- c. Instructional Support Counselor
- d. ESL Professional
- e. Social Worker
- f. SPED Support Teacher
- g. School Nurse
- h. ESL Teacher
- i. Paraprofessional
- j. Specials Teachers

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Monica Zaslower

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

G. Gifted & Talented Program

1. **2020-12-10-03** The EA Board of Trustees approves of the Proposed Changes to the Gifted & Talented Program for SY21 and SY22.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Lonnie Sobel

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

H. Human Resources

1. **20-12-10-04** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following new hires for SY21 effective November 30, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Employee	Position	Salary	Attendance Bonus	Effective Date
La'Tiah Morris	Teacher Assistant	\$28,000	450.00	11/30/20
Salwa Saadeh	ESL 6 th Grade	\$60,000	\$750	01/04/21

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		

2. **20-12-10-05** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Resignations/Terminations of the following employee:

Employee	Position	Status	Effective Date
Rosemary Garganta	5 th Grade Teacher	Resignation	01/15/2021
Jessica Markland	6 th Grade Teacher	Resignation	02/02/2021
Thomas Brown	Head Custodian	Termination	01/09/2021
Emily Corsie	2 nd Grade Teacher	Resignation	02/08/2021

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. **20-12-10-06** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount of \$283,495.17 for the period 12/2/20 – 01/1/21.

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		

2. **20-12-10-07** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of December 15, 2020 for \$367,800 and for December 31, 2020 for \$367,800. Employer Taxes are included in each payroll.

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		

3. **20-12-10-08** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the Board Secretary Report for November, 2020 and its submission to the NJ DOE.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Thomas Gallagher

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

4. **20-12-10-09** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with CMS4Schools for Website Design Services and Annual Hosting Fee. 1st year costs \$3,515.50.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Thomas Gallagher

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

5. **20-12-10-10** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with TCE Company for the purchase of 20 additional telephones for UES. Cost \$3,080.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Thomas Gallagher

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

6. **20-12-10-11** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with CDW- Government to purchase Lenovo Thinkpad, Monitor and Docking Station for Director of to run all systems and programs at LES & UES. Cost - \$3,078.21

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Thomas Gallagher

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

7. **20-12-10-12** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the expenditure to furnish and install surface mounted light fixtures at UES. Purchase and installation of materials is to be completed by Concepcion Electric LLC in the amount of \$3,440.30.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Thomas Gallagher

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

8. **20-12-10-13** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the expenditure to purchase from Dell EMC two replacement servers. Existing servers warranties expired in 2018 and are not supported by Dell any longer nor are replacement parts readily available. Cost - \$13,451.02

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Thomas Gallagher

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

9. **20-12-10-14** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the expenditure to purchase from Dell EMC a single use server to be used as conduit for software to print to our copy machines. We presently use Google Cloud Print but effective January 1, 2021 Google Cloud Print will be terminated leaving employees without printing capabilities. Cost - \$1,726.41

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Thomas Gallagher

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

10. **20-12-10-15** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves sending a letter advising the NJ Division of Pension and Benefits that due to the financial cost, Empowerment Academy will not offer the NJ Educator Health Plan to its employees effective January 1, 2021 and plan expand our health care coverage to include this plan.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Lonnie Sobel

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