

**Empowerment Academy Charter School
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 11, 2021 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 February 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

- E. School Reopening Plan

1. 21-03-11-01 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees agrees to follow Carly Gigl, Head Dean, timeline to re-open school for in person instruction on May 3, 2021.

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek

Second: Lonnie Sobel

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

F. School Facilities

1. 21-03-11-02 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to exercise Purchase Option for property on Virginia Avenue by Friends of Quality Education.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher
Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

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

G. COVID-19 Related Issues

1. 21-03-11-03 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves only for the month of March 2021 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 April if "Social Distancing "due to Covid-19 is still in place.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher
Second: Monica Zaslower

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

H. Policies/Handbooks

1. 21-03-11-04 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the SY22 Student-Parent Athletic Handbook.

Motion: Monica Zaslower
Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

I. Human Resources

1. 21-03-11-05 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following revisions to SY21 contracts through June 30, 2021:

Employee	Position	Salary/Stipend	Reason	Effective Date
Nicole Mestre	Teacher Assistant	\$5,000	Addtl Instruct Duties	3/15/2021
Robert Seetaram	Director of Operations	\$70,000 (Pro-Rated)	Promotion	3/15/2021
Katherine Molinari	5 th Grade ICT SPED	\$56,500	Replacement	3/15/21

Motion: Monica Zaslower

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

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

2. 21-03-11-06 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees accepts the termination of the following employee:

Employee	Position	Effective Date
Patrick Aiello	Permanent Sub	2/19/2021

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

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

J. Business

1. 21-03-11-07 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount of \$306,105.31 for the period 03/2/21 – 4/1/21

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X		
Jermaine Pharms	X		
Tom Gallagher	X		

Lonnie Sobel	X		
Thomas Ogorzalek	X		

2. 21-03-11-08 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of March 15, 2021 for \$337,000 and for March 31, 2021 for \$337,000. Employer Taxes are included in each payroll.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

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

3. 21-03-11-09 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the Board Secretary Secretary Report for February, 2021 and its submission to the NJDOE.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

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

4. 21-03-11-10 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Control Point Associates for Boundary, Topographical and Utility Survey of the Canal Crossing parcel for construction of EACS school facilities. Cost of Survey - \$24,500

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

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

5. 21-03-11-11 Resolved; The EA Board of Trustees approves submitting to the NJ Charter School Association an application for the Charter School Program Grant. NJCSA was awarded \$63.2m from the U.S. Dept of Education to catalyze growth of high-quality charter schools across NJ. The amount of the awarded grant will not exceed \$1.5m disbursed over a two-year period.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher
Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

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

6. 21-03-11-12 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees for submitting an application to New Schools Venture Fund Grant. New Schools Venture Funds is offering a funding opportunity to early-stage innovators to create literacy solutions to empower Black, Latino and Low-Income Students. Funding will be in grants ranging from \$150,000 - \$250,000.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher
Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

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

7. 21-03-11-13 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of an enhanced Summer School Program to assist our students who are suffering to meet their benchmarks for their current grade levels due to the pandemic. Cost of Program \$150,000 for Stipends and \$20,000 for busing. Costs may be reimbursable by Every Student Education Act (ESEA).

Motion: Thomas Gallagher
Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

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

8. 21-03-11-14 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of leasing from Aries Building Systems LLC two modular classrooms. Total cost - \$108,788 which includes a \$40,292 deliver and install cost and \$15,000 tear down costs. Remaining cost of \$53,496 is over a three-year period

Motion: Thomas Gallagher
Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X		
Jermaine Pharnes	X		
Tom Gallagher	X		

Lonnie Sobel	X		
Thomas Ogorzalek	X		

9. 21-03-11- 15 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizing the School Business Administrator to enter into a membership agreement with Houston-Gavelston Area Council. HGAC is an interlocal contractor for Cooperative Purchasing. Membership is free.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

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

10. 21-03-11-16 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the SY22 Budget and its submission to the NJDOE.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

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

11. 21-03-11-17 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees accepts the ESSER II Allocation Grant under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Act. EACS is to receive \$1,265,795 broken down as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| a. ESSER II Allocation | \$1,147,175 |
| b. Learning Acceleration | \$ 73,620 |
| c. Mental Health Support | \$ 45,000 |

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

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

12. 21-03-11-18 Resolved; The Board of Trustees approves of the participation of Empowerment Academy in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI). Projected Revenue Reimbursement - \$19,037

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

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

J. Prospective Board Members

1. 21-03-11-19 The EA Board of Trustees approves to elect the following new board members:
 - a. Dami Kabiawu
 - b. Sapreet Saluja

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Monica Zaslower

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

Adjournment