

**Empowerment Academy Charter School  
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting  
Thursday, April 9, 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 March 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes

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		

E. COVID-19 Related Issues

1. **20-04-09-01** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves only for the month of April, 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 May if “Social Distancing “due to Corvid-19 is still in place.

Motion: Monica Zaslower

Second: Lonnie Sobel

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

2. **20-04-09-02** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to apply for a loan under the Paycheck Protection Plan as part of the Stimulus Package passed by Congress. The Paycheck Protection Program is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll. The SBA will forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities. Amount of loan is based on the monthly average salary for the past year x2.5. Loan amount is approximately \$899,368.

Motion: Monica Zaslower

Second: Lonnie Sobel

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

3. **20-04-09-03** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of an additional \$7,000 for delivering meals to Students who qualify as Free and Reduced while school is closed for Spring Break.

Motion: Monica Zaslower

Second: Lonnie Sobel

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

F. School Facilities

1. **20-04-09-04** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves Empowerment Academy Charter School entering into the attached Lease Agreement with Friends of Quality Education, Inc (FQE), for under which FQE will perform due diligence and pre-development work relating to the construction of school facilities for Empowerment Academy and, in exchange, Empowerment Academy agrees to enter into a lease for the facilities ultimately developed. The lease is to be in the form of the attached Form of Lease, with final terms to be approved by Empowerment Academy.

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. Human Resources

1. **20-04-09-05** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following stipends for SY21 Summer School effective July 6, 2020 through August 7, 2020.

Employee	Position	Stipend
Lauren Cohen	SPED Coordinator	\$5,250
Lauren Cohen	SPED K/1 Teacher	\$4,250
Lindsay McDanel	Kinder/Grade 1 Level Teacher	\$4,250
Marcus Conde	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Lead Teacher	\$4,250
Emily Corsie	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Lead Teacher	\$4,250
Michelle Fabio	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Lead Teacher	\$4,250
Rosemary Garganta	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lead Teacher	\$4,250
Anne Kassalow	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lead Teacher	\$4,250
Julie Corsie	SPED 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3rd Grade Teacher	\$4,250
Molly Frawley	SPED 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher	\$4,250
Michelle Fabio	K-5 Coordinator Gen Ed	\$5,250
Christina Reichart	TA for Grades Kinder/Grade 1	\$2,125
Myronda Clinton	TA for Grades 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	\$2,125
Tracy Barragan	TA for Grades 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$2,125
Henrietta Johnson	School Nurse	\$5,250

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogarzalek

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

2. **20-04-09-06** 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
Molly Frawley	ELA DCI	\$77,000
Desiree Robin	Math DCI	\$88,000

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogarzalek

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

H. Opposition to Delay Transmission of Property Tax Revenue to School Districts.

1. **20-04-09-07** Resolved the Empowerment Academy Charter School Board of Education urges the State Senate and the Governor to oppose A-3902; and be it further

Resolved, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Phil Murphy, State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin; and the school's Legislative District representatives in the State Senate and General Assembly; and be it further

Resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

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

I. Business

1. **20-04-09-08** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount of \$225,215.27 for the period 4/2/20 – 5/1/20.

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		

2. **20-04-09-09** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of April 15, 2020 and April 30, 2020 for \$250,000 respectively. Employer Taxes are included in each payroll.

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		

3. **20-04-09-10** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Board Secretary Report for March 2020 and its submission to the NJ DOE.

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		

4. **20-04-09-11** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to open a an Interest Bearing Money Market Account with SB One Bank. EA presently has a checking account with a Line of Credit. This will enable EA to gain interest on any unused funds.

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		

5. **20-04-09-12** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator into enter in an agreement with Intrado Interactive Services d/b/a/SchoolMessenger to provide EA with online communication applicatio to parents and staff from all different platforms. 1<sup>st</sup> year cost \$2,280 and Years 2-4 cost is \$1.80 per student.

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		

6. **20-04-09-13** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustee approves the expenditure of \$4,200 to Friends of Quality Education for reimbursement of Phase I Environemnt Study of the land being acquired for the Ege Avenue Buildings

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Lonnie Sobel

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

7. **20-04-09-14** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves expenditure of \$10,000 to Friends of Quality Education for the Deposit on property known as INS Virginia Avenue, Jersey City, NJ.

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		

8. **20-04-09-15** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of of \$1,055.06 for YETI Mugs for Teacher Appreciation Week.

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		

9. **20-04-09-16** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to prepare a Public Notice to advertise for a Food Service Management Company. Our present FSMC contract is expiring June 30, 2020 and are out of renewals for the next school year.

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