

**Empowerment Academy Charter School
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 14, 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

D. Board Member	Present	Absent
Monica Zaslower	X	
Jermaine Pharmes	X	
Tom Gallagher		X
Lonnie Sobel	X	
Thomas Ogorzalek	X	

D. Approval of April 09, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Monica Zaslower

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

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. **2020-05-14-01** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves only for the month of May, 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 June if “Social Distancing “due to Corvid-19 is still in place.

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

2. **2020-05-14-02** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into a revised agreement with Sensory Kids for SY20. Due to Covid-19, the agreement will not reflect an hourly charge of \$85 per hour instead of the month rate of \$12,000. Sensory Kids will be offering services via distance learning and telehealth methods per student's I.E.P and 504 Accommodation Plan.

Motion: Thomas Ogarzalek

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

3. **2020-05-14-03** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees ratifies the submission of the loan application for the Payroll Protection Plan and accepts the funds received in the amount of \$899,238. Funds to be used in accordance with the terms of the loan application: Repayment in 36 months @1% Interest. Payments deferred for six months. If used to retain employees on payroll for eight weeks from funding date as follows; 75% Payroll 25% Rent & Utilities loan can be forgiven.

Motion: Thomas Ogarzalek

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

4. **2020-05-14-04** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the Emergency Operations Plan Plan for Virtual Learning and its submission to the NJDOE.

Motion: Thomas Ogarzalek

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

F. Facilities

1. **2020-05-14-05** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the Revised Lease Agreement between Empowerment Academy Charter School and Friends of Quality

Education, revised as requested by Board Members at the April 9, 2020 Board Meeting.

Motion: Jermaine Pharmes

Second: Thomas Ogarzalek

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

G. Human Resources

1. **2020-05-14-06** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following stipends for SY21 September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Employee	Position	Stipend
Josh Firestone	Athletic Director	\$6,000

Motion: Thomas Ogarzalek

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

2. **2020-05-14-07** 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	Attendance Bonus
Kadeedra Browne	Social Worker – UES	\$59,000	\$750
Tim Cullen	Physcial Ed Teacher - LES	\$64,000	\$750
Drennan Hayden	Art Teacher - UES	\$59,500	\$750
John DeVries	Music Teacher – UES	\$57,000	\$750
Samantha Finn	Elementary Teacher	\$65,000	\$750
Bridget Peters	ELA Teacher – UES	\$62,500	\$750
Sreeja Leju	Teacher Assistant	\$29,000	\$450

Motion: Thomas Ogarzalek

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

Thomas Ogorzalek	X		
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3. **2020-05-14-08** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the renewal of contracts for those current certificated staff members listed in the attached Compensation Matrix, with these faculty members earning the base salary and Summer Institute stipends indicated, for the SY21 School Year.

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek

Second: Jermaine Pharnes

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

H. Business

1. **2020-05-14-09** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount of \$252,621.70 for the period 5/2/20 – 6/1/20.

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek

Second: Jermaine Pharnes

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

2. **2020-0514-10** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of May 15, 2020 and May 31, 2020 for \$250,000 respectively. Employer Taxes are included in each payroll.

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek

Second: Jermaine Pharnes

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

3. **2020-05-14-11** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Board Secretary Report for April 2020 and its submission to the NJ DOE.

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek

Second: Jermaine Pharms

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

4. **2020-05-14-12** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with PaySchools for the Free or Reduced Meal Application Tracking Software. This will enable parents to fill out the free or reduced application online and instant qualification. Cost - \$2,995.00.

Motion: Thomas Ogarzalek

Second: Jermaine Pharms

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

5. **2020-05-14-13** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Public Consulting Group for software to write IEPs for Spech Therapy for SY21. Annual Cost - \$2,787

Motion: Thomas Ogarzalek

Second: Jermaine Pharms

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

6. **2020-05-14-14** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Grace Works Jersey City, Inc for the sale/leaseback of textbooks in the amount of \$118,855.83. Lease is for 36 months at \$3,780 per month.

Motion: Thomas Ogarzalek

Second: Jermaine Pharms

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

7. **2020-05-14-15** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees auhtorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Charter Technologies Services for Internet Services for SY2020 – 2023. Cost of internet services per year is \$10,608 after ERate Credits are applied.

Motion: Thomas Ogarzalek
Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

8. **2020-05-14-16** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Akaveil for Internal Connections and Managed Internal Broadband Services. Cost of contract net of Erate Credit: \$17,335.

Motion: Thomas Ogarzalek
Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

9. **2020-05-14-17** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the expenditure in the amount of \$33,692.83 to Friends of Beloved Community Charter School for Pre-Development Costs to be reimbursed. Checks are presently made out to “Friends of Beloved” due to the IRS still has approved of name change to Friends of Quality Education.

Motion: Thomas Ogarzalek
Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

10. **2020-05-14-18** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with School Partners. LLC to provide specialized educational support services. Annual Cost - \$162,000.

Motion: Thomas Ogarzalek
Second: Jermaine Pharmes

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent
Monica Zaslower	X		

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

11. **2020-05-14-19** Rewsolved The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Johnston Lae Firm fior SY21. No increase in rates from SY20.

Motion: Thomas Ogarzalek

Second: Jermaine Pharms

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

Adjournment

Submitted By: Richard Raschdorf