

**Empowerment Academy Charter School
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 11, 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 Pharnes	X	
Tom Gallagher	X	
Lonnie Sobel	X	
Thomas Ogorzalek	X	

D. Approval of June 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek

Second: Jermaine Pharnes

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

E. School Facilities

1. **2020-06-11-01** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the Final Draft on the 211 Sherman Avenue Lease and authorizes the President of the Board of Trustees to enter into said document with St Paul of the Cross Church and the Archdiocese of Newark.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Monica Zaslower

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

Lonnie Sobel	X	
Thomas Ogorzalek	X	

F. Election of Board Members & Officers

1. **2020-06-11-02** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees re-elects the following Board of Trustees members to a 2 year term beginning July 1, 2020 and expiring on June 30, 2022:

- Monica Zaslower
- Thomas Gallagher
- Jermaine Pharmes

Motion: Thomas Ogarzalek

Second: Lonnie Sobel

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

2. **2020-06-11-03** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees re-elects the following Board of Trustees officers for SY21:

- Monica Zaslower - President
- Jermaine Pharmes – Vice President
- Lonnie Sobel – Treasurer

Motion: Thomas Ogarzalek

Second: Thomas Gallagher

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

G. COVID-19 Related Issues

1. **2020-06-11-04** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves only for the month of July, 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 July if “Social Distancing “due to Corvid-19 is still in place.

Motion: Thomas Ogarzalek

Second: Thomas Gallagher

Board Member	Yea	Nay
Monica Zaslower	X	

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

2. **2020-06-11-05** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following stipends to be paid to employees who performed their responsibilities on site during the Shelter-in-Place from March 2020 through June 2020.

Employee	Position	Stipend
Nakaya Bligen McCord	Security	\$1,500
Kendal James	Security/Custodial	\$1,500
George Montanez	Maintenance	\$1,500
Isabel Garced	Custodial	\$1,500
Robert Seetaram	Registrar	\$2,000
Sandra Francis	Office Manager	\$2,000
Chavelle Porter	Assistant – Business Office	\$2,200

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

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

3. **2020-06-11-06** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following resignations:

Employee	Position
Maria Dillis	Reading Specialist
Selina Duchense	Teacher Assistant
Sophonie Danda Francois	Teacher Assistant
Lisa Brouckaert	Grade Level Lead Teacher
Amanda Ianucilli	Classroom Lead Teacher
Julissa Gonzalez	ESL Teacher
Deidre McCarthy	Classroom Lead Teacher

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

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

H. Family Handbook

1. **2020-06-11-07** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of amending the Family Handbook to add the following statement:

At Empowerment, communication with parents is extremely important to us. For the duration of your scholar's enrollment at Empowerment Academy Charter School, you will be automatically opted-in to receive calls, text messages, and email from our third party messaging service, School Messenger. We will use this district-wide to communicate effectively and efficiently with all stakeholders. You may opt-out of text messages at any time by requesting to be removed. Please do so by contacting the main office. Standard text messaging fees may apply.

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Thomas Ogarzalek

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

I. Human Resources

1. **2020-06-11-08** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following stipends for SY21 September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Employee	Position	Stipend
Samantha Finn	Kindergarten Grade Level Lead	\$4,000
Christina Chatman	First Grade Level Lead	\$4,000
Mat Kaminski	Second Grade level Lead	\$4,000
Erin Nolan	Third Grade Level Lead	\$4,000
Kaity McNeill	Fourth Grade Level Lead	\$4,000
Anne Kassalow	Fifth Grade Level Lead	\$4,000
Jessika Markland	Sixth Grade Level Lead	\$4,000
Tracy Barragan	Special Team Leader	\$2,000
Sabrina Cruz	Science/Social Studies Chair	\$2,500
Rosemary Garganta	Writing Dept Chair	\$2,500
Kaity McNeill	Math Dept Chair	\$4,000
Anne Kassalow	ELA Dept Chair	\$4,000

Motion: Lonnie Sobel

Second: Thomas Ogarzalek

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

2. **2020-06-11-09** 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
Ashley Scimeca	Social Studies Teacher	\$58,500	\$750
Raquel Correia	Classroom Lead Teacher	\$58,000	\$750
Sajel Patel	Classroom Lead Teacher	\$63,000	\$750
Melissa Silvestri	Classroom Lead Teacher	\$56,000	\$750
Elizabeth London	Teacher Assistant	\$30,000	\$450
Chrisitna Grammenos	Classroom Lead Teacher	\$62,000	\$750
Michael Russell	Director of Operations	\$85,000	\$0
Shondell Davis	6 th Grade Math Teacher	\$64,500	\$750
Nicole Jacobsen Mesioh	5th Grade ICT SPED	\$60,500	\$750

Motion: Thomas Ogarzalek

Second: Lonnie Sobel

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

3. **2020-06-11-10** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following new hire for SY20 effective June 8, 2020 through June 30, 2020.

Michael Russell	Director of Operations	\$85,000	\$0
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Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogarzalek

Board Member	Yea	Nay
Monica Zaslower	X	
Jermaine Pharmes	X	

Tom Gallagher	X	
Lonnie Sobel	X	
Thomas Ogorzalek	X	

4. **2020-06-11-11** Resolved, Th EA Board of Trustees approves the renewal of contracts for those current operational staff members listed in the attached Compensation Matrix for the SY21 School Year.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogarzalek

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

5. **2020-06-11-12** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the payout of Attendance Bonus per employee SY20 contracts. Amount of payout is approximately \$25,500. Detail list will be provided at July 2020 Board meeting.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

J. Burglary

1. **2020-06-11-13** Resolved, The Board of Trustees approves of reimbursing Ilyssa Thomas for personal items stolen from a break in at the school on the night of May 10th in the amount of no more \$2,426.29 per attached list continent upon attorney review as to amount of reimbursement.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Thomas Ogarzalek

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

K. Business

1. **2020-06-11-14** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount of \$348,915.09 for the period 6/2/20 – 6/30/20.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

2. **2020-06-11-15** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount of \$104,390.41 for 7/1/20.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

3. **2020-06-11-16** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of June 15, 2020 and June 30, 2020 for \$250,000 respectively. Employer Taxes are included in each payroll.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

4. **2020-06-11-17** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Board Secretary Report for May 2020 and its submission to the NJ DOE.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

Thomas Ogorzalek	X	
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5. **2020-06-11-18** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with TCE Communications for the Purchase and Monitoring of the Allworx Phone System for 211 Sherman Avenue. One Time equipment cost of phone system - \$9,409. Annual monitoring services cost - \$4,915.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharnes

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

6. **2020-06-11-19** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the Schedule of Board Meetings for 2020 – 2021 School Year.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharnes

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

7. **2020-06-11-20** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the Payroll Schedule for 2020 – 2021 School Year.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharnes

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

8. **2020-06-11-21** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the School Calendar for SY21.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharnes

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

Lonnie Sobel	X	
Thomas Ogorzalek	X	

9. **2020-06-11-22** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the payment of \$11,602.88 to OnCourse System for Education for Student Information System and Grade Book for SY21.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

10. **2020-06-11-23** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Renaissance for Accelerated Reader 360 Subscription Renewal in the amount of \$4,292.50 for SY21.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

11. **2020-06-11-24** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Renaissance for Star 360, a student assessment program, in the amount of \$13,380 for SY21.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

12. **2020-06-11-25** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the expenditure to CDK Accounting System used by the Business Office for SY21. Annual Cost \$4,400.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

13. **2020-06-11-26** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the expenditure to WB Mason for 4th Grade Student Furniture. Cost \$16,354.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharnes

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

14. **2020-06-11-27** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure to WB Mason for Classroom Furniture at 211 Sherman Ave. Cost \$32,649.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharnes

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

15. **2020-06-11-28** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Bayonne Exterminating for Pest Control Services. Annual Cost - \$2,437.44

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharnes

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

16. **2020-06-11-29** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Maschios Food Services, Inc contracting them as EACS's Food Service Management Company (FSMC) for SY21. The Management Fee for SY21 is \$23,500 or \$2,50 per month and a Profit Return of \$35,001.44 with a Guaranteed Break Even.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharnes

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

17. **2020-06-11-30** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter in an agreement with Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) for Assessment Software for 6th grade. Annual Cost – \$2,687.50

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharnes

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

18. **2020-06-11-31** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Kami Notable Inc for a digital classroom app to transform any document into an interactive learning experience. Cost - \$2,362.50

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharnes

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

19. **2020-06-11-32** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the following payments to M.E.T.S. Charter School for:

June Access and Staffing	\$25,000
School Furniture & Equip	\$30,000

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharnes

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

Lonnie Sobel	X	
Thomas Ogorzalek	X	

20. **2020-06-11-33** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the President of EACS Board of Trustees to enter into a Shared Services Agreement with Beloved Community Charter School for providing Transportation Services. Annual Cost - \$281,400

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

21. **2020-06-11-34** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the President of EACS Board of Trustees to enter into a Shared Services Agreement with Beloved Community Charter School for provided School Business Administration Services. Annual Cost - \$30,000

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

22. **2020-06-11-35** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees accepts from the U.S. Treasury \$233,638 from the Education Stabilization Fund through the CARES Act for the Elementary and Secondary Education Agencies.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharmes

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

23. **2020-06-11-36** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves and accepts the following SY21 ESEA and IDEA Federal Grants:

Grant	Amount
Title I	\$360,157

Title I Reallocated	\$20,055
Title II	\$43,491
Title III	\$24,012
Title III Immigrant	\$4,568
Title IV	\$21,459
IDEA - Basic	\$150,617
IDEA - PreSchool	\$2,679

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Jermaine Pharms

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

Adjournment

Submitted By: Richard Raschdorf