

**Empowerment Academy Charter School  
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting  
Thursday, October 14, 2021 7:30 pm  
240 Ege Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ 07304**

**Minutes**

A. Call to Order!

B. Welcome

C. Roll Call

Board Member	Present	Absent
Monica Zaslower	X	
Jermaine Pharmses	X	
Tom Gallagher	X	
Lonnie Sobel	X	
Thomas Ogorzalek	X	
Dami Kabiawu	X	
Sapreet Saluja	X	

D. Approval of September 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek

Second: Dami Kabiawu

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharmses, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja

No: None

E. Facilities Review

1. **2021-10-14-01** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of submitting to the Commission of Education a letter requesting that Empowerment Academy Charter School's Charter be revised to reflect the addition to operate at 20 and 65 Commercial Street, Jersey City and also to approve a request by Beloved Community School an amendment to their Charter to also operate at 20 and 65 Commercial Street in Jersey City.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Monica Zaslower

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharmses, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja

No: None

F. Human Resources

1. 2021-10-14-02 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following new hires for SY22 effective October 11, 2021 through June 30, 2022:

Employee	Position	Salary	Attendance Bonus	Start Date
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Sarah Stern	One to One Aide - LES	\$29,000	\$450	09/20/21
Michael Marotta	PE Teacher - LES	\$67,000	\$750	10/04/21
Hugh Gallagher	Per Diem Substitute	\$140/Day	\$0	10/15/21
Dhanwantie Chuli	Social Worker - UES	\$68,000	\$750	10/18/21

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek  
Second: Jermaine Pharmes

Yes: M Zaslower, J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

2. **2021-10-14-03** Resolved, The Board of Trustees approves a revised contract for Carly Gigl, Coordinator of Faculty Hiring, increasing her salary from \$32,000 to \$40,000 annually and hours to be worked from 10 hours to 15 hours per week.

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek  
Second: Jermaine Pharmes

Yes: M Zaslower, J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

3. **2021-10-14-04** Resolved, The Board of Trustees approves of the appointment of Kendra Houser to Academy Dean – UES and will be compensated in the form of a \$7,000 stipend.

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek  
Second: Jermaine Pharmes

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

4. **2021-10-14-05** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following stipends to be paid to employees for bus duty at LES effective September 6, 2021, through June 30, 2021:

Employee	Amount
Brenda Tevis	\$187.50
Fernando Cordova	\$1,250
Lamar Tucker	\$1,250
Anthony Williams	\$1,250
Darlene Jimenez	\$1,250
Nicole Carcano	\$1,250
Ashley Bynum	\$1,250
Wagida Addelhalim	\$1,250
Richard DeCicco	\$187.50
Angela Phillips	\$187.50
Vanessa Snead	\$1,063.50

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek  
Second: Jermaine Pharmes

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

**5.2021-10-14-06** Resolved The EA Board of Trustees approves pf the following stipends to be paid to employees for the SY22 AfterCare Program effective October 18, 2021, through June 30,2021:

Employee	Position	Stipend
Angela Phillips	Coordinator	\$7,500
Richard DeCicco	Teacher	\$5,000
Brenda Tevis	Teacher	\$5,000

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek  
Second: Jermaine Pharmes

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

6. **2021-10-14-07** Resolved The EA Board of Trustees approves pf the following stipends to be paid to employees for the SY22 MorningCare Program effective October 18, 2021, through June 30,2021:

Employee	Position	Stipend
Gina Miseo Ibarra	Lead Teacher	\$3,600
Sreeja Leju	Teacher Assistant	\$1,920

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek  
Second: Jermaine Pharmes

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

7. **2021-10-14-08** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following stipends to be paid to employees for SY22:

Employee	Position	Stipend
Edward Marten-Krasner	Social Studies Dept Head	\$2,250
Jack DeVries	Band Director	\$4,800

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek  
Second: Jermaine Pharmes

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

8. **2021-10-14-09** Resolved, the following Teacher Assistant Salaries will be reimbursed by ESEA – Title I effective 9/1/21 – 6/30/22

Employee	Position	Salary
Alexis Haddock	TA- 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	\$38,500
Linda Istaita	TA – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	\$31,000
Darlene Jimenez	TA – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	\$31,500
Edward Martins-Krasner	TA – UES/MS	\$32,000

Micaela Rispoli	TA – 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$32,000
Sarah Stern	TA – UES	\$29,500
Anthony Williams	TA – 1 <sup>st</sup>	\$36,050

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek  
Second: Jermaine Pharmes

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

9. **2021-10-14-10** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following Instructional Support Counselors be paid by ESEA Title I, effective 9/1/21

Employee	Amount
Catherine Hanley	\$54,500
Myronda Clinton	\$53,000
Mariella Diaz	\$50,500

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek  
Second: Jermaine Pharmes

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

10. **2021-10-14-11** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following employee's salary be paid by ESEA - Title III:

Employee	Amount
Micaal Florian	\$31,500

11. **2021-10-14-11** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees accepts the Resignation/Termination of the following employee:

Employee	Position	Status	Effective Date
Mark Mitchell	Custodian	Resignation	09/30/20
Kamilah Heartwell	Data Assessment	Resignation	10/08/21
Amanda Shaw	Social Worker	Resignation	11/10/21
Elizabeth Forina	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher	Resignation	11/08/21
Simi El-Ali	Teacher Assistant	Resignation	11/12/21
Michele McAvoy	RTI Reading - UES	Resignation	11/16/21
Caitlin Liardi	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher	Resignation	11/19/21
Kristin Liardi	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher	Resignation	11/08/21
MacKenzie Cahill	RTI Math	Resignation	11/19/21
Katherine Molinari	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher	Resignation	12/05/21

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek  
Second: Jermaine Pharmes

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharms, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

#### F. Business

1. **2021-10-14-12** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount of \$719,589.50 for the period 10/1/21 – 10/31/21.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher  
Second: Monica zaslower

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharms, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

2. **2021-10-14-13** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of October 15, 2021 for \$450,000 and for October 31, 2021 for \$450,000. Employer Taxes are included in each payroll.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher  
Second: Monica zaslower

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharms, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

3. **2021-10-14-14** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the expenditure of \$3,500 to Dalite Construction for the following:
  - a. Install new gate to restrict access to modular classrooms.
  - b. Erect privacy fence and double doors for waste bins.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher  
Second: Monica zaslower

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharms, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

4. **2021-10-14-15** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$3,375 to SWIVL for License Renewal for remote and inclass instruction.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher  
Second: Monica zaslower

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharms, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

5. **2014-10-14-16** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$4,059 to SWIVL for Bluetooth Links to replace cables. SWIVL Stands are limited to where they can be placed with cables.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher  
Second: Monica zaslower

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

6. **2021-10-14-17** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure to AKAVEIL Technologies for backing up school data to the cloud. Annual Cost - \$3,485.40

Motion: Thomas Gallagher  
Second: Monica zaslower

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

7. **2021-10-14-18** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with A1 Witring Solutions LLC to install a card reader on the UES rear exit door. Presently, the rear exit door is open during lunch period and is posing a security risk. Cost of Card Reader - \$2,115.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher  
Second: Monica zaslower

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

8. **2021-10-14-19** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees accepts and approves of the submission of ARP – IDEA Grant to the NJ DOE:

ARP IDEA - Basic	\$46,643
ARP IDEA - PreSchool	\$ 3,955

Motion: Thomas Gallagher  
Second: Monica zaslower

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

9. **2021-10-14-20** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following expenditures to enlist help in carrying Microsoft laptops into UES classrooms and enrolling these same laptops into Microsoft Intune System:

a. Harsha Horawalavithanage	\$650
b. Jimps Jerome	\$325
c. Aroja Hettigamage	\$375

Motion: Thomas Gallagher  
Second: Monica zaslower

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

10. **2021-10-14-21** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following expenditure to Whitesone Associates for additional geotechnical investigations on the Canal Crossings site. Cost - \$16,000.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher  
Second: Monica zaslower

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

11. **2021-10-14-22** Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$155,842.50 to SHI, Inc for 75 Samsung Chromebooks and 150 Microsoft Laptops. Approximate 50% of total cost of these units will be reimbursed under the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of funding through the Emergency Connectivity Fund, a sub grant of E-Rate Program.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher  
Second: Monica zaslower

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

12. **2021-10-14-23** Resolved, the EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$2,321.12 to SHI, Inc for two Lenovo ThinkPads for the Business Office. Approximate 50% of total cost of these units will be reimbursed under the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of funding through the Emergency Connectivity Fund, a sub grant of E-Rate Program

Motion: Thomas Gallagher  
Second: Monica zaslower

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

13. **2021-10-14-24** Resolved, the EA Board of Trustees approves of the Memorandum of Agreement with St Paul of the Cross Church that enables Empowerment Academy to purchase a kitchen and once we ever vacate the premises, the stove is to remain.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher  
Second: Monica zaslower

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

14. **2021-10-14-25** Resolved, the EA Board of Trustees authorizes the schpool Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with A1 Wiring Wiring Solutions to upgrade the Security System to include the additional modular classroom. Cost - \$6,745.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher  
Second: Monica zaslower

Yes: M. Zaslower, J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None

15. **2021-10-14-26** Resolved, the EA Board of Trustees approves of the Revised Personnel Shared Services Agreement with Beloved Community Charter School. Maximum Net Income to EACS - \$22,500.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher  
Second: Monica zaslower

Yes: M. Zaslowski, J. Pharmes, T. Gallagher, L. Sobel, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu, S. Saluja  
No: None