

**Empowerment Academy Charter School
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 8, 2021 7:30 pm
240 Ege Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07304**

Minutes

A. Welcome

B. Roll Call

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

C. Approval of June 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek

Second: Lonnie Sobel

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

D. COVID-19 Related Issues

1. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves only for the month of July 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 August if “Social Distancing “due to Covid-19 is still in place.

Motion: Jermaine Pharnes

Second: Lonnie Sobel

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

E. Human Resources

1. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following new hires for SY22 effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022:

Employee	Position	Salary	Attendance Bonus
Caitlyn Gobel	3 rd Grade Lead Teacher	\$61,000	\$750
Jessica Chartier	4 th Grade ICT Teacher	\$59,000	\$750
Ritu Sharma	One – One Aide	\$29,000	\$450
Dr Carlos Gonzalez	Academy Dean – Middle School	\$88,000	\$0
Raven Chan	Registrar	\$61,000	\$0

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		

2. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the SY22 Stipends for Summer School to be paid by ESSER II funds

Employee	Position	Stipend
Henrietta Johnson	School Nurse	\$5,250

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		

3. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees accepts the Resignation/Termination of the following employee:

Employee	Position	Status	Effective Date
Muneerah Kornegay	School Nurse	Resignation	8/16/21
Ashley Scimeca	Social Studies – Middle School	Resignation	6/30/21
Samantha Finn	Kindergarten Teacher	Resignation	8/22/21
Meghan Kelly	3 rd Grade Teacher	Resignation	8/16/21

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		

4. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of increasing the School Leadership Team salaries by \$3,000 for the purpose of retaining their employment due to the everchanging market conditions.

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		

J. Business

1. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount of \$384,864.82 for the period 7/2/21 – 8/01/21.

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. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of July 15 2021 for \$138,000 and for July 31, 2021 for \$138,000. 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. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the Board Secretary Secretary Report for June, 2021 and its submission to the NJDOE.

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. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Garber Consulting for ERATE Services for SY22. Annual Cost \$6,000.

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. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authroizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Sensory Kids for SY22 for Speech and Occupational Therapy at an annual cost of 130,000. Cost to be reimbursed by IDEA.

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. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the SY22 ESEA Garnt. Grant Funds received as follows:

Title I	\$493,321
Title IIA	\$ 52,524
Title III	\$ 22,743
Title III- Immigrant	\$ 6,999
Title IV	\$ 25,548

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		

7. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the ST22 IDEA Grant. Grant Funds received as followed:

Basic \$182,031

PreSchool \$ 3,204

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. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of using Title IIA Funds to offset the total of stipends paid to teachers for Summer Institute attendance. Amount of offset \$52,524.

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. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to submit to the NJ DOE the Year End Auditor Information.

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		

10. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the SY22 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Lonnie Sobel

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

11. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to purchase CyberSecurity Insurance for \$1,000,000 coverage. Annual Cost \$9,700.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Lonnie Sobel

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

12. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the expenditure to Concepcion Electric LLC to furnish and install LED Recessed Light & Exit/Emergency Fixtures for additional classrooms in basement at UES. Cost \$6,875

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Lonnie Sobel

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

13. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the expenditure to Nardini Brothers Electric to remove two 150 amp main breakers and install 2 12 circuit out panels with 200 amp main breakers for ne modular classrooms. Cost \$5,100

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Lonnie Sobel

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

14. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the expenditure to K Starr Flooring to sand, refinish and apply three coats of commercial finish to five Classrooms, Teacher Workroom, Main Office, Isolation Room and one Office. Cost \$9,400

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