

**Empowerment Academy Charter School  
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting  
Thursday, August 12, 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 Pharmes	X	
Tom Gallagher	X	
Lonnie Sobel	X	
Thomas Ogorzalek	X	
Dami Kabiawu	X	
Sapreet Sajula	X	

C. Approval of July 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Lonnie Sobel

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Monica Zaslower	X			
Jermaine Pharmes	X			
Tom Gallagher	X			
Lonnie Sobel	X			
Thomas Ogorzalek	X			
Dami Kabiawu	X			
Sapreet Sajula	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: Sapreet Sajula

Second: Thomas Gallager

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

Dami Kabiawu	X		
Sapreet Sajula	X		

#### E. Policies/Handbooks

1. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees reapproves for SY21-22 the school's Systems and Evaluation Instruments for Teachers and School Leader/Principal.

Motion: Sapreet Sajula

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

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

2. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves for SY22 the following Handbooks:
  - a. Family Handbook
  - b. Employee Handbook

Motion: Sapreet Sajula

Second: Thomas Ogorzalek

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

#### F. 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
Ruben Williams	Custodian	\$15.50/Hr	\$0
Jillian Lagattuta	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher	\$60,000	\$750
Jack Wilder	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher/Social Studies	\$60,000	\$750
Jennifer Tepper	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade ICT	\$63,000	\$750
Alexa Montas	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher	\$59,000	\$750
Edward Martins-Krasner	Teacher Assistant	\$32,000	\$450
Talibah Manson	School Nurse	\$65,000 (1)	\$750
Virginia Tinsley	School Nurse	\$68,000 (2)	\$750

Angela Philips	RTI – LES	\$59,000	\$750
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- (1) Salary increases by \$4,500 when Emergency Certification for School Nurse is awarded.  
(2) Salary increases by \$1,500 when Emergency Certification for School Nurse is awarded.

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek

Second: Thomas Gallagher

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

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

Employee	Position	Status	Effective Date
Christina Grammenos	Teacher	Resignation	09/15/2021
Christine O’Sullivan	SPED Teacher	Resignation	10/04/2021
Kellie Orcut	Teacher	Resignation	09/23/2021
Jeneen Brown-Williamson	School Nurse	Resignation	10/03/2021

Motion: Thomas Ogorzalek

Second: Thomas Gallagher

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

#### J. Business

1. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount of \$777,446.05 for the period 8/2/21 – 8/31/21.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Dami Kabiawu

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

Sapreet Sajula	X		
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2. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of August 15 2021 for \$138,000 and for August 31, 2021 for \$138,000. Employer Taxes are included in each payroll.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Dami Kabiawu

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

3. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the expenditure of \$2,700 to Veniero Lock & Safe Co for the installation of new knob locks and filler plates for 15 classrooms.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Dami Kabiawu

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

4. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the expenditure in the amount of \$48,935.55 to Apple for 130 iPads, Cases and 3 Yr AppleCare. Total cost of purchase will be reimbursed in total under the Emergency Connectivity Fund of the ERate Program.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Dami Kabiawu

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

5. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the expenditure in the amount of \$25,066 for Laptops from SHI, Inc to replace the units used by Teacher Assistants (not supported by Google) and for the additional new teachers. 50% of cost of the

purchase will be reimbursed in total under the Emergency Connectivity Fund of the ERATE Program.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Dami Kabiawu

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

6. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure in the amount of \$4,740 to LiveSchool, Inc for digital method for maintaining School Culture at LES.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Dami Kabiawu

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

7. Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the expenditure for Sophos EDR-MTR Anti Virus Software for 515 Microsoft Laptops from AKAVEIL Technologies in the amount of \$101,084.

Motion: Thomas Gallagher

Second: Dami Kabiawu

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

Adjournment