

EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 13, 2024, 7:30PM
240 Ege Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey 07304

MINUTES

A. Call to Order

B. Welcome

C. Roll Call

Present: M. Zaslower, L. Sobel, T. Gallagher, T. Ogorzalek, D. Kabiawu
Absent: None

Bret Schundler, Acting Head Dean
Angela Thomas, Director of Curriculum
Richard Raschdorf, School Business Administrator
Robert Seetaram, Director of Operations

D. Approval of May 9, 2024 Minutes

Motion: M. Zaslower Seconded: L. Sobel
Approved: L. Sobel, M. Zaslower, D. Kabiawu
No: None
Absent: None
Abstain: T. Gallagher, T. Ogorzalek

E. Board of Trustee Elections

1. **24-06-13-01 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees re-elects the following members to a two-year term ending June 30, 2026:

- a. Monica Zaslower
- b. Thomas Gallagher

Motion: L. Sobel Seconded: D. Kabiawu
Approved: L. Sobel, M. Zaslower, D. Kabiawu, T. Gallagher, T. Ogorzalek
No: None

2. **24-06-13-02 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees re-elect the following members as officers of the Board of Trustees ending June 30, 2025:

- a. Monica Zaslower - President
- b. Lonnie Sobel – Vice President
- c. Thomas Gallagher

Motion: T. Ogorzalek

Seconded: D. Kabiawu

Approved: L. Sobel, M. Zaslower, D. Kabiawu, T. Gallagher, T. Ogorzalek

No: None

F. Board of Trustees By-Laws

1. **245-06-13-03 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the revision to the By-Laws of the Board of Trustees by inserting in Article V Section 21 “Board members shall have undergone and passed a criminal background checks as mandated by N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1 before they are sworn in.

Motion: T. Gallagher

Seconded: M. Zaslower

Approved: L. Sobel, M. Zaslower, D. Kabiawu, T. Gallagher, T. Ogorzalek

No: None

G. Policy

1. **24-06-13-04 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.5 must submit every three years a plan describing the LEA’s language instruction education plan (LIEP) for multilingual learners and approves such a plan for the school years 2024 – 2027.

Motion: T. Gallagher

Seconded: T. Ogorzalek

Approved: L. Sobel, M. Zaslower, D. Kabiawu, T. Gallagher, T. Ogorzalek

No: None

H. Human Resources

Roll Call Vote 1 – 5

Motion: M. Zaslower

Seconded: L. Sobel

Approved: L. Sobel, M. Zaslower, D. Kabiawu, T. Gallagher, T. Ogorzalek

No: None

1. **24-06-13-05 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the SY25 New Hires, effective per Start Date, noted on Appendix A, Schedule 1.
2. **24-06-13-06 Resolved**, The EAA Board of Trustees approves of the SY25 Compensation Matrix for all returning and new employees per Schedule O.
3. **24-06-13-07 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the SY25 Staff Stipends, effective per Start Date, noted on Appendix A, Schedule 2.
4. **24-06-13-08 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the SY24 Staff Salaries to be charged to following Federal Grants Appendix A Schedule 3.

a. ESEA Title IA

b. ESEA Title IIA

c. ARP ESSER

- d. ARP ESSER - Evidence Based Summer Learning
- e. ARP ESSER - Homework Help
- 5. **24-06-13-09 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the following Resignations/Termination with the effective dates listed per Appendix A Schedule 4.

I. Business

Roll Call Vote 1 – 22

Motion: T. Gallagher Seconded: M. Zaslower
Approved: L. Sobel, M. Zaslower, D. Kabiawu, T. Gallagher, T. Ogorzalek
No: None

1. **24-06-13-10 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount \$629,495.15 for the period 6/02/24 – 6/30/24.
2. **24-06-13-11 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount \$163,452.82 for the period 7/01/24 - 7/05
3. **24-06-13-12 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of June 15, 2024 in the amount of \$770,000 and June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$770,000, respectively. Employer Taxes are included in each Payroll.
4. **24-06-13-13 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Board Secretary Report for April 2024 and May 2024
5. **24-06-13-14 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Treasurer of Monies Report for May 2024.
6. **24-06-13-15 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees pursuant to N.J.S.A. 5:34-2.1 to award contracts without competitive bidding for extraordinary unspecifiable services authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with School Partners LLC as an education consultant to help the Board of Trustees and administrative leadership of Empowerment Academy realize the board's goals. This agreement also includes School Partners LLC to fulfill the role as Acting Lead Person to assist in the statutory and regulatory responsibilities of a charter school Lead Person. The annual cost for Consulting Services is \$209,100 and Acting Lead Person is \$36,000.
7. **24-06-13-16 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the Student and Emergency Food Transportation Shared Services Agreement with Beloved Community Charter School for transportation of EA's student receiving instructional services and to provide emergency food distribution when emergent conditions make it necessary for schools to close in Jersey City. Cost of transportation for SY25 Summer School is \$30,000 and effective September 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, \$609,482.
8. **24-06-13-17 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:55-3 requirement that school districts are required to maximize their participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) program by recognizing as their reimbursement revenue no less than 90 percent of their SEMI projection provided by the NJDOE accepts the District's Budgeted Reimbursement Revenue Requirement of \$29,764.80.
9. **24-06-13-18 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Schedule for Board

Meeting dates for SY25.

10. **24-06-13-19 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payroll Schedule for SY25.
11. **24-06-13-20 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Maschio Food Services Inc for SY25 to provide Breakfast and Lunch to students at all campuses. The contract is without guarantee, and the Management Fee is \$27,494.50.
12. **24-06-13-21 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves an agreement with Johnston Law Firm for Legal Services effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Compensation for legal services is at a rate of \$285 per hour for principals, \$255 per hour for other attorneys and \$115 for paralegals.
13. **24-06-13-22 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$62,230 to Charter technology Solutions for Valcom Paging System at the Upper Elementary School under Omnia Partners Contract R200803.
14. **24-06-13-23 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the additional expenditure of \$18,999 to Open Systems Integrators Revision#1 for Voice Activated Fire Alarm System through NJ State Approved Cooperative Pricing System associated with Educational Services Commission of NJ #65MCESCCPS.
15. **24-06-13-24 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the subscription from Right Angle Solutions for student tracking on buses. Annual Cost - \$5,765
16. **24-06-13-25 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$14,487 to DeFreitas Pressure Washer to remove and replace 1,362 sq ft of concrete mix around front and side of High School.
17. **24-06-13-26 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$8,900 to New Jersey HVAC to install two 12,000 BTU Indoor Fujitsu ASU12RL2 heating and cooling heat pumps.
18. **24-06-13-27 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$33,000 to New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association for 2024 – 2025 membership dues.
19. **24-06-13-28 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$10,685 to Command Radio for the purchase and programming of 24 portable UHF radios.
20. **24-06-13-29 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Garber Consulting Group for E-Rate Services for SY25 at a cost of \$6,000.
21. **24-06-13-30 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of \$5,999.08 to Ackerson Drapery for the purchase and installation of fabric curtains for the stage at the

High School.

22. **24-06-13-31 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Revised CSP Grant Budget.

Roll Call Vote Item 23

Motion: T. Gallagher Seconded: M. Zaslower

Approved: L. Sobel, M. Zaslower, D. Kabiawu, T. Gallagher, T. Ogorzalek

No: None

23. **24-06-13-32 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of a Personnel Shared Services Agreement with Beloved Community Charter School for the exchange of Educational and Business Services for which one school will reimburse th other for such services.

Sincerely,

Richard Raschdorf

June 13, 2024