

EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 2024, 7:30PM

240 Ege Avenue

Jersey City, New Jersey 07304

MINUTES

A. Call to Order

B. Welcome

C. Roll Call

Present: M. Zaslower, T. Ogorzalek, L. Sobel

Absent: T. Gallagher, Dami Kabiawu

Also in Attendance:

Bret Schundler, Acting Head Dean

Angela Thomas, Director of Curriculum

Richard Raschdorf, School Business Administrator

Robert Seetaram, Director of Operations

D. Approval of March 14,2024 Minutes

Motion: L. Sobel

Seconded: M. Zaslower

Approved: L. Sobel, M. Zaslower

No: None

Absent: D. Kabiawu, T. Gallager

Abstain: T. Ogorzalek

E. Policies

Roll Call Vote: Items 1-3

Motion: L. Sobel Seconded: T. Ogorzalek

Approved: M. Zaslower, President, L. Sobel, Vice –President, T. Ogorzalek

No: None

Absent: T. Gallager, D. Kabiawu

1. 24-03-14-01 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the implementation of the

proposed Student Learning Bonus which would provide bonuses of varying magnitudes to Instruction Division leaders and staff when a grade level of students achieves a five-point increase in average scale score on an NJSLA ELA or Math assessment versus the average scale score the previous year of those specific scholars on an NJSLA ELA or Math assessment. Estimated Value of Bonuses each time a grade level of scholars achieves the targeted average five-point scale score gain: \$35,000.

2. **24-03-14-02 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the Director of Education to implement a Half-Day Fridays plan that would result in half-days for students on Fridays while faculty members received weekly Friday afternoon professional development. Parents would be able to elect whether to have their scholars be dismissed in accordance with the school's half-day schedule, receive tutoring, or participate in other half-day programming at the school.
3. **24-03-14-03 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the attached SY24-25 School Year Calendar which incorporates the Half-Day Fridays plan.

F. Human Resources

Roll Call Vote: Items 1-9

Motion: L. Sobel Seconded: T. Ogorzalek

Approved: M. Zaslower, President, L. Sobel, Vice –President, T. Ogorzalek

No: None

Absent: T. Gallagher, D. Kabiawu

1. **24-03-14-04 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the SY25 New Hires effective per Start Date noted on Appendix A, Schedule 1.
2. **24-03-14-05 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the SY25 Contract Renewals effective per Start Date noted on Appendix A, Schedule 2.
3. **24-03-14-06 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the SY25 Stipends effective per Start Date noted on Appendix A, Schedule 3.
4. **24-03-14-07 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of SY24 Replacement/Revision Contracts per Start Date on Appendix A Schedule 4.
5. **24-03-14-08 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of SY24 New Hires per Start Date on Appendix A Schedule 5.
6. **24-03-14-09 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the SY24 Stipends effective per Start Date noted on Appendix A, Schedule 6.
7. **24-03-14-10 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves SY23 Salaries/Stipends to be

reimbursed by the listed Federal Grant on Appendix A Schedule 7.

8. 24-03-14-11 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves SY24 Salaries/Stipends to be reimbursed by the listed Federal Grant on Appendix A Schedule 8.

9. 24-03-14-12 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the following Resignations/Termination with the effective dates listed per Appendix A Schedule 9.

G. Business

Roll Call Vote: Items 1-8

Motion: L. Sobel Seconded: T. Ogorzalek

Approved: M. Zaslower, President, L. Sobel, Vice –President, T. Ogorzalek

No: None

Absent: T. Gallager, D. Kabiawu

1. 24-03-14-13 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount \$1,194,868.73 for the period 3/02/24 – 4/01/24.

2. 24-03-14-14 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of March 15, 2024 in the amount of \$770,000 and March 31, 2024 in the amount of \$770,000, respectively. Employer Taxes are included in each Payroll.

3. 24-03-14-15 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Board Secretary Report dated February 2024 and its submission to the NJDOE.

4. 24-03-14-16 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the SY23 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and SY23 Annual Management Report.

5. 24-03-14-17 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the SY23 Audit's Corrective Action Plan.

6. 24-03-14-18 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees accepts the CY25 Federal Medicaid Reimbursement Revenue Amount of \$33,072 for the Special Education Medicaid Initiative.

7. 24-03-14-19 Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees approves the payment of \$353,877 to the

Public Employees Retirement System which represents EA's portion of the State Pension Liability.

8. **24-03-14-20 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the payment of \$5,000 to Christopher P. Benischek PLLC for legal fees for preparation of H-1B Specialty Occupation Work Visa for Tianyu Yang.

9. **24-03-14-21 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the expenditures for the Additional Modular Classrooms at the High School:

a. KSI Consulting Engineers LLC	Electrical Service Design	\$ 6,200
b. William J. Guarini, Inc	Sewer & Water Connections	\$106,000
c. Open Systems Integrators	Fire Alarm System	\$ 53,972
d. Sal Electric Co	Electrical Services	\$ 63,755

H. Field Trips

Roll Call Vote: Item 1

Motion: L. Sobel Seconded: T. Ogorzalek

Approved: M. Zaslower, President, L. Sobel, Vice –President, T. Ogorzalek

No: None

Absent: T. Gallager, D. Kabiawu

1. **24-03-14-22 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approve of the following Field Trips:

Date	Grade	Location	Cost
6/5/24	9	I Play America	\$4,124