



Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting September 11, 2025

A. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm.

B. Welcome

C. Roll Call

Member	Present	Absent
Mr. Thomas Gallagher	X	
Ms. Dami Kabiawu	X	
Mr. Tom Ogorzalek	X	
Mr. Lonnie Sobel	X	
Ms. Monica Quiroga Zaslower	X	

Also Present:

Bret Schundler, Lead Person

Angela Thomas, Director of Education

Menachem Bazian, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Bobby Seetaram, Director of Operations

D. Approval of August 14, 2025 minutes

Member	Yes	No	Abs
Mr. Thomas Gallagher	X		
Ms. Dami Kabiawu			X
Mr. Tom Ogorzalek (Motion)	X		
Mr. Lonnie Sobel (Second)	X		
Ms. Monica Quiroga Zaslower	X		

E. Public Comments

F. School Review

1. Educational – Angela Thomas
2. Financial – Menachem Bazian

G. Facilities – Bret Schundler

H. HIB Reports

Member	Yes	No	Abs
Mr. Thomas Gallagher (Motion)	X		
Ms. Dami Kabiawu			X
Mr. Tom Ogorzalek	X		
Mr. Lonnie Sobel (Second)	X		
Ms. Monica Quiroga Zaslower	X		

1. **2025-09-11-01 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act* for SY25.

I. Policies, Plans, and Submissions

J. Human Resources

Member	Yes	No	Abs
Mr. Thomas Gallagher (Second)	X		
Ms. Dami Kabiawu	X		
Mr. Tom Ogorzalek (Motion)	X		
Mr. Lonnie Sobel	X		
Ms. Monica Quiroga Zaslower	X		

1. **2025-09-11-02 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves of the **SY26** Contracts effective per Start Date noted on Appendix A, Schedule 1.
2. **2025-09-11-03 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the **SY26** stipends effective per Start Date noted on Appendix A, Schedule 2.
3. **2025-09-11-04 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves **SY26** replacement contracts effective per start date noted on Appendix A, Schedule 3.
4. **2025-09-11-05 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the retirements, resignations, and terminations effective per effective date noted on Appendix A, Schedule 4.
5. **2025-09-11-06 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves an Appreciation Bonus to be paid to summer school teachers and teacher’s aides (TAs). The bonus shall be equal to 15% of the gross summer school earnings for teachers

and 7.5% of gross summer school earnings for TAs.

6. **2025-09-11-07 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the SY26 salaries/stipends of the employees listed per Appendix A, Schedules 5-9 be paid with Title IA & Title IIA Funds as listed in the schedules.

K. Business

Member	Yes	No	Abs
Mr. Thomas Gallagher	X		
Ms. Dami Kabiawu	X		
Mr. Tom Ogorzalek	X		
Mr. Lonnie Sobel (Second)	X		
Ms. Monica Quiroga Zaslower (Motion)	X		

1. **2025-09-11-08 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount of \$1,628,236.12 for the period October 2 – November 1, 2025.
2. **2025-09-11-09 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of October 15, 2025, and \$1,250,000, October 31, 2025, for \$1,250,000, respectively. Employer Taxes are included in each Payroll.
3. **2025-09-11-10 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Board Secretary Report for August 2025.
4. **2025-09-11-11 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the SY26 Treasurer’s Report for August 2025.
5. **2025-09-11-12 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves an agreement with Tutoring by Teachers for tutoring in Mathematics in the amount of \$88,920.
6. **2025-09-11-13 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves an agreement with Aramark for room rental and catering for Middle School graduation in the amount of \$4,389.02.
7. **2025-09-11-14 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of accepting and submitting to the NJ DOE the SY26 ESEA Application for the following:

Title I	\$949,808
Title II	\$84,381
Title III	\$20,003
Title III Immigrant	\$5,789
Title IV	\$56,203

8. **2025-09-11-15 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves transferring from Title IV to Title I the amount of \$56,203 thereby increasing the amount of Title I to \$1,006,011 for SY26.
9. **2025-09-11-16 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves an agreement with Educational Services Commission of New Jersey to provide child study team services for SY26 in the amount of \$104,875.
10. **2025-09-11-17 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves an agreement with Open Systems Integrators for Fire Alarm monitoring services for Saint Paul the Apostle in the amount of \$5,129. The services include necessary upgrades to the alarm system and will be offset by a rent reduction in SY26.
11. **2025-09-11-18 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to reimburse an additional \$4,996 to Saint Paul the Apostle Church for work done by Saint Paul the Apostle Church to prepare the premises for EACS use. The amount covers upgrades to the multi-purpose room lighting and will be offset by a rent reduction in SY26.
12. **2025-09-11-19 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes a lease agreement with 183 Bayview LLC for use of the Sacred Hearts Gym in the amount of \$26,356 over the term of the lease (September 2025 – March 2026) subject to attorney review and exhibit finalization.
13. **2025-09-11-20 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes an agreement with Garber Consulting Group, LLC for E-Rate consulting for SY26 in the amount of 6,000 to be paid in two installments.
14. **2025-09-11-21 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves estimated expenditures of up to \$155,000, inclusive of catering costs, for the Empowerment Academy SY26 Cultural Plan.
15. **2025-09-11-22 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves an agreement for SY26 with Charter Technology Solutions for High-Speed Internet Service for all campuses in the amount of \$7,332 (\$611/Month).

L. Field Trips

Member	Yes	No	Abs
Mr. Thomas Gallagher	X		
Ms. Dami Kabiawu	X		
Mr. Tom Ogorzalek (Motion)	X		
Mr. Lonnie Sobel (Second)	X		
Ms. Monica Quiroga Zaslower	X		

1. **2025-09-11-23 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the following field trips for SY26.

Date	Grade	Event	Location	Cost
10/28/25	7	Alstede Farms	Chester, NJ	\$2,873.85
10/28/25	6	Turtleback Zoo	West Orange, NJ	\$2,400.00
10/28/25	5	Happy Day Farms	Manalapan, NJ	\$2,660.00
10/28/25	8	TopGolf Edison	Edison, NJ	\$1,744.00
10/29/25	K	Weightman Farm	Morristown, NJ	\$1,500.00
10/29/25	2	Vonthun Farms	Monmouth Junction, NJ	\$2,800.00
10/29/25	3	HealthBarn USA	Ridgewood, NJ	\$3,000.00
10/29/25	1	Imagine That Childrens Muesum	Florham Park, NJ	\$2,548.50
10/29/25	4	Alstede Farms	Chester, NJ	\$2,718.40
10/30/25	10	Urban Air	South Hackensack, NJ	\$3,603.49
10/30/25	9	Top Golf	Edison, NJ	\$1,974.95
10/30/25	11	Spyscape - NYC	New York, NY	\$3,788.40
01/20/26	10	Spyscape - NYC	New York, NY	\$3,788.40
06/09/26	4	Liberty Science Center	Jersey City, NJ	\$2,385.00
06/10/26	8	Six Flags	Jackson Township, NJ	\$7,772.80

M. Executive Session

Meeting adjourned at 8pm.