



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes January 8, 2026

- A. Call to Order
- B. Welcome
- C. Roll Call

Member Present	Present	Absent
Mr. Thomas Gallagher		X
Ms. Dami Kabiawu	X	
Mr. Tom Ogorzalek	X	
Mr. Lonnie Sobel	X	
Ms. Monica Quiroga Zaslower (<i>Arrived at 7:05pm</i>)	X	

Also Present:

*Bret Schundler, Acting Head Dean
Menachem Bazian, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Angela Thomas, Director of Education
Bobby Seetaram, Director of Operations*

- D. Approval of minutes:
December 11, 2025 minutes
Special Meeting December 18, 2025 minutes.

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

- E. Public Comments
- F. School Review
 - 1. Educational – Angela Thomas
 - 2. Financial – Menachem Bazian

Presentation by EACS Auditor of SY25 Auditor’s Report

G. Facilities – Bret Schundler

H. HIB Reports

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

I. Policies, Plans, Grants, and Submissions

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

1. **2026-01-08-01 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees authorizes acceptance of the Phone Free Grant in the amount of \$5,769.46.
2. **2026-01-08-02 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees authorizes acceptance of a \$4,000 donation from NY Korean Education Center for Korean Language Learning.
3. **2026-01-08-03 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees accepts the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the School Year ended June 30, 2025, and authorizes its submission to the State.
4. **2026-01-08-04 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves the SY26 revised budget and authorizes its submission to NJDOE.
5. **2026-01-08-05 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves the policy entitled “Compliance with Tenant’s Disclosure Requirements Policy”.

J. Human Resources

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

1. **2026-01-08-06 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves of the **SY26** Contracts effective per Start Date noted on Appendix A, Schedule 1.
2. **2026-01-08-07 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the **SY26** stipends effective per Start Date noted on Appendix A, Schedule 2.
3. **2026-01-08-08 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves **SY26** replacement contracts effective per start date noted on Appendix A, Schedule 3.
4. **2026-01-08-09 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the retirements, resignations, and terminations effective per effective date noted on Appendix A, Schedule 4.

K. Business

The board combined K & L for approval:

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

1. **2026-01-08-10 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount of \$1,320,134.04 for the period January 2 – February 1, 2026.
2. **2026-01-08-11 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of February 15, 2026, and \$1,250,000, February 28, 2026, for \$1,250,000, respectively. Employer Taxes are included in each Payroll.
3. **2026-01-08-12 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Board Secretary Report for December 2025.

4. **2026-01-08-13 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the SY26 Treasurer’s Report for December 2025.
5. **2026-01-08-14 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees hereby designates The Star-Ledger as the official newspaper for the publication of all public notices of meetings and other legally required notices of the Board.
6. **2026-01-08-15 Resolved**, by the EA Board of Trustees, that the following Financial Institutions be designated as approved depositories for Empowerment Academy Charter School funds and that the Financial Institutions be required to be insured by either the SLIC or the FDIC and/or as required by both Federal and State statutes:

PNC Bank

The following accounts may be established.

Sweep Account
General Account
Summer Pay Account
Enterprise Account
Payroll Account
Pay Agency
UI Agency

7. **2026-01-08-16 Resolved** by the EACS Board of Trustees, existing depositories are approved to continue as depositories for Empowerment Academy Charter School funds as the process of transitioning to PNC continues. Said banking institutions are:

Bank of America
JP Morgan Chase, NA
Kearny Bank
Provident Bank

8. **2026-01-08-17 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves a contract with Everway for access licenses for Read & Write, a literacy support tool, in the amount of \$2,314. The licenses will be active through 6/30/2026.
9. **2026-01-08-18 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves a contract with Swivl for access licenses for Reflectivity, an educational platform that helps teachers and coaches with professional growth through video and written reflection in the amount of \$1,379.25. The licenses will be active through 6/30/2026.

10. **2026-01-08-19 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves a contract with PBG Networks for renewal of licenses for network hardware at 70 Claremont in the amount of \$6,590. The licenses will be active through 8/31/2028.
11. **2026-01-08-20 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to reimburse Our Ladies of Victories Church \$58,159.00 for asbestos abatement at 242 Ege Avenue, including removal of asbestos-containing materials. This relates to the demolition of the property.
12. **2026-01-08-21 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the purchase and installation of bathroom partitions at Saint Paul the Apostle from Nickerson New Jersey, Inc. in the amount of \$19,694.99.
13. **2026-01-08-22 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to reimburse an additional \$33,830.14 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 PA speakers and installation, new burglar alarm, gym and lobby light upgrades, fire alarm inspection, and life hazard registration and will be offset by a rent reduction in SY26.
14. **2026-01-08-23 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to execute an agreement with LearnWell to provide home instruction for homebound student #17000323. 10 hours per week of instruction will be provided at a cost of \$62.55 per hour and each hour will incur a 33% administrative fee. The term of the contract begins 12/22/2025.
15. **2026-01-08-24 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to execute an agreement with LevelData to renew a one-year software subscription beginning on 3/31/2026 and ending 3/30/2027 at a cost of \$17,831.90. The software is used for coaching and evaluation purposes.
16. **2026-01-08-25 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves the attached revisions of its Lease-Purchase Agreement with Friends of Quality Education concerning the school campus to be constructed at 79 Caven Point Avenue, Jersey City, subject to attorney review.
17. **2026-01-08-26 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves a 42-month contract with PowerSchool, LLC for setup and use of their Student Information System. The term of contract is from January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029 with the following associated costs:

Pd	Term	Cost Description	Cost Amount
1.	1/1/2026 – 6/30/2027	<i>Subscription</i>	<i>\$25,992.50</i>
		<i>Training & Implementation</i>	<i>\$35,771.00</i>

		Total for Period	\$61,693.50
2.	7/1/2027 – 6/30/2028	Subscription	\$27,477.85
3.	7/1/2028 – 6/30/2029	Subscription	\$29,126.53

L. Field Trips

Date	Grade	Event	Location	Cost
1/22/2026	K	Legoland Discovery Center	1 American Dream Way Rutherford, NJ 07073	\$1,750.00
3/24/2026	K	Urban Air	69 Wesley St South Hackensack, New Jersey 07606	\$2,253.00
3/24/2026	1	Legoland Discovery Center	1 American Dream Way Rutherford, NJ 07073	\$1,750.00
3/4/2026	11	NACAC National College Fair	New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center	No Cost
3/24/2026	3	Imagine That!	4 Vreeland Rd Florham Park NJ 07932	\$2,446.56

M. Executive Session