



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes February 12, 2026

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

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 January 8, 2026 minutes:

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

E. Public Comments

F. School Review

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

G. Facilities – Bret Schundler

H. HIB Reports

There were no HIB reports to approve.

I. Policies, Plans, Grants, and Submissions

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

1. **2026-02-12-01 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves of the policy entitled “Cash Management and Investment Policy”.
2. **2026-02-12-02 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to apply for the “High Impact Tutoring Grant” from the NJ Department of Education. This competitive grant focuses on providing funds for tutoring programs and may provide up to \$50,000 in funds for EA tutoring programs.

J. Human Resources

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

1. **2026-02-12-03 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves of the **SY26** Contracts effective per Start Date noted on Appendix A, Schedule 1.
2. **2026-02-12-04 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the **SY26** stipends effective per Start Date noted on Appendix A, Schedule 2.
3. **2026-02-12-05 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves **SY26** replacement contracts effective per start date noted on Appendix A, Schedule 3.
4. **2026-02-12-06 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the retirements, resignations, and terminations effective per effective date noted on Appendix

A, Schedule 4.

5. **2026-02-12-07 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees authorizes an agreement with Rutgers University (RU) for RU to provide interns to EA. Interns will fulfill their clinical educational experience at EA. Interns will be provided at no cost to EA.
6. **2026-02-12-08 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees authorizes an agreement with New York University (NYU) for NYU to provide interns to EA. Interns will fulfill their clinical educational experience at EA. Interns will be provided at no cost to EA.
7. **2026-02-12-09 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the SY26 salaries/stipends of the employees listed per Appendix A, Schedules 5-10 to be paid with federal grant funds as listed in the schedules.

K. Business

The board combined items K & L for approval:

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

1. **2026-02-12-10 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount of \$1,480,039.50 for the period February 2 – March 1, 2026.
2. **2026-02-12-11 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of March 15, 2026, and \$1,250,000, March 31, 2026, for \$1,250,000, respectively. Employer Taxes are included in each Payroll.
3. **2026-02-12-12 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Board Secretary Report for January 2026.
4. **2026-02-12-13 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the SY26 Treasurer’s Report for January 2026.
5. **2026-02-12-14 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves reimbursement of \$58,159.00 to Our Lady of Victories Church for asbestos abatement at 242 Ege Avenue.

6. **2026-02-12-15 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to execute a letter of agreement with Davidoff Tax Law, LLC, to represent the school before the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) in connection with the assessment of penalties for the failure to file health insurance coverage information.
7. **2026-02-12-16 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to execute an agreement with LevelData for a software subscription from March 31, 2026, through June 30, 2026, in the amount of \$4,457.97. The software is used for feedback and evaluations.
8. **2026-02-12-17 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves a six (6) month agreement with CESA 6 d/b/a CMS 4 Schools effective January 1, 2026, through June 3, 2026, for website hosting in the amount of \$1,390.50.
9. **2026-02-12-18 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves the “Resolution of Empowerment Academy Charter School Inc. authorizing the execution and delivery of the lease agreement for certain real property for use as school facilities and other documents relating to the issuance of bonds on behalf of Friends of Quality Education, Inc. and other matters in connection therewith.”
10. **2026-02-12-19 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves a 63-month lease agreement with Pitney-Bowes for an additional Postage Meter at a cost of \$141.02 per month. The current meter at the Elementary School will be installed for the use of the new Business Office and the new meter, which will print UPS and FedEx labels, will be installed at the Elementary School.
11. **2026-02-12-20 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves a subscription with College Aid Pro, a software platform that assists students with planning for college costs including Financial Aid, FAFSA assistance, parent workshops, and more. The subscription term is from March 1 through June 30, 2026 at a cost of \$675.
12. **2026-02-12-21 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves an agreement with Aramark for the 11th grade Dinner Dance scheduled for June 11, 2026 in the amount of \$6,463.60.
13. **2026-02-12-22 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves an agreement with Aramark for the 8th grade Graduation scheduled for June 12, 2026 in the amount of \$4,389.02
14. **2026-02-12-23 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves the “Resolution of Empowerment Academy Charter School Inc. authorizing the execution and delivery of a guaranty and suretyship agreement with PNC Bank, National Association regarding the extension of credit to Friends of Quality Education,

Inc. for certain initial costs related to the construction of school facilities and other matters in connection therewith.”

15. **2026-02-12-24 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves SY27 School Calendar.

L. Field Trips

Date	Grade	Event	Location	Cost
2/20/2026	11	Metlife Stadium	1 Metlife Stadium Dr East Rutherford, NJ 07073	\$0.00
3/7/2026	11	Union City High School	2500 Kennedy Boulevard Union City, NJ 07087	\$450.00
3/24/2026	2	Urban Air Avenel	1600 Saint Georges Ave Avenel, NJ 07001	\$2,998.50
3/26/2026	5	NY Aquarium	Surf Avenue and West 8th Street Brooklyn, NY 11224	\$1,764.00
3/26/2026	6	Branchburg Sport Complex	47 Readington Road Branchburg, NJ 08876	\$3,380.00
3/26/2026	7	Spyscape	928 8th Avenue New York, NY 10019	\$2,558.68
3/26/2026	8	Pier 2 Roller Skating Center	Brooklyn Bridge Park Brooklyn, NY, 11201	\$2,415.00
4/24/2026	11	New Jersey City University	2039 Kennedy Blvd Jersey City, NJ	\$0.00
6/1/2026	11	Middlesex College	2600 Woodbridge Ave Edison, NJ	\$475.00

M. Executive Session

To enter Executive Session:

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

Executive Session began at 8:22pm and ended 8:51pm.

To resume Public Session:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.