



## Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting July 10, 2025

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

| <b>Member</b>               | <b>Present</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 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*

*Menachem Bazian, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary*

*Bobby Seetaram, Director of Operations*

- D. Approval of June 12, 2025 minutes

General Session Minutes of June 12, 2025

| <b>Member</b>                               | <b>Yes</b> | <b>No</b> | <b>Abs</b> |
|---|------------|-----------|------------|
| Mr. Thomas Gallagher                        |            |           | X          |
| Ms. Dami Kabiawu                            |            |           | X          |
| Mr. Tom Ogorzalek <b>(Second)</b>           | X          |           |            |
| Mr. Lonnie Sobel                            | X          |           |            |
| Ms. Monica Quiroga Zaslower <b>(Motion)</b> | X          |           |            |

Executive Session Minutes of June 12, 2025

| <b>Member</b>                     | <b>Yes</b> | <b>No</b> | <b>Abs</b> |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Mr. Thomas Gallagher              |            |           | X          |
| Ms. Dami Kabiawu                  |            |           | X          |
| Mr. Tom Ogorzalek <b>(Second)</b> | X          |           |            |
| Mr. Lonnie Sobel <b>(Motion)</b>  | X          |           |            |
| Ms. Monica Quiroga Zaslower       | X          |           |            |

E. Public Comments

F. School Review

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

G. Facilities – Bret Schundler

*Mr. Schundler gave an update on the Canal Crossing project. The boundary dispute has been settled. The lot is cleared and the retaining wall can commence.*

H. HIB Reports

I. Policies, Plans, and Submissions

J. Human Resources

| <b>Member</b>                     | <b>Yes</b> | <b>No</b> | <b>Abs</b> |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Mr. Thomas Gallagher              |            |           | X          |
| Ms. Dami Kabiawu <b>(Second)</b>  | X          |           |            |
| Mr. Tom Ogorzalek <b>(Motion)</b> | X          |           |            |
| Mr. Lonnie Sobel                  | X          |           |            |
| Ms. Monica Quiroga Zaslower       | X          |           |            |

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

K. Business

| <b>Member</b>                     | <b>Yes</b> | <b>No</b> | <b>Abs</b> |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Mr. Thomas Gallagher              |            |           | X          |
| Ms. Dami Kabiawu <b>(Second)</b>  | X          |           |            |
| Mr. Tom Ogorzalek <b>(Motion)</b> | X          |           |            |
| Mr. Lonnie Sobel                  | X          |           |            |
| Ms. Monica Quiroga Zaslower       | X          |           |            |

*Item K10 was removed from the agenda by consent of the board.*

1. **Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount of \$1,103,695.62 for the period July 2 – August 1, 2025.
2. **Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves the POs listed in Appendix B in the amount of \$1,176,070.88.
3. **Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of July 15, 2025, for \$700,000 and July 31, 2025, for \$700,000, respectively. Employer Taxes are included in each Payroll.
4. **Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Board Secretary Report for June 2025.
5. **Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the SY25 Treasurer’s Report for June 2025.
6. **Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves agreement with IXL Learning for IXL Site Licenses and subscriptions for Rosetta Stone for World Languages effective from July 23, 2025 through July 23, 2026 in the amount of \$37,031.25.
7. **Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees amends Resolution 25-05-08-29 which authorized advertising costs for SY26 in the amount of \$120,000 with Indeed to \$135,000.
8. **Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees awards bid 2026-052925 “Trash Removal/Recycling Services” to Allegro Sanitation Corp. of Secaucus New Jersey for a three-year period from 8/1/2025 – 6/30/2028. Amounts for SY26 in the amount of \$77,664.89, SY27 \$88,114.35, and SY28 \$91,638.92.
9. **Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes issuance of RFP 2026-01 titled “Banking Services.”

10. ~~Resolved, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to reimburse up to \$250,000 to Saint Paul the Apostle Church for work done by Saint Paul the Apostle Church to prepare the premises for EACS use.~~
11. **Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees authorizes renewal of 330 Microsoft Office 365 licenses through JourneyED.com in the amount of \$20,267.34.
12. **Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the purchase of a one-year license with SHI International Corp for RADIUS, a service to secure our wireless Internet communications in the amount of \$18,265.07.
13. **Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees authorizes purchase of Security Awareness Training from Coalition, Inc. in the amount of \$5,250.
14. **Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees authorizes an agreement with OTUS to import/develop assessments for SY26 in the amount of \$3,950.
15. **Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees appoints Olugbenga Olabintan, Certified Public Accountant, of Newark, NJ as Empowerment Academy's Auditor for the school year ended June 30, 2025, and authorizes fees of \$60,000.
16. **Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the purchase of 900 laptops and necessary accessories from SHI International Corp. in the amount of \$424,734.00 to replace outdated existing laptops.
17. **Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves the purchase of a 1-year license with Learn By Doing, Inc. for access to Albert.IO during SY26, a tool for student practice, in the amount of \$8,093.
18. **Resolved,** The EA Board of Trustees approves payment of \$186,639 in Additional Rent to St. Paul the Apostle Church for pre-occupancy facility improvements.

L. Field Trips

M. Executive Session