

EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Regular
Meeting Thursday, May 8,
2025, 7:30PM
240 Ege
Avenue Jersey
City, New Jersey
07304

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 222 656 057 030

Passcode: ZWRTpF

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 469-998-7559,,792927429#](#) United States, Dallas

Phone Conference ID: 792 927 429#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

AGENDA

- A. Call to Order
- 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	

In Attendance:

Bret Schundler, Acting Head Dean

Richard Raschdorf, School Business Administrator

Menachem Bazian, Associate School Business Administrator

Angela Thomas, Director of Education

Bobby Seetaram, Director of Operations

Kris Lane, PTO Representative

D. Approval of April 10, 2025 Minutes

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

E. Public Comment

F. School Review

1. Educational – Angela Thomas

Ms. Thomas discussed preparation for NJSLA and end of year.

2. Financial – Richard Raschdorf

Mr. Raschdorf reviewed the financials with the board. Daily Cash is up. No significant changes to the financial position of the school.

G. Facilities - Bret Schundler

Mr. Schundler discussed the Canal Crossing project and the potential effects of tariffs on the timing and cost of the project.

H. HIB Reports

I. Policies

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

1. **25-05-08-01 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the proposed Equity in School and Classroom Practices Policy.

2. **25-05-08-02 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the proposed Married/Pregnant and Lactating Pupils Policy.
3. **25-05-08-03 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the proposed update to its Non- Discrimination/Affirmative Action Policy
4. **25-05-08-04 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the proposed Transportation Shared Services Policy
5. **25-05-08-05** Discussion of possible revisions to the SY26 Board Meeting Schedule/School Calendar: specifically, changing the October Board Meeting date to 10/23 and the April Board Meeting date to 4/23.

J. Human Resources

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

1. **25-05-08-06 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Menachem Bazian as the School Business Administrator effective May 17, 2025.
2. **25-05-08-07 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the SY25 Amended Contracts effective per Start Date noted on Appendix A, Schedule 1.
3. **25-05-08-08 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves of the SY25 Stipends effective per Start Date noted on Appendix A, Schedule 2.
4. **25-05-08-09 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Retirements, Resignations and Terminations of employees listed per Appendix A, Schedule 3.

K. Business

Vote on items 1-21. Item 22 was tabled. The board discussed item 22 and decided to perform an analysis of BelovED Transportation Costs and the allocation formula before deciding on item 22.

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

1. **25-05-08-10 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Payment of Claims in the amount \$542,679.49 for the period 5/02/25 - 06/01/25

2. **25-05-08-11 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to fund the Payrolls of May 15, 2025, for \$850,000 and May 30, 2025, for \$850,000, respectively. Employer Taxes are included in each Payroll.
3. **25-05-08-12 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Board Secretary Report for April 2025
4. **25-05-08-13 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the SY25 Treasurer's Report for April 2025.
5. **25-05-08-14 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure for SY26 from Nickerson NY, LLC to furnish & install 48 triple tier lockers. Cost: \$44,554.76
6. **25-05-08-15 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure for SY26 from Educational Data Services for License & Maintenance Fees for Supply Procurement System. Cost: \$6,675.
7. **25-05-08-16 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure for SY26 from SchoolMint for a Classroom Observation & Teacher Feedback Platform. Cost: \$14,089.95.
8. **25-05-08-17 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure for SY26 from DeansList for Family Engagement, Classroom Behavior, Attendance Platform. Cost: \$20,500.
9. **25-05-08-18 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure for SY26 from Success for All Foundation for Kinder Phonics and fast Track Phonics Training. Cost: \$7,600
10. **25-05-08-19 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Sensory kids & Social Minds for Speech Therapy Services effective February 10,2025 through term ending at the end of SY25. Billings for Services are at the rate of \$100/Hr.
11. **25-05-08-20 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure for SY25 from Impact Fire Services, LLC for the installation of a Fire Sprinkler System in the modular classrooms at the High School. Cost: 30,793.
Resolved, the EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure for SY25 from Altek Business Systems for a Epson Workforce Enterprise Printer. Cost: \$8,538
12. **25-05-08-21 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure for SY25 for the rental of two buses from Panorama Tours for the 8th Grade trip to Hershey Park. Cost: \$4,950.
13. **25-05-08-22 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure for SY25 to Jays Uniforms for the cost for T-Shirts with embroidery for the cost of \$5,242 for the Teen Summit on 4/16/25 and for the cost of \$6,000 for Empower Day on 4/17/25.

15. **25-05-08-23 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves the expenditure for SY25 to SchoolMint for Classroom Observation and Teacher Feedback Platform. Annual Cost \$1,717,146.50
16. **25-05-08-24 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees authorizes the Lead Person to execute the certification of “Legal Obligations Undertaken in Exchange for Receiving Federal Financial Assistance and Request for Certification under Title VI and *SFFA v. Harvard*.”
17. **25-05-08-25 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement for SY26 with Progressive Therapy of New Jersey for Behavioral Consultation Services up to a cost of \$10,000.
18. **25-05-08-26 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule for the 2025 – 2026 School Year.
19. **25-05-08-27 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees approves the 2025 – 2026 Payroll Schedule.
20. **25-05-08-28 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Indeed for SY25 for the advertising of Open Positions at a cost of \$20,000.
21. **25-05-08-29 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees authorizes the School Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Indeed SY26 for the advertising of Open Positions at a cost of \$120,000.
22. **25-05-28-29 Resolved**, the EA Board of Trustees approves the making of an adjustment payment of up to \$2,212,330.07 to BelovED Community Charter Schools for bus transportation services in SY 23, SY24 and SY25. **(Tabled)**

L. Field Trips

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

1. **25-05-08-30 Resolved**, The EA Board of Trustees of the following Field Trips:

Grade	Date	Event	Destination	Cost
Kinder	6/10/25	Bergen County Zoo	Paramus, NJ	\$2,025
1st	6/10/25	Bergen County Zoo	Paramus, NJ	\$2,025
2nd	6/10/25	Urban Air	Avenel, NJ	\$3,005
3rd	6/11/25	Bergen County Zoo	Paramus, NJ	\$2,025
4th	6/10/25	Liberty Science	Jersey City, NJ	\$2,475
5th	6/11/25	Dave & Busters	Wayne, NJ	\$3,250
6th	6/11/25	Cinemark	Wayne, NJ	\$2,006
7th	6/11/25	IPlay America	Freehold, NJ	\$3,626
8th	6/16/25	Hershey Park	Hershey, PA	\$5,717**
9th	6/4/25	IPlay America	Freehold, NJ	\$3,839
10th	6/4/25	IFly Indoor Sky Diving	Paramus, NJ	\$2,975

** Eight Grade Graduation Trip