

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Equity Project (TEP) Charter School Board of Trustees
February 10th, 2025**

The **188th** regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of The Equity Project Charter School was held on **February 10th** at The Equity Project Charter School's Middle School location at **153 Sherman Avenue, New York, NY 10034** pursuant to due notice to Trustees via electronic mail sent on 2/7/25. Public notice was posted on TEP's website at www.tepcharter.org.

The following Trustees were present:

Brooks Clarke, Anyeli Matos, and Sean Juan joined via video conference from the following public locations posted in advance on TEP's website:

600 Third Avenue New York, NY 10016

1350 Massachusetts Avenue
Richard A. and Susan F. Smith Campus Center, Cambridge, MA 02138

Asphalt Green Battery Park
212 North End Ave, New York, NY 10282

The following staff members were present:

Casey Ash, Aaron Villela, Harris Brown

Meeting called to order at 5:31 pm.

Meeting Agenda and Notes:

1. Board Update

Mr. Casey Ash, TEP's Principal, shared that Ms. Laura Tavormina, who served as a TEP Board Trustee since the school's inception, presented her resignation from her role due to personal reasons that required her increased presence outside of the country.

Mr. Ash and members of the Board highlighted their appreciation for Ms. Tavormina's service and her extraordinary commitment to the school.

Mr. Ash shared that TEP continues to prioritize a strong team and while there is no immediate need to fill this position, the Board is always welcome to refer and present recommendations for consideration.

2. Safeguarding rights in our community

Mr. Aaron Villela, CEO, highlighted the school's ongoing efforts to safeguard the rights of the school community, especially during the recent challenging season for many members of the community.

Mr. Villela presented the various ways in which the school leadership is reaffirming its commitment to support the safety and wellbeing of the community, including training for school leadership, training for operations and school safety personnel, written and video communications to families and staff, providing legal resources and immigration information, sharing free and accessible mental health supports, and hosting Know Your Rights trainings, in partnership with local community-based organizations.

The Board expressed appreciation for the school's deliberate support and focus on this matter.

3. Early Childhood Facilities

Mr. Villela shared an update on the status of TEP's Early Childhood campus (located at 4280 Broadway, New York, NY 10040), highlighting that the term of the current lease is scheduled to end in June 2026.

Mr. Villela highlighted that in partnership with Board Trustee, Mr. Brooks Clarke, TEP has initiated exploratory conversations with the landlord, about a potential renewal of the lease. Mr. Villela expressed that as the school considers all options, we hope to start this lease conversation early to maximize the options and ensure the best possible experience for students in the short-term and long-term.

4. Spotlight on Students: Arts & Athletics

Mr. Harris Brown, Middle School Math Teacher & Arts and Athletics Director, presented the numerous Arts & Athletics programs available for TEP students. Mr. Brown provided insight into the options available to students and presented videos and images, highlighting experiences from the various competitive sports teams, including but not limited to volleyball, basketball, baseball. In addition, Mr. Brown highlighted the extraordinary Step team's presentation during a recent Middle School Black History Month celebration and showcased other non-competitive sports teams and arts clubs.

The Board recognized Mr. Brown for his dedication to leading a strong Arts & Athletics program and expressed appreciation for spotlighting the students during his presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 6:16 PM.

Minutes recorded by Sean Juan.