

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
The Equity Project (TEP) Charter School Board of Trustees  
September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

The **195<sup>th</sup>** regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of The Equity Project Charter School was held on **September 15<sup>th</sup>** 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 9/10/25. Public notice was posted on TEP's website at [www.tepcharter.org](http://www.tepcharter.org).

**The following Trustees were present:**

Andrew Buher, Anyeli Matos, Sean Juan, Brooks Clark, Jennifer Mulhern  
joined via video conference from the following public locations posted in advance on TEP's website:

630 Park Avenue  
Brielle, NJ 08730

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

55 Hudson Yards  
New York, NY

600 Third Avenue New York, NY 10016

253 N Mountain Avenue  
NJ 07043

**The following staff members were present:**

Casey Ash, Aaron Villela, Andres Esguerra, and Sophia Senhaji

Meeting called to order at 5:32 pm.

**Meeting Agenda and Notes:**

**1. COMPASS After-School Update**

Mr. Ash provided an update to the Board, indicating that the DYCD COMPASS after school program will begin on Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, serving thirty 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students. As the program adds staff, TEP will increase the number of seats available to 120 students across 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> grades. The program will run throughout the full school year, operating 5 days a week from 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. as well as 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. on select holidays/vacation days.

## **2. New Board Member**

Mr. Sean Juan made a motion to approve the addition of Shelly Gupta to TEP's Board of Trustees. The Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Gupta.

Mr. Villela, CEO, shared next steps, which are to submit all relevant documents to the DOE. Pending approval, Shelly will join the October Board of Trustees meeting.

## **3. AI Think Tank**

Mr. Villela presented discussion questions to the Board about AI tools, and how the tools shared can be implemented into TEP's system. Board members shared how they use AI in their own professional settings and recommended resources for further research. The Board expressed enthusiasm about the future of AI use at TEP.

## **4. Student Spotlight**

Mr. Andres Esguerra, the Assistant Director of the Middle School and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Worker, shared with the Board the success story of two students who entered TEP in elementary school with limited English and are now on track to graduate from 8<sup>th</sup> grade with the 2027 cohort. Due to their ages, they were originally on track to graduate from middle school at 16 and 17 years old. After tracking their progress across all subjects and continued support from teachers and leadership, the students were able to meet grade thresholds for promotion to their new cohort. Mr. Ash noted continued support will help ensure on-time graduation and positive social development for the students.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm

Minutes recorded by Jennifer Mulhern