

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Equity Project (TEP) Charter School Board of Trustees
August 24th, 2026**

The 206th regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of The Equity Project Charter School was held on **August 24th** 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 8/20/26. Public notice was posted on TEP's website at www.tepcharter.org.

The following Trustees were present:

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

630 Park Avenue
Brielle, NJ 08730

253 Mountain Avenue
NJ 07043

600 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10016

50 Valparaiso Ave
Atherton, CA 94027

The following staff members were present:

Casey Ash, Aaron Villela, Kisis Cruz-Penalba, and Anatea Carpenter

Meeting called to order at 5:33 pm.

1. FPP Review & Approval

TEP's CFO, Kisis Cruz-Penalba revisited the updates to be made on TEP's Fiscal Policies and Procedures manual. As a follow-up to the last BOT meeting held on July 25th, 2026, Kisis requested a motion to approve the updates to the FPP manual. The Board unanimously approved all updates.

2. First week of school

TEP's Head of School, Mr. Casey Ash, provided an update regarding the start of the school year as the first day of school was Monday, August 10th, 2026. Mr. Ash shared that the school year is off to a good start and that attendance will continue to be a top priority as we usually see an increased number of vacations during this month. In addition, enrollment remains an area of focus as we aim to fill any open seats as soon as possible, given family transitions and relocations that occur during the summer months.

Mr. Ash also presented a positive update regarding TEP alumni. TEP now has 8 former TEP students whose children are enrolled and currently attend TEP.

3. DOE Survey Highlights

Mr. Ash presented the Board with an update regarding the feedback from the 2026 NYC DOE Survey. Mr. Ash highlighted that 1,059 families (of approximately 1,080 families) completed the 2026 NYC DOE Survey.

The NYC DOE Survey serves as a mechanism for the school to receive annual feedback from three TEP constituencies: Families, Staff, and Students.

Amongst the numerous areas that were rated as highly favorable by our school community, the school leadership was pleased to see improvement and receive positive feedback from families on the topic of their child's IEP Service Satisfaction. This was especially important as this was an important area of focus for the school during the 2025-26 school year. In discussions with the Board, Mr. Ash highlighted that we believe this was largely attributed to the school's ability to provide the multidisciplinary related services for students across campuses and commitment to supporting our families with students with IEP's.

Mr. Ash also highlighted the positive feedback from staff, with a particular focus on the highly favorable ratings related to TEP's strong core instruction and instructional leadership. Mr. Ash noted that students in grades 6 through 8 also have an opportunity to provide feedback. An area that saw significant improvement was on the topic of bullying.

Mr. Ash noted that the school leadership will continue to use the data collected in the 2026 NYC DOE Survey to support efforts for continuous improvement.

4. Charter Renewal - Looking ahead

Mr. Ash noted that while the school is up for its charter renewal during the 2027-28 school year, the school leadership is already working to ensure we are prepared for this important process. The school will continue to ensure its focus on the following areas to support another successful charter renewal: (a) Is the school an academic success? (b) Is the school effective and well-run? (c) Is the school financially viable?

5. Student spotlight

TEP's Middle School Director, Anatea Carpenter, presented a student spotlight to the Board on the experience of one of TEP's Middle School students.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Minutes recorded by Andrew Buher.