

**Elmwood Village Charter Schools  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Wednesday, April 18, 2018  
Meeting Site: Hertel Campus**

**Trustees Present:** Mimi Barnes-Coppola, Marguerite Battaglia; Jennifer Bernacki Smith; Lacle Brumfield; Kathy Franklin-Adams; Matthew Moscati; Pamela Pollock; Matthew Ryan

**Trustees Excused:** Elizabeth Santacrose

**Trustees Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Danielle Bruno, Director, EVCS Days Park; Kathy Jamil, Director, EVCS Hertel; Elizabeth Evans, EVCS Operations Manager; Anne Wechsler, EVCS Academic Program Coordinator; Lisa Kirisits, CPA, Kirisits & Associates, EVCS Accountant; Colby Smith, EVCS Owners Representative

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mimi Barnes Coppola, called the meeting to order at 6:16 PM. She presented the agenda for the meeting which was accepted.

#### MINUTES

Minutes of the Elmwood Village Charter Schools Board of Trustees meeting held on March 21, 2018, were presented. **Marguerite moved and Kathy Franklin-Adams seconded that the minutes be accepted as presented. Approved unanimously.**

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

Lisa Kiristis, EVCS Accountant, noted that the balance of the new checking account at Northwest Bank will be maintained at \$1.5 million. The remaining \$1.25 million from the previous account is to be invested in laddered CDs. She explained that a significant advantage of the newly created "Sweep Account" is that it gives the school the ability to have cash available for unexpected expenditures so that there would be no need to liquidate CDs.

For the nine months ended March 31, 2018, EVCS showed an increase in net assets of \$424,173 vs. a budgeted decrease in net assets of \$(234,759). The result was a favorable variance of approximately \$658,932. Details are available in the complete report.

Lisa stated that she is expecting the 990 form for the school account which is due to be completed by June 30, 2018. The 2018-2019 Budget will be ready for Board approval at the May meeting.

**Matt Ryan moved and Matt Moscati seconded that the financial report be accepted. Approved unanimously.**

#### BUILDING UPDATES

Colby Smith, EVCS Owners Representative, discussed some concerns:

## Hertel Campus

- Continued cold and snow have delayed grounds clean-up and installation of electricity to signs at the entrance.
- There is a problem with a sewer line through the front of the future soccer field. The school needs to take care of that to make sure the ground is level. Then Delaware Soccer Club will be able to install the field.
- The possibility of moving the picnic benches is being investigated.
- Installation of the HVAC for the gym is planned for sometime in May. This must be done when school is not in session as it requires the use of a crane.
- The divider door in the gym is stuck in the “UP” position. It needs to be reset. Colby is looking into ways to prevent recurrence of this problem.

## Days Park Campus

- The noisy HVAC unit which is causing disruption to a classroom continues to require attention.

## MOTION TO ESTABLISH AN ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD

Board Chair, Mimi Barnes Coppola proposed that EVCS Board establish an Academic Excellence Committee. She has done some research and stated that most charter schools have such a committee. She distributed an outline stating the rationale for establishment of an Academic Excellence Committee as well as some possible goals and responsibilities. Some discussion ensued. The consensus of the Board was that additional investigation was needed. Board members agreed to study the proposal for discussion at a future meeting and possibly at the upcoming Board Retreat.

## DIRECTOR’S REPORTS

Danielle Bruno gave the Director’s Report for the **Days Park Campus**.

### Personnel

There were no personnel actions this month.

### EVCS Lottery Update

<u>Grade</u>	<u>No. of Applicants - Days Park</u>	<u>No. of Applicants - Hertel</u>
K	244 (21 siblings)	277 (12 siblings)
1	59	42
2	61	52
3	63	40
4	53	
5	77	
6	48	
7	33	
8	11	
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>361</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>1010 Both Schools*</b>	

\*Two names were chosen in both Hertel and Days Park lotteries

The SchoolMint lottery process was smooth and simple. Families shared that they appreciated the immediate feedback that SchoolMint provided via text and email messaging. The process took less than 30 minutes, greatly reducing stress on waiting families. Special commendation to Liz Evans, Lea Gladys, Sharon DeTamble, and Debra Steckler for coordinating a successful and error-free lottery.

### **Budget Updates**

New York State Budget Update: Preliminary state aid numbers in the FY 2019 budget predict an expected total increase of 3.15% for the Buffalo District. The administrative team will meet with Kirisits and Associates to finalize a proposed budget for the 2018-2019 school year, for the Board's review in May.

### **NYS Assessments**

New York State ELA Assessments were conducted on April 12-13, 2018, for students in grades 3-8. Math Assessments will take place on May 2-3, 2018. This year, the state reduced the number of testing days from three to two, in response to concerns from parents and teachers. Last year, the state reduced the number of test questions and moved to untimed testing. According to the Board of Regents, these decisions are intended to reduce the amount of time spent on test-taking and to return the valuable instructional time to schools. Once again, the majority of EVCS parents supported student participation in state assessments. A total of 9 students "opted out" of the state assessments, resulting in an overall participation rate of 97%. (Last year EVCS had 9 opt-outs).

### **Calendar Notes**

April 20 - Whole School Morning Meeting

May 2 & 3 - NYS Math Assessments

May 17 - Early Dismissal (12:30 PM) - Parent Teacher Conferences

A tentative school Calendar for 2018-2019 was distributed. Some changes may be necessary to comply with the BPS Bussing schedule. **Matt Ryan moved and Mimi seconded that the proposed calendar be accepted pending the possible changes. Approved unanimously.**

Kathy Jamil gave the Director's Report for the **Hertel Campus**.

### **Staffing**

The passing of Susie Wlosinski was sudden. Her role in mentoring and supporting teachers was unique to Susie and was especially important to the first-year teachers. Her position will not be filled for the remainder of the school year.

Two assistant teachers have been offered positions as lead teachers for next year. Interviews for teaching positions will continue. A full staffing list will be presented for Board approval when all positions have been filled.

### **Events**

#### *Professional Development*

- April 13th: Behavior Coach, Sarah Jane Schonour,, did a Q & A session with the grade level teams to follow-up on the presentations she did earlier in the year.

-April 24th: The Administrative Team will take the 2nd part of the Inter-rater Reliability training through BOCES.

#### *Breakfast with the Directors*

- The directors will be available to share coffee and breakfast with parents and guardians once a month to answer any questions they may have. The first breakfast was held on April 16th.

#### *WNY Charter School Leaders*

- Seven charter school leaders met today ( April 18) at the Hertel Campus to discuss developing a consortium for advertising (such as a WNY Charter School website). The transportation challenges were discussed as well. Four schools are planning to meet with attorney Andrew Freedman about completing a Commissioner Appeal or Article 78 (file petition to Supreme Court) to address the ongoing transportation issues.

#### **Upcoming School Events**

- April 27- Whole School Morning Meeting
- April 25- CA Meeting

#### **OUTDOOR USE AGREEMENT with DELAWARE SOCCER CLUB**

Liz Santacrose was unable to be present this evening, but submitted the following report:  
Delaware Soccer Club's lease of the Hertel gym space comes to an end this month. We have drafted a similar agreement for the use of the outdoor space which starts on May 5th. This agreement allows DSC to access the fields to the left of our driveway as well as our parking lots. The outdoor agreement provides no access to any indoor spaces so we will not need to staff the building or keep it unlocked during their practices anymore, as we do for indoor gym use. I am expecting to get a call today from Marty Knauss to discuss schedule and particulars for the actual work to build out the soccer fields. The weather has delayed the work so far, but I know that the use of our fields is key to the club's spring and summer program schedule. I will update Kathy J. and Liz E. via email with all of the dates and logistical information that I get from Marty regarding the field construction.

#### **BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

The nominating Committee has been seeking an individual to fill the board position left vacant by the resignation of Natalie Stoyanoff. They interviewed three well-qualified candidates and recommended that Evelyn Kerney, Ph.D., be appointed to the Board. Dr. Kerney has considerable experience in the areas of business and education and has earned a number of awards for her service. **Jen moved and Matt Ryan seconded that Evelyn Kerney be appointed to vacant position on the EVCS BOT (to expire June, 30, 2018) and to subsequently serve an additional three-year term. Approved unanimously.**

**Motion:** The Elmwood Village Charter Schools Board of Trustees has voted to appoint Evelyn Kerney to the Board to fill the remaining term of Natalie Stoyanoff, with a term expiring on 6/30/2018, to be renewed to 6/30/2021 at the next annual meeting.

#### ANNUAL BOARD RETREAT

The annual Board retreat is scheduled for Saturday, May 12, from 9:30 to 1:30 at the Hertel Campus.

#### COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Hertel: LaCole reported that the Community Association is planning to treat the staff to a lunch from Joe's Deli during Staff Appreciation Week. Upcoming events include a roller skating party; breakfast at Applebee's; and a sponsored Garage Sale with a vendor's fee.

Days Park: Community Association information was sent by Liz Santacrose. Recent fund raisers included the Spring Scholastic Book fair (over \$2000 raised for purchase of books and other supplies from Scholastic) and the Flower sale (profit of \$695). The CA volunteers are currently working on the following upcoming events: Roller Skating Party for all families on April 29, Delivery and distribution of flowers from flower sale (delivery estimated for May 16th) BINGO night to be held May 18th with the proceeds to benefit volleyball teams (event made possible in a huge effort by our teacher and volleyball coach Mrs. Bak), Teacher Appreciation Week (May 14-18)

#### NEW BUSINESS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Mimi moved and Marguerite seconded that the Board enter executive session to discuss confidential matters pertaining to personnel. Approved unanimously.** Necessary discussion ensued. **Matt Ryan moved and Matt Moscati seconded that the Board leave executive session. Approved unanimously.**

There were no announcements.

**Matt Ryan moved and Matt Moscati seconded that the meeting be adjourned.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pamela Pollock

Future meetings - All meetings to begin at 6:00 PM: May 16, 2018; June 20, 2018;  
July 18, 2018

