

**Elmwood Village Charter Schools
Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, April 8, 2020
Meeting Site: ZOOM Online Meeting**

Trustees Present: Mimi Barnes Coppola; Jennifer Bernacki-Smith; Lacle Brumfield; Kathy Franklin-Adams; Evelyn Kerney; Matt Moscatti; Pamela Pollock; Matthew Ryan; Elizabeth Santacrose; Jamie Smith

Trustees Excused: None

Trustees Absent: None

Others Present: Danielle Bruno, Director, EVCS Days Park; Elizabeth Evans, EVCS Director of Operations; Kathy Jamil, Director, EVCS Hertel; Anne Wechsler, EVCS Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Andrew Freedman, Partner, Hodgson Russ, LLP; EVCS Legal Counsel

CALL TO ORDER

Liz Santacrose called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M. She presented the agenda. There were no changes.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Elmwood Village Charter Schools Board of Trustees meeting held on March 18, 2020, were presented. **Jen moved and Kathy Franklin-Adams seconded that the minutes be accepted as presented. Approved unanimously.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pam moved and Matt Ryan seconded that the Board enter executive session to discuss the schools' legal response to the deduction of statutory funds by Buffalo Public Schools.. Approved unanimously.

Discussion followed.

Jamie moved and Kathy Franklin-Adams seconded that the Board leave executive session. Approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION

The following resolution was proposed:

Board Resolution

WHEREAS, the Buffalo City School District claims that Elmwood Village Charter School (hereinafter, "EVCS") owes it money for alleged overpayments of special education funds starting in the 2007-2008 school year; and

**WHEREAS, the Buffalo City School District is deducting money from EVCS's current students and budget to make-up for these alleged overpayments; and
WHEREAS, it is EVCS's position that Buffalo Public School does not have statutory authority to reduce its current funding based on alleged overpayments of special education funds from years prior: and
WHEREAS, it is also EVCS's position that Buffalo Public School actions are arbitrary, capricious, and in violation of the law.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, EVCS, by its Board of Trustees, hereby authorizes Hodgson Russ LLP to initiate an Article 78 action in Erie County, New York State Supreme Court to challenge Buffalo Public Schools decision to deduct money from its current budget for alleged overpayments of special education funds and to take all actions necessary to this proceeding.**

**Mimi moved and Matt Ryan seconded that the proposed resolution be approved.
Approved unanimously**

TREASURER'S REPORT

This month's meeting was scheduled earlier in the month than usual. Hence, no Treasurer's Report was available at this time.

Directors Report

April 8, 2020

COVID-19 Closure Updates

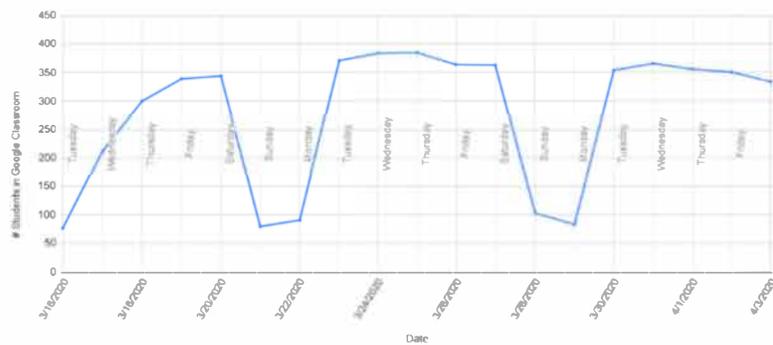
School Closure - Governor Cuomo announced on 4/6 that schools in New York will remain closed through April 29, 2020.

Student Attendance - Melina Hong prepared a summary of student attendance and participation in our Google Classrooms.

Key headlines

- The week Google Classroom was launched, close to 350 Days Park students logged into their Google Classroom (out of 451).

of Logins Over Time - Days Park



- In the first two complete weeks of online school, an average of 80% of

Days Park students (363 out of 451) got online each day. As the graph above shows, this

attendance has been sustained over time.

School Summary - Results for Days Park				
K-6 >>				
Date	All Work Completed	Most Work Completed	Some Work Completed	No Work Completed
3/30/20	55.71%	18.11%	12.53%	11.42%
3/31/20	52.65%	15.04%	20.61%	9.19%
4/1/20	46.24%	25.35%	12.81%	13.37%
4/2/20	49.86%	20.06%	15.88%	12.26%
4/3/20	52.37%	18.66%	13.65%	13.93%

- In the week of 3/30-4/3, about 50% of K-6 students completed "All" of their work. About 70% of K-6 students completed "All" or "Most" of their work (see chart to the left).

- In the week of 3/30-4/3, about 60% of

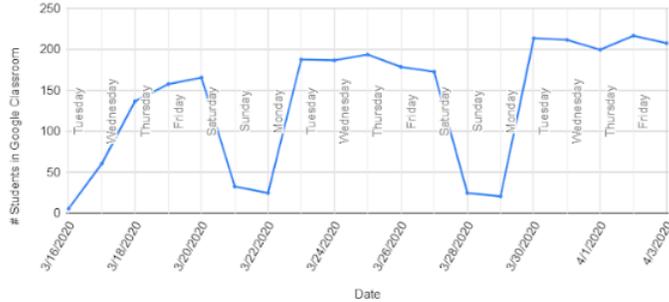
Middle School students completed "All" of their work. About 85% of Middle School students completed "All" or "Most" of their work.

- These results tell us that the vast majority of students who are logging into their Google Classroom are completing the assignments that teachers are posting.

Key headlines

- The week Google Classroom was launched, close to 170 Hertel students logged into their Google Classroom (out of 253).
- In the first full week of online school, an average of 73% of Hertel students (184 out of 253) got online each day. As the graph above shows, in the second full week of school, participation at Hertel increased, with an average of 83% of students getting online each day.

of Logins Over Time - Hertel



of

School Summary - Results for Hertel				
Date	All Work Completed	Most Work Completed	Some Work Completed	No Work Completed
3/30/20	52.57%	10.28%	22.53%	14.62%
3/31/20	47.43%	17.79%	19.76%	15.02%
4/1/20	48.62%	15.02%	15.42%	14.62%
4/2/20	47.04%	17.79%	15.81%	18.58%
4/3/20	51.78%	18.97%	10.28%	18.97%

- In the week of 3/30-4/3, about 50% of Hertel students completed "All" of their work. About 65% of students completed "All" or "Most" of their work (see chart to the left).
- These results tell us that the vast majority of

students who are logging into their Google Classroom are completing the assignments that teachers are posting.

Digital Learning Resources - Following a number of concerns from our IT professionals, and information we have collected from reputable news sources, EVCS has decided not to utilize Zoom with students any longer. This message was sent to families:

A Message from Our Leadership Team Regarding the Use of Zoom

Hello Parents & Guardians,

Thank you again for your partnership in working EVCS and your child's teachers to support our new virtual learning environments. We are prioritizing your child's safety and security in online meeting platforms and are aware that not all platforms offer the most secure student experience. Moving forward, all online meetings with students will be hosted using the **Google Meet** app. Here's why:

- Google's apps meet the privacy standards set forth in FERPA and COPPA

- Your child already has an EVCS Google account (Anyone from outside the EVCS domain has to ask to join the meeting and wait for host permission to join, making meetings secure)
- Students can participate in meetings, but not start their own meetings

Please [complete this short survey](#) by Wednesday, April 8th to give permission for your child to participate in Google Meets.

All staff will only be using Google Meets with their school G Suite account and teachers will still monitor Google Meets closely and make sure to respond at the first sign of any unwanted or inappropriate activity. If you'd like to learn more about Google Meets, watch this [4 minute video](#) for an overview. If you have questions or need IT support, please email support@elmwoodvillageschool.org.

Digital Learning Survey - EVCS was among the first schools to launch an online learning platform during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our faculty has been working diligently to ensure access to learning, provide high quality learning materials, support students' social-emotional needs, and meet special education mandates through teletherapy. We requested feedback from our families on their experience so far with our digital learning efforts and resources: [EVCS Online Learning Parent Survey](#). We will use this information to continue to provide valuable learning experiences for your child from home.

Results as of 4/8/2020:

80% of families responded that the amount of work provided is just right.

94% of families responded that the level of work is just right.

94% of families responded that they are receiving the support they need from the school for their child's learning.

Family Support - Support for EVCS during this pandemic has been overwhelming. We launched a Facebook fundraiser to support families in need. Thanks to our incredible school community, we have been able to provide support for so many of our families, and connect with the wealth of resources in our community. During the spring break, Mrs. Ebony McMillan,

Student Life Coordinator, will be available to all families at both campuses to assist with non-academic needs.

Spring Break - During the week of April 13-17, EVCS will observe spring break. Teachers will post a variety of optional activities for students in their Google classrooms. One school-wide activity will be our participation in the [Global Heart Map Project](#). Students may also want to use this time to catch up on outstanding assignments, or just take a break from the technology to be refreshed for the next week's learning.

Operations/Facilities

Days Park We applied for a waiver from the Empire State Development (ESD) last week and heard back today (4/8/20) that the project was deemed essential. Space planning WG will coordinate communication of timeline with neighbors with Owner's Representative Colby Smith. R&P Oak Hill provided site safety plans, including specific COVID-19 protocols and procedures that will be practiced on site.

Hertel No update.

Lottery - Lottery was performed April 6th, and was recorded on Zoom. Link to live lottery was listed on EVCS's website and as per NYS regulations, the process will be transcribed.

Lottery Applications for 2020-2021 as of 4/6/20										
Campus	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Totals
Days Park	187	43	42	48	39	41	41	25	16	482
Sibling	25	--	--	--	--	2	1	--	1	29
Employee	1	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	2
Hertel	151	34	36	37	42	30	Not available at Hertel Campus			330
Sibling	14	2	--	3	--	--	Not available at Hertel Campus			19
Employee	2	--	--	--	--	--	Not available at Hertel Campus			2
Total	338	77	78	85	81	71	41	25	16	812

HR Updates

Position	Name	Campus	Qualifications
No hires			

Currently Hiring: Interviews have begun for the 2020-2021 school year.

Advanced HR has gone live. Employees can now see their paychecks online and are able to make changes electronically.

Custodians, Substitute Teachers, and Receptionists have been temporarily laid off during the 100% work from home mandate. All employees have been personally contacted to check in on unemployment benefits, ask if any assistance is needed, and to be updated on changing legislation.

Employment law is changing very quickly right now with COVID-19. HR Manager is attending different webinars and reading about new legislation as it continues to change, including CARES Act and Federal and State new paid sick leaves.

Finance We consulted with our accountants about applying for the Paycheck Protection grant program to offset any upcoming financial hit. If reporting criteria about maintaining jobs is not met, it will turn into a loan with ~1% interest rate. Lisa and Liz continued to dialogue regarding the eligibility of EVCS for the PPP loan, given that the measurement period of the PPP loan was 2/15/2020 through 6/30/2020. As of their most recent revisit of the PPP grant, EVCS did not appear to be eligible due to the fact that the state funding and all EVCS funding had not been cut through June 30, 2020. However we were encouraged to apply by the NYCSA staff. We have reached out to reps at Northwest and will report back to board. There is an interest in applying for money to keep staffing levels at full capacity next year.

Academics

1. The NYS Regents assessments have been suspended by the state until further notice. Students who demonstrate proficiency in the standards for a Regents course will be exempt from the exam, and will receive course credit.

Other Business - None at this time.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Bruno, Liz Evans, Kathy Jamil, and Anne Wechsler - April 8, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEW BUSINESS

- The annual EVCS Admissions Lottery was held on April 6, 2020, as scheduled. Congratulations to Christina Petit on her excellent preparations. A large waiting list for openings at both schools remains.
- Interviews to fill potential staff positions for next year are beginning.

Liz Santacrose expressed appreciation to both employees and school families for their excellent response to all the adjustments required to accommodate students in the face of Covid 19.

Jen moved and Kathy Franklin-Adams seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Pamela Pollock

Future Meetings: May 20, 2020; June 17, 2020; July 15, 2020.

Note: All meetings begin at 6:00 PM