

**Elmwood Village Charter Schools  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Wednesday, November 18, 2020  
Meeting Site: Zoom Online Meeting**

**Trustees Present:** Mimi Barnes-Coppola; Jennifer Bernacki-Smith; Kathy Franklin-Adams; Evelyn Kerney; Matt Moscati; Joshua Pennell; Pamela Pollock; Matt Ryan; Liz Santacrose; Anna Sotelo Peryea; Jamie Smith

**Trustees Excused:** Lacle Brumfield

**Trustees Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Danielle Bruno, Director EVCS Days Park; Liz Evans, EVCS Director of Operations; Liz Fisher, Acting Director of EVCS Hertel; Anne Wechsler, EVCS Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Lisa Kirisits, CPA, of Kirisits and Associates, EVCS Accountants

#### CALL TO ORDER

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

#### MINUTES

The minutes of the Elmwood Village Charter Schools Board of Trustees Meeting held on October 21, 2020, were presented. **Matt Ryan moved and Kathy seconded that the minutes be accepted as presented. Approved unanimously.**

The minutes of the Elmwood Village Charter Schools Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees held on November 9, 2020, were presented. **Kathy moved and Mimi seconded that the minutes be accepted as presented. Approved unanimously.**

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Lisa Kirisits reported that for the four months ended October 31, 2020, EVCS showed a decrease in net assets of (\$420,000) vs. a budgeted decrease in net assets of approximately (\$1,125,700). The result was a favorable variance of approximately \$705,700. EVCS remains ahead of budget by approximately \$300,000 and shows the same positive and negative factors.

Matt Moscati indicated that one of the CDs had matured and that the money had been deposited in an investment account. Another CD will mature soon and a brief discussion was held regarding what might be done with the money at that time. **Matt Ryan moved and Mimi seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted. Approved unanimously.**

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Directors' Report was prepared jointly by Danielle Bruno, Liz Evans, Liz Fisher and Anne Wechsler.

### **School Reopening Update**

Danielle began by announcing that as of today, all of Buffalo and most of Erie County had been designated as an Orange Zone with respect to the COVID-19 virus. She then explained the restrictions for schools under the various designations as summarized below:

RED ZONE	ORANGE ZONE	YELLOW ZONE
( Schools closed - Remote instruction only)		Schools open Mandatory 20% weekly testing of students, teachers and staff for in person settings.

Some schools may re-open in an Orange Zone after 4 days of closure, if they are able to meet certain requirements, including testing 100% of in-person students and staff, and weekly testing of 25% of the in-person population.

Now that Buffalo is an Orange Zone, EVCS's return metrics match those of NY State. EVCS would be able to return to in-person learning when the geographic region is downgraded to Yellow ( a 7-day rolling average of 2% or lower for the last three consecutive days of a 10-day period ). If the City of Buffalo is downgraded to Yellow, schools will be required to test 20% of their population. If the results of that testing is lower than the 7-day rolling average, the school will not be required to conduct further testing. If the results are higher than the 7-day rolling average, the school will be required to test 20% of the population weekly.

### **Impact of Orange Zone designation on Reopening Timeline:**

- Minimum number of closure days required - 4
- Earliest possible re-opening day for any school in Orange Zone - November 30
- Requirement to reopen in Orange - Test 100% of in-person students and staff (no opt-outs); Test 25% of students and staff weekly. (no repeat tests weekly; retest group 1 after 5 weeks if still Orange/Red)
- Additional EVCS metric - Positivity rate at or below 2%

Today Charter groups in WNY convened for the weekly consortium meeting to discuss the potential impact of Orange Zone designation on school operations. Given the Orange Zone status and rising Covid rates, it is likely that if the Orange Zone status remains in effect after two weeks, most schools will attempt to re-open again in mid-January.

EVCS proposes that, barring a dramatic decrease in data that would allow reopening before winter break, a hybrid reopening will be attempted in mid-January if metrics permit.

### **Operations/Facilities**

**Days Park:** Construction of the addition continues. The communication undertaken by Jen Bernacki-Smith was successful in getting National Grid to schedule work. However there are additional delays in completion due to extra work created by recent wind storms. The lift is being installed this week and a temporary certificate of occupancy for the second-floor spaces should be granted soon.

**Hertel:** Water sensors were installed in spots where flood water entered the building last summer. These will give an early warning in case of standing water.

**Shared:** Preparations continue for the return to hybrid instruction. The Operations team has been presenting information to EVCS staff on facilities, HR, routines and procedures on a weekly basis.

**Admissions/Student Enrollment**

Student demographics break down as follow:

	<u>Days Park</u>	<u>Hertel</u>	<u>Combined</u>
Total Enrollment	445	305	750
# of Grade Levels	9	6	9
% Economically Disadvantaged	56.9%	65.9%	60.5%
% with disability	15.7%	18.7%	16.9%
# with 504 Plan	78	35	113
#LEP Eligible	5	13	18

Additional information is available on request.

**Technology**

Thanks to all who donated Chromebooks or money toward purchase of additional Chromebooks. They are helping to bridge the gap as more families need new Chromebooks, or need to exchange a damaged or non-functional Chromebook. A shipment of 36 Chromebooks, which had been ordered in August, is expected to arrive Wednesday. Another shipment of fifty, from another vendor, will be shipped soon. EVCS is also purchasing new hotspots, through T-Mobile. Currently 35 are deployed and another ten are on their way. The school was able to switch its account from a business to a government account, and will now be paying less for more data. At the lower price, the 35 that are deployed will cost \$700 per month.

**HR Updates**

The Board was requested to approve the following additions to the staff:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Campus</b>	<b>Qualifications</b>
Middle School Instructional Assistant	Rachel Robinson	Days Park	-MS English Education (in progress) SUCB -BS English Education - SUCB
Part-time Speech/Language Pathologist	Katelyn Weidner	Shared	-MS Speech Language Pathology, SUCB -BS Speech Language Pathology SUCB
Substitute Teacher	Megan Whalen	Days Park	-MS Early Childhood/ Childhood Education, University of Buffalo -BS Art History, University of Buffalo -Certification: New York State, Early Childhood Ed. & Childhood Ed.

**Matt Ryan moved and Pam seconded that the proposed hires be approved.**

**Approved unanimously.**

The Hertel Campus is currently looking to hire Full-Time and Part-Time Custodians, a SPED Teacher, a Principal and Substitute Teachers.

### **Academics**

Initial Star data is been analyzed. This data will be shared with the Academic Excellence Committee at their next meeting.

Trimester 1 Report cards: The first marking period ends on December 4. Teachers were advised to focus on priorities and to err on the side of generosity considering the inequities involved in remote instruction. Report cards will be sent home the week of 12/14.

Teacher-led SEL Committee: Group of 40 plus faculty members met for the first meeting of the newly formed EVCS JOY & Engagement Committee.

### **Other Business**

There was no additional business to report.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Pam moved and Jamie seconded that the Board enter executive session to discuss some legal and personnel matters.** Approved unanimously. Several matters were discussed. **Jamie moved and Kathy seconded that the Board leave executive session.** Approved unanimously.

**Matt Ryan moved and Anna seconded that the Board authorize EVCS attorneys to proceed with an appeal of the BPS decision to withhold special education money from charter schools in an effort to compensate for alleged past overpayment.** Approved unanimously.

### SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Space Planning	No additional information.
Nominating	Mimi has met with Ed Castine, who was introduced at a previous BOT meeting.
Academic Excellence	Will meet to review data from STAR testing when it becomes available.
Fundraising	No report at this time.

### COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

**Hertel** - Anna reported increasing family engagement. There have been 20-30 parents at each of the virtual CA meetings. Officer elections are forthcoming. There has been a good response to the holiday plant sale. The group previously raised funds to purchase a book and a craft kit for each Hertel student.

**Days Park** - Jamie indicated that there had been no report from the Days Park CA President.

## NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was no new business nor any further announcements. **Jen moved and Jamie seconded that the meeting be adjourned . Approved unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted  
Pamela Pollock

### **Future Meetings:**

**Dec. 16, 2020; Jan. 20, 2021; Feb. 24, 2021; Mar. 17, 2021; April 21, 2021; May 19, 2021; June 16, 2021; July 21, 2021**

**All meetings begin at 6:00 PM**