

**The Elmwood Village Charter School**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Wednesday April 20, 2016**

**Trustees Present:** Mimi Barnes-Coppola, Marguerite Battaglia, Kathy Franklin-Adams, Ingrid Knight, Matt Moscati, Pamela Pollock, Matt Ryan, Liz Santacrose, Natalie Stoyanoff

**Trustees Excused:** Jennifer Bernacki-Smith

**Trustees Absent:** None

**Others Present:** John Sheffield, EVCS Director; Liz Evans, EVCS Operations Manager;

1. Chairperson, Mimi Barnes-Coppola, called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. She presented the agenda for the meeting. There were no changes. Approved.

2. Minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on March 16, 2016 were presented. **Matt Ryan moved and Natalie seconded that the minutes be accepted. Approved unanimously.**

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Matt Moscati stated that he had not yet received the financial statement for the period ending March 31, 2016. Figures will be reviewed at the May meeting.

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Matt also reviewed the actions that will be taken regarding the school's cash reserves. The bulk will be transferred to the operating account at Northwest Savings Bank. This account will be maintained at a minimum of \$500,000. The sum of one million dollars will be invested in a money market account earning .4% interest. The remainder of the reserves will be invested in laddered CDs earning .7% interest. The service fee on the CDs would start at .45% and would drop to .25%, .20% and .18% on amounts in excess of one million dollars. It was suggested that John or Liz follow up with Lisa Kirisits, the school's accountant, to be sure these actions are taken in a timely fashion.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

State Assessments

New York State ELA and Math assessments were administered. EVCS is, once again, scoring with a collaboration of schools from Rochester and Buffalo.

Slightly less than 3% of the students refused to take the test as part of the "opt-out" movement. Less than 1% were excused due to medical exemptions.

Grade 8	1 refusal and 1 medical exemption (hospitalized)
Grade 7	1 refusal
Grade 5	1 refusal
Grade 4	1 refusal
Grade 3	2 refusals

John expressed his pleasure that the majority of EVCS parents were supportive of the school's goal of having all students participate in the assessments.

Lottery

The EVCS admissions lottery was held on Thursday, April 7, 2016. After sibling and staff preference, 207 names were drawn to fill 23 seats in kindergarten. Names for grades 1-8 were drawn to create a waiting list that will be used to fill seats as they become available. A total of 526 names entered in the lottery for grades K-8. Fourteen of those were out-of-district residents.

Addition of Second Sixth Grade

With the addition of a second sixth grade next year, John proposed that the structure of

sixth grade return to being primarily self-contained rather than departmentalized. Students in sixth grade would change classes only for science and social studies. This would allow the school to provide greater academic and social support to students in sixth grade, many of whom come to the school new in fifth grade. This will also allow the school to offer double blocks of math and ELA for students in seventh and eighth grades. This change is supported in the draft budget.

### Recruitment

Ebony McMillan represented EVCS at a day-long charter school fair hosted by the Northeast Charter School Network on Saturday, April 16, 2016. Even though the fair was held after the EVCS admissions lottery, she was able to meet with families and disseminate information about EVCS and its programs.

### Personnel

Later in April, John plans to convene the hiring committee to interview prospective staff members for the 2016-2017 school year. He anticipates hiring three teachers; two to fill slots open due to the upward expansion, and one to fill a position left open due to attrition. He also anticipates the need for several teaching assistants. Internal and external candidates will be interviewed for these positions. Earlier this month Liz Evans and Anne Wechsler attended a teacher recruitment fair, primarily to see what prospects might be available for the replication school.

### AmeriCorps

For ten years EVCS students have benefitted from the presence of AmeriCorps members serving in the school. AmeriCorps members serve through a competitive grant where the school and AmeriCorps share the cost of members' stipends. EVCS has been fortunate to receive this cost-sharing grant for each of the past ten years. The program, however, will be changed significantly next year, and may be of no use to the school. Next year, AmeriCorps members will only be permitted to work with students using a math intervention program and behavioral management program that have been selected by AmeriCorps. They will no longer be allowed to assist with literacy. Neither of the two programs adopted by AmeriCorps is used by EVCS or aligned to the school's programs. Unless there can be some compromise with AmeriCorps, John will not apply for the grant for the 2016-2017 school year.

### Elmwood Village Charter School Day

Buffalo Mayor, Byron Brown, proclaimed Friday, April 22, 2016, to be Elmwood Village Charter School Day, in recognition of the school's tenth year of providing high-quality education and preparing children to be good citizens in the city of Buffalo.

## 6. REPLICATION COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT

Liz Evans reported that the proposal for EVCS-2 has been approved for opening in the fall of 2017. Paperwork has been sent to the Board of Regents. They have 90 days to finalize the decision. After that time it automatically goes into effect. Meanwhile, the leadership team is working on:

- preparing a CSP Grant proposal which is expected to yield \$500,000 to \$750,000 for start-up expenses
- making some last-minute by-laws changes
- creating an advertisement seeking a school leader for EVCS-2
- meeting with an unnamed foundation to seek assistance with recruitment of this new school leader

Some members of the replication committee toured the vacant Black Rock Academy to assess its suitability as a site for EVCS-2. The building has some nice features. However it is 98,000 square

feet, about twice what is actually needed, and would require a huge amount of renovation.

#### 7. RE-BRANDING

Natalie has had a number of meetings with Julian Montague to refine the new logo. Eight designs were presented. There was extensive discussion regarding the pros and cons of the various designs. **Marguerite moved and Liz Santacrose seconded that design number three be selected. Approved.** Design number three consists of large underlined tangram letters “EVCS” below which the name of the school would be spelled out in capital block letters. See samples. There would be options to modify these for special events and for use by EVCS-2.

#### 8. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATES

-Four Board members’ terms will expire in June; Mimi Barnes-Coppola; Jennifer Bernacki-Smith, Pamela Pollock and Matthew Ryan. Mimi, Pam and Matt were invited and agreed to run for another term to end 6/2019. It is hoped that Jen will also agree when she returns from vacation.

-Elections for EVCS Board Officers will be held at the May meeting. A slate of officer candidates will be presented at that time.

-The Nominating Committee will also present a candidate to replace Ingrid Knight as Parent Representative to the Board. Ingrid will be leaving the area and will resign effective at the end of June.

#### 9. COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION UPDATE

-Liz Santacrose announced That the C.A. is looking forward to its upcoming election of officers.

-The family rock-climb was well attended and enjoyed by all.

-Work continues on the school’s major fund raising event, *Evening In Days Park* which will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2016.

-The annual Days Park barbecue will be held on June 16.

#### 10. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

John announced that plans were being made for an EVCS 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration which will be incorporated the October 15 *Evening I Days Park Event*.

**Matt Ryan moved and Marguerite seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Approved unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela Pollock

Future Meetings - Meetings at 6:00 p.m.: May 11, 2016; June 15, 2016