

**The Elmwood Village Charter School**  
**Board of Trustees Special Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 31, 2016**

**Trustees Present:** Mimi Barnes-Coppola, Marguerite Battaglia-Evans, Matt Moscati, Pam Pollock, Liz Santacrose, Natalie Stoyanoff

**Trustees Excused:** Jennifer Bernacki-Smith, Kathy Franklin-Adams, Ingrid Knight, Matt Ryan

**Trustees Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Liz Evans, EVCS Operations Manager; Anne Wechsler, EVCS Academic Program Coordinator; Colby Smith, EVCS Representative

Chairperson, Mimi Barnes-Coppola called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

This special meeting was called to discuss two important items which required action by 5/31/16. These were:

1. Pending purchase of property for EVCS-2
2. Approval of Director's contract

Following unforeseen events of the weekend, there was a need to amend the agenda as follows:

1. Pending purchase of property for EVCS-2
2. Acceptance of Director's resignation
3. Approval of contract for new Director

**PENDING PURCHASE OF PROPERTY for EVCS -2**

Owner's Representative, Colby Smith led the discussion. He stated that the property in question has had a recent environmental study, but that EVCS has to have its own. This one will concentrate more on the potential playground area. He was confident that all needed investigations could be completed within the allotted thirty days. The seller is requiring a deposit of \$310,000. The first \$50,000 is to be non-refundable. The remainder is to be refundable if problems arise within the first thirty days. The Board must be necessary to sacrifice the \$50,000 if the property is found to be unsuitable during the thirty-day period. Items to be completed during that time include:

- Title search and review
- Phase 2 environmental study
- Survey
- Appraisal

It was agreed that the Board should continue to search for additional suitable properties in order to be ready to move forward should this location prove unsuitable.

**RESIGNATION OF DIRECTOR**

Yesterday, Board members and the leadership team received notification that EVCS Director, John Sheffield, intended to submit his resignation and to accept a position as Principal for Grades Five through Eight of South Buffalo Charter School. This news came as a shock and disappointment to all.

**CONTRACT for NEW DIRECTOR**

The EVCS Search Committee has recently completed a search for the individual to be the Director of EVCS-2. She has agreed, in principle, to come aboard and the committee has been working on details of her contract. The Board reviewed her qualifications and agreed that it

would be appropriate to offer her the position of Director of EVCS-1 and resume the search for a director of EVCS-2.

In light of these events and resulting discussion, the following actions were taken. At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees duly called and held on May 31, 2016, be it -

**Resolution #1**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board authorizes the expenditure of a \$310,000 deposit toward the acquisition of 655 Hertel Avenue, Buffalo, NY, to house EVCS 2. This action is taken with the understanding that \$50,000 of this deposit is non-refundable and, if the contract is unable to be fulfilled, the remaining \$260,000 will be refundable up through the end of the due diligence period ending June 30, 2016. This includes the condition that, if the seller defaults on the contract, or is unable to provide the property in the form required by the contract, or the property is determined to be unsuitable for school use, then the \$260,000 will be returned to EVCS.

**Resolution # 2**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board regrettably accept the resignation of John Sheffield, effective June 30, 2016.

**Resolution # 3**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board approves the recommendation of the selection committee to offer Danielle Bruno a contract to serve as new Director of EVCS effective July 15, 2016. She will receive standard benefits and a salary to be negotiated, but not to exceed \$104,000 annually.

All three resolutions were passed by a unanimous vote of those in attendance.

**Motion to adjourn was made by Marguerite and seconded by Matt Moscati. Approved unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela Pollock

FUTURE DATES:

-Next regular meeting of the EVCS Board is Wednesday, June 15, at 6:00 p.m.