

Elmwood Village Charter Schools
Board of Trustees Meeting
SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, November 9, 2020
Meeting Site: ZOOM Online Meeting

Trustees Present: Mimi Barnes-Coppola; Jennifer Bernacki-Smith; Lacole Brumfield; Kathy Franklin-Adams; Joshua Pennell; Pamela Pollock; Elizabeth Santacrose; Jamie Smith

Trustees Excused: None

Trustees Absent: Evelyn Kerney; Matt Moscati; Matt Ryan; Anna Sotelo Peryea

Others Present: Danielle Bruno, Director EVCS Days Park; Elizabeth Evans, EVCS Director of Operations; Elizabeth Fisher, Acting Director EVCS Hertel; Anne Wechsler, EVCS Director of Curriculum and Instruction

CALL TO ORDER

Liz Santacrose called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM. She noted that this special meeting had been called, giving the required 10 days notice, for the particular purpose, to evaluate the proposal to shift from fully remote instruction to hybrid instruction at this point in the COVID Pandemic.

The topic of return to school was discussed at length during the regularly scheduled Board Meeting held on October 21, 2020. A request was made to return the issue for further discussion among stakeholders (parents and staff). Danielle thanked the Board for the additional time to review and modify reopening details.

BRIEF UPDATE

-Recent testing data from Erie County shows an increased positivity rate from 2% to 6.4%. Buffalo and most of Erie County now fall in the “yellow zone”. This imposes increased restrictions on the population. For example, schools providing on site instruction in any format are mandated to have weekly COVID testing for 20% of both students and staff on a random, rotating basis.

-Transportation information regarding potentially returning students has been sent to Buffalo Public Schools. They will be assigning students to a cohort and providing transportation. Bus information will be sent to parents when it is available.

-Both buildings have been thoroughly cleaned and prepared for social distancing. Staff has been trained in health and safety procedures and models of hybrid instruction. Access to buildings for set-up will be arranged. Everything will be re-cleaned daily, overnight. Busing information has been sent home and, when returned, will be sent to BPS for cohorting and eventual transportation scheduling.

-Family communication updates outlining changes or updates in procedures will be sent home each Tuesday and Thursday.

RESOLUTION

The following resolution was sent to the Board for consideration:

Be it resolved that EVCS Days Park and EVCS Hertel will shift from a fully remote instructional model to a hybrid instructional model on, or after November 30, 2020, as allowed according to the plan presented to the Board by the school leadership team at the October meeting of the Board, and to state and local authorities. Once EVCS enters the hybrid instructional model under this plan, the school will be required to return to fully remote instruction if the 7-day rolling average positivity rate in Erie County reaches 3%. Additionally, if 3 positive cases of COVID within a 2-week period are documented on one EVCS Campus, that Campus will return to a fully remote instructional model for a minimum of 2-weeks from the identification of the most recent positive case. The Board wishes to emphasize that strict adherence to the trigger metrics included in that plan will be used to determine when it is necessary for health and safety to pivot back to a remote instructional model for individual students or employees, whole classrooms or entire campuses. Additionally, it is resolved that November 2, 9, and 16 will be designated as teacher training and preparation days and that the school leadership team is required to dialogue and collaborate with staff, faculty and families in an ongoing fashion to refine procedures and identify additional safety measures that are appropriate to ensure that the greatest possible safety for all members of our school community, until such time as it is no longer impacted by COVID-19.

Josh moved and Jamie seconded that the resolution be adopted. Approved unanimously.

Liz Santacrose thanked the Board for their time and attention spent in consideration of this important matter. She also thanked the school leadership team for their hard work and sharing of information.

Kathy moved and Pam seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Pollock