

The Elmwood Village Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Trustees Present: Mimi Barnes-Coppola, Liz Evans, Kathy Franklin-Adams, Kitty Herrick, Regan Ihde, Pam Pollock, Kelli Simpson, Paul Souter

Trustees Absent: Shirley Courton, Marguerite Battaglia Evans

Others Present: John Sheffield (Director)

Liz Evans called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

1. Liz presented the agenda for the meeting. There were no additions. Approved.
2. It was noted that the wording of the statement of correction to the January, 2009 minutes was unclear. **Motion to approve the minutes from February 18, 2009, as corrected was made by Kitty and seconded by Kathy. Approved.**
3. DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY

Enrollment

Current EVCS enrollment is stable at 170 students.

Academics

a. Last year students at all achievement levels (one exception) who had been enrolled at EVCS for at least one continuous year exhibited gains on the NYS Assessments, Terra Nova test, Dibels, and program based assessments. Consequently, we met or exceeded accountability goals and surpassed our district of residence by approximately 30%.

b. First graders who attended kindergarten at EVCS are performing, on average, 27% higher on Terra Nova assessments than students who attended kindergarten at another school.

c. EVCS sixth grade was selected to participate in the NYS Field Testing in mathematics. The test will be administered on March 26.

Personnel

Staff has been relatively stable during the three years since the opening of the school. EVCS has lost only one classroom teacher and two special subject teachers. This has allowed the school to use professional development to perfect the implementation of the curriculum and use data to assess and revise instructional strategies.

Partnership

John announced that EVCS would be partnering with Healthworks of WNY to provide the school with necessary physicians' services such as physicals. The school will pay for such services on a per item basis.

Calendar

Next year's academic calendar was again discussed. **It was moved by Pam and seconded by Regan to develop the 2009-2010 EVCS calendar based on a start date for students of Tuesday, September 1, 2009. Approved.**

Title I Audit

EVCS has been notified that the school will be subject to a review and audit of Title I payments and service provision. Documentation will be sent to the NY State Education Department in Albany for a desk audit.

Budget

John and Regan will be working with the accountant to prepare the budget for the 2009-2010 academic year. The budget is due May 15, 2009. Preliminary calculations from NYS Education Department show that Buffalo's district payment to charters for 2009-10 will be \$11,972. This is nearly 15% higher than the current payment of \$10,429 but remains at only two-thirds of the district per pupil expenditure. It is expected that the contributions to teacher retirement will also increase. Considering these factors, John is looking to budget for teacher salary increases. **Kathy moved and Kitty seconded that John and Regan formulate the 2009-2010 EVCS budget based on raises of 4%.**

Approved.

Site Visit

Sue Gibbons and other representatives of the NY State Department of Education will be at EVCS Wednesday, March 25, 2009, as part of the school's third year charter review process. There have been regular staff meetings to make certain that all is ready for the visit. Each teacher has created a binder which includes sample lesson plans, examples of student work, etc. These binders demonstrate all that happens at EVCS, since it is impossible to observe the entire curriculum at any given moment. There is also a brief slide show containing a sample of students' activities. Site visitors have asked to meet with members of the EVCS Board of Trustees at 3:00 p.m.

Financial

See Treasurer's Report

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Regan Ihde presented the financial reports for the eight months ending February 28, 2009. (In packet.) In summary, for the eight months ended February 28, 2009, EVCS incurred an actual increase in net assets of \$242,300 vs. a budgeted decrease in net assets of \$107,300. The result is a favorable variance of \$349,600. **It was moved by Kelli and seconded by Mimi to accept the financial statements. Approved.** The financial committee will set up a meeting with John in the near future.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. The Task Force on Middle School Expansion continues to explore possibilities. Two community meetings (March 27 and March 31, 2009) have been scheduled in Allentown. Possible uses for the School #36 building will be discussed. Liz and other committee members will be present to participate in the discussion. There has been some concern among members of the CA that decisions have been made and that they have not been notified. They have been assured that the Task Force and the Board are merely exploring various possibilities at this time.

b. Liz stated that she has received the names of two individuals who might be good candidates to fill the position on the Board of Trustees which was left vacant by the resignation of David Rodriguez. She will pass those names on to the nominating committee for further action. There have been five parents interested in serving as parent representative to the Board. Each of them will be asked to prepare a short statement. These will be printed and sent home to each parent for voting. Final ballots might be collected on parent conference day.

c. Results are in for the annual EVCS Parent Satisfaction Survey and also for the annual Board Evaluation of the Director. The Board has also completed its first annual Board

Self-Evaluation. Detailed results of these surveys will be available at a later date.

6. NEW BUSINESS

The Board meeting moved to the library-media center to view the new EVCS wiki that Liz Evans has been creating. She has been posting important school documents, the calendar and other information about the school. Board members will eventually be able to add their own information. When complete, this will be a significant resource.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kitty and seconded by Pam. Approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Pollock

FUTURE DATES:

-The NY State Department of Education site visit pertaining to the Third Year Charter Review is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2009. Visitors will meet with members of the Board of Trustees at 3:00 p.m.

-Next meeting of the EVCS Board is Wednesday, April 22, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.