

The Elmwood Village Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, May 20, 2009

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

Trustees Absent: Shirley Courton, Liz Evans

Others Present: Paul Marzello, prospective Trustee, and Lynn Scheuer, Director of Literacy and Special Education at Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center

Mimi Barnes-Coppola called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

1. Mimi presented the agenda for the meeting. There were no additions. Approved.
2. **Minutes** from the meeting held on April 22, 2009, were presented. Kelli moved and Kitty seconded that the **minutes** from 4-22-09 be accepted as submitted. Approved.
3. Marguerite introduced Paul Marzello as a candidate to fill the seat on the Board of Trustees vacated by David Rodriguez. The Board was favorably impressed by Mr. Marzello's credentials and with the brief discussion which followed his introduction. Marguerite moved and Regan seconded that Paul Marzello be appointed to fill the seat on the Board of Trustees vacated by David Rodriguez. The motion was tabled until the June meeting in order that the Board President and the Director of the School might be present.
4. Mimi introduced Lynn Scheuer, Director of Literacy and Special Education at Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center. Ms. Scheuer presented a proposal for provision of speech services at EVCS during the 2009-2010 academic year. BHSC currently works with South Buffalo Charter School and Global Concepts Charter School. Ms. Scheuer stated that the goal would be for BHSC to become a part of the EVCS Team and to build a program to meet the needs of the school and of each individual student. Cost of the program would be based, in part, on the number of services provided. For example, if BHSC were to provide both occupational therapy and speech therapy, those would be billed at \$50.00 per hour. BHSC is currently preparing a proposal to The Charter School Coalition to provide quantity therapy services at a reduced rate. If accepted, this might result in a lower rate.
5. DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY - Mimi presented the Director's Summary, as John is in Albany working with the NY State Department of Education.

Enrollment

Current EVCS enrollment is stable at 170 students.

Academics

Charts showing performance of EVCS students on the 2008-2009 NYS ELA Assessment

were presented. Some interesting points to note: only 64% of the students who transferred into the school this year scored at proficiency. Of students who have been enrolled for one continuous year, 86% scored at or above proficiency, and 89.4% of students enrolled for two continuous years, scored at or above proficiency. The charts also show performance of each sub-group. This third year data is very important because we are now able to track trends and identify our strengths and weaknesses. A major part of professional development this August will be dedicated line-item analysis by standards and performance indicators.

Site Visit

Board members also received copies of the Compliance Summary of the Special Education Quality Assurance Focused Review, which was a part of the third-year monitoring visit. EVCS special education program was in compliance in all areas except for the delivery of speech services, for which the school has been dependent on the Buffalo Board of Education. John sent 5 letters seeking bids for speech services for the 2009-2010 school year. Two companies, Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center and Diversified Services will submit bids. John will be contacting the State Education Department with our Compliance Assurance Plan. The plan will include provisions for EVCS to provide SED with: a list of all students requiring speech services which includes level of service; a copy of the speech therapist's schedule; a copy of the service provision log.

Financial

John met with Bruce Goldstein regarding the related services bill. He advised John to file a complaint with the Commissioner of Education by May 30. He explained that Buffalo has the right to bill the charter schools for the services, but that the way they billed us was not legal. Paul moved and Marguerite seconded that John be authorized to file a complaint regarding the manner in which Buffalo billed EVCS for special education services. Approved.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Regan presented the treasurer's reports for months ending March 31, 2009 and April 30, 2009. For the month ending 3-31-09 EVCS experienced a net asset increase of \$297,500 and a decrease of \$86,100 which had been budgeted. This left a favorable balance of \$383,600. For the month ending 4-30-09 we again experienced a net asset increase over a budgeted loss bringing the favorable balance to \$417,300. Regan noted that we now have the cancelled checks from December 2008 and January 2009 which had been unavailable. She added that we now have limited (read only) on-line banking privileges with First Niagara Bank so that we can review the account more easily prior to a meeting. Marguerite moved and Kathy seconded that the financial reports for 3-31-09 and 4-30-09 be accepted. Approved.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Biographies of five persons willing to serve as parent representative to the EVCS Board

of Trustees were circulated. It was noted that the role of the parent representative was identical to that of all other Board members. All five candidates appear to be well qualified. The Board wants to thank the parents for their excellent response. The ballots are due on May 22, 2009. A year-end Board report will be prepared and distributed to parents.

b. Senate Majority Leader, Malcom Smith, reportedly "found" some money and has promised to restore a portion of the 2009-2010 funding that had been expected by charter schools. A possible restoration of 60% was estimated.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Plans for the second annual Evening in the Atrium are underway. The date will be Saturday, September 26, 2009. This is the major fund-raiser for the school. Ways in which we might maximize profits are being discussed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kathy and seconded by Paul. Approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Pollock

FUTURE DATES:

-Next meeting of the EVCS Board is Wednesday, June 17, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.

Last meeting of the fiscal year.

Election of officers.