

The Elmwood Village Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Trustees Present: Mimi Barnes-Coppola, Marguerite Battaglia, Jennifer Bernacki-Smith, Roy Clay, Concetta Ferguson, Andrew Mouw, Pam Pollock, Natalie Stoyanoff

Trustees Absent: Leah Eagan-Stoddard, Kathy Franklin Adams, Matt Ryan

Others Present: John Sheffield, EVCS Director; Colby Smith, EVCS Owner's Rep; Liz Evans, EVCS Operations Manager

Concetta Ferguson called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

1. Concetta presented the agenda for the meeting. There were no changes. Approved.
2. Minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on April 9, 2014, were presented. **Andrew moved and Jennifer seconded that the minutes be accepted as presented. Approved unanimously.**

3. EXPANSION/FACILITIES UPDATE

Colby Smith, EVCS Owner's Rep, stated that the construction schedule has been revised again. One of the issues was changing the original 7:00 a.m. start time to 9:00 a.m. to reduce the disturbance to the rest of the neighborhood caused by the construction noise. Changes have had no cost impact on the school to date. In order to receive payment, R&P Oak hill will generate a monthly written report detailing the work completed. This report will be subject to multi-level approval.

4. REPLICATION

Bill Clarke, Director of School Innovation for NY State Education Department, has spoken with Bob Bennett, Chancellor Emeritus of NY State Board of Regents. They have initiated discussions about possible replication with high performing charter schools; The Board discussed this at some length. However, it was agreed that replication would be a huge task, consuming much in terms of both personal and financial resources. The \$750,000 offered by New York State for a school start-up would not be expected to cover the entire cost. A meeting of the Task Force on Replication will be scheduled to further investigate what personal and financial resources might be available for such an undertaking.

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Andrew presented the compiled financial statements for the nine months ended March 31, 2014. Some favorable and unfavorable variances were highlighted. However, for the period of the report, EVCS showed an increase in net assets of \$283,282 versus a budgeted decrease in net assets of \$125, 215. The result was a favorable variance of \$408, 497. **Marguerite moved and Pam seconded that the financial report be accepted as presented. Approved unanimously.**

6. BOARD GOVERNANCE PLAN

There was additional discussion of the Board Governance Plan. It was agreed that the Plan should specify that the Executive Committee include all four BOT officers; Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. A copy of the Plan which includes all changes will be prepared and presented to the Board for approval at the June meeting.

7. ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Leah was unable to be present. Her report indicated that the EVCS response to the Annual Campaign resulted in 145 donations totaling more than \$20,000. The anonymous challenge of \$500 additional dollars for 50 new donors at any level was surpassed.

8. RECRUITMENT/ NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

-Mimi reported on the nominating committee's efforts to fill the term of Leah

Eagan-Stoddard to expire 6/30/2014. Based upon; a review of candidates' written submissions, personal interviews, responses to interview questions, projection of upcoming Board needs and candidate attributes, the nominating committee recommended Ingrid Johnson-Jacobs to serve as the Parent Representative on the EVCS Board of Trustees. **Marguerite moved and Natalie seconded that the Board accept the Nominating Committee's recommendation to elect Ingrid Johnson-Jacobs to the position of Parent Representative to the EVCS Board of Trustees.**

Approved. Concetta abstained.

-Other Board members whose terms will expire 6/30/2014 are Concetta Ferguson and Kathy Franklin-Adams. Concetta has stated that she will not be available for another term on the Board. Kathy has indicated that she is willing to continue to serve. Hence, the Committee will be seeking another new Board member.

-Having canvassed Board members and soliciting nominations, the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of candidates for Board Offices in 2014-2015:

Chair: Mimi Barnes-Coppola
Vice Chair: Jennifer Bernacki-Smith
Secretary: Pam Pollock
Treasurer: Andrew Mouw

Election of Officers will be held at the June 18 meeting of the Board.

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

NY State Assessments

- The NYS Mathematics assessment was administered last week. EVCS had only one student opt out.
- As with the ELA assessments, EVCS is scoring with a collaborative of schools from Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse under the direction of ASAP Consulting. For the most part, EVCS teachers are traveling to and from Rochester for the scoring; however they will need to stay over in a motel for one night next week. This will require two motel rooms at a cost of \$94 per room.
- On May 28, the NYS Science Performance assessment will be administered to students in eighth grade. Both fourth and fifth graders will take the written portion of the assessment on June 2.
- End of the year STAR assessments will be administered during the week of May 19.

Student Data Management

This week, the administrative team will begin training on Power School. Training for the teachers has been arranged for August.

Days Park Block Club

EVCS and the Days Park Block Club will be working collaboratively on a chicken barbecue fundraiser to raise money for improvements to the park. The barbecue is scheduled for Thursday, June 19.

Graduations

- Eighth grade graduation will be held at Asbury Hall, on Delaware Avenue, Monday, June 23, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
- The kindergarten moving up ceremony will be at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 24, at the Theater of Youth at the corner of Elmwood and Allen.
- Members of the Board of Trustees are invited to attend either or both of these events.

Professional Development

The professional development schedule for August is now being finalized. The full

schedule will be made available to the BOT at the June meeting. Professional development this year will continue to focus on using available data to ensure that the EVCS curriculum is aligned to the common core learning standards, gap analysis, and instructional strategies to ensure the engagement of all students.

Budget and Salary Increases

Salary increases were discussed at last month's Board of Trustees meeting. The NYS Budget has a per pupil aid increase to charter schools of \$250 per student. This is expected to be finalized within the next few weeks. The Board may want to consider salary increases at this time as John needs to have "offer letters" for staff in place before the next Board meeting scheduled for June 18. Lisa Kirisits, EVCS Accountant, recommended pre-approval of raises "pending the anticipated per pupil aid increase". She compiled a series of figures for BOT review. Based on these figures, **Natalie moved and Mimi seconded that EVCS offer an across the board salary increase of 2% pending final approval of the increase in state aid, with an option to the board of continuing to evaluate salaries based on the financial position of the organization during the upcoming year. Approved. Pam abstained.**

Draft 2014-2015 Calendar

John presented a draft calendar for the 2014-2015 school year which was based on a draft calendar from the Buffalo Public Schools. BPS has scheduled a mid-winter break in February. In order to fulfill the number of instructional days required by the EVCS Charter, and to keep three instructional days reserved for weather related closings, John has shortened the mid-winter break to two days. **Marguerite moved and Andrew seconded that the draft calendar be accepted. Approved unanimously.**

Public Attacks on Charter Schools

- The Northeast Charter School Network (NCSN) is running a series of radio ads in support of charter schools after recent public attacks. These ads refute a survey discrediting charter schools that was made public last week by BTF President, Phil Rumore.
- The WNY Charter School Alliance, made up of charter school leaders, is compiling its own response to this survey.

10. NEW BUSINESS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was no further business and no announcements.

Marguerite moved and Pam seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Pollock

FUTURE DATES:

-Meetings at 6:00 p.m. - June 18, 2014