

The Elmwood Village Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, April 27, 2011

Trustees Present: Catherine Herrick, Liz Evans, Concetta Ferguson , Kathy Franklin-Adams, Pam Pollock, Paul Souter

Trustees Absent: Marguerite Battaglia-Evans, Mimi Barnes-Coppola, Frank Housh, Matt Ryan
Others Present: John Sheffield, EVCS Director; Lisa Kirisits, EVCS Accountant

Liz Evans called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

1. Liz presented the agenda for the meeting. There were no changes. Approved.
2. Minutes from the Board of Trustees Meeting held on March16, 2011, were presented.

Concetta moved and Kathy seconded that the minutes be accepted as presented. Approved.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

-EVCS Accountant, Lisa Kirisits, presented the financial report for the nine months ended March 31, 2011. For that time period, EVCS had an increase in net assets of \$355,995 versus a budgeted decrease in net assets of \$93,350. The result is a favorable variance of \$449,345. Ms. Kirisits described a “very healthy balance sheet” with assets three times liabilities. **Catherine moved and Concetta seconded that the financial report be accepted as presented.Approved.** -Ms Kirisits also presented the proposed budget for academic year 2011-2012. She also discussed budget projections for the next 5 years. She predicted that with expansion costs, expensive health insurance and increases in NYS Teacher retirement, against a freeze in NYS reimbursement, EVCS may not break even for several years late in that sequence. She added that she has built some cushion into her projections and that our healthy cash balance should be sufficient to see the school through.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Concetta moved and Kathy seconded that the Board enter executive session to discuss legal matters. Approved. Discussion followed. **Liz moved and Pam seconded that the Board exit executive session. Approved.**

5. DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

- A. The EVCS enrollment lottery for 2011-2012 was held on April 5. It went very well. John credited Leah Gladys for making sure all applications were correct and complete.
- B. Parents have expressed concerns about how the Boys and Girls Club has been operating recently. On April 15, John met with Brian Enright, Quality Control Manager for the Boys and Girls Club and asked him to observe how the site at EVCS operates. On May 4, he will meet with Robert Lowry, Operations Manager for the Boys and Girls Club. Robert will be proposing an action plan to correct some of the problems at the EVCS site. This will include an explanation of how staffing needs will be addressed.
- C. New York State ELA Assessments will be administered to grades 3-6 May 4 and 5. New York State Math Assessments will be administered to grades 3-6 May 11 and 12. E.Terra Nova Tests are scheduled to be administered to grades 1-6 May 24, 25, and 26.
- F. A calendar committee is working on recommendations for the 2011-2012 EVCS School calendar. John hopes to have a proposed calendar ready for approval by the Board of Trustees at the May meeting.

G. John has been working with Anne Wechsler to prepare a professional development schedule for August. In addition to the regular two weeks of professional development, Rob Campbell will be attending a week-long workshop on Responsive Classroom for the middle grades. Also, Ebony McMillan will be attending a week-long workshop on Responsive Classroom for the elementary grades. Both workshops are held in Los Angeles. It is hoped that EVCS will eventually have its own in-house trainers for Responsive Classroom. These workshops are designed to "Train the Trainer."

H. Friday, April 29, is the first training for teachers on the new Common Core Standards. Four teachers from EVCS will be attending this first workshop.

I. In a recent report to the NY State Education Department, John indicated that the 2011-2012 school year will be a planning year to transition EVCS from Targeted Assistance Title I Services, to Whole-School Title I Services. If approved, the changes will be made in the 2012-2013 school year, with Title I support being given to every child in the school. A planning committee will be selected in August. John did note that Title I money has not yet been approved by congress. If approved, it is expected that schools will receive less funding than in previous years.

J. Technology needs are being evaluated. The focus is on what technology and support services will be required as EVCS grows. The concern is what will be needed as the school moves forward, especially with two sites. The evaluation includes looking at ways to link the phone system and internet to both sites.

K. John reminded the Board that, in accordance with the new charter, an annual parent satisfaction survey must be conducted. This is currently being prepared. The results of the parent satisfaction survey is a part of the new accountability plan.

L. John re-opened discussion of the proposed School Safety Plan that was presented at the March meeting and opened to public comment. **Pam moved and Concetta seconded that the School Safety Plan be approved as presented. Approved.**

6. OLD BUSINESS

Liz distributed copies of the Charter Board Member Professional Development Survey prepared by St. John Fisher College which she had discussed at the March Board meeting. Board members were asked to spend a few minutes completing the surveys anonymously. She then collected the surveys to assess them in terms of the needs of the EVCS Board before returning them to St. John Fisher.

7. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liz announced that the 2011 New York State Charter School Conference will be held in Manhattan on Columbus Day Weekend. She hopes that some EVCS staff and Board Members will be able to attend. It is difficult for many schools to send representatives to this conference, as it is always held in Manhattan. She was hopeful that there might be such a conference held in Western NY one day.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Pollock

FUTURE DATES:

Meetings at 6:00 p.m.: May 11, 2011; June 15, 2011, NO JULY MEETING; Aug. 17, 2011