

The Elmwood Village Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, February 18, 2012

Trustees Present: Mimi Barnes-Coppola, Marguerite Battaglia-Evans, Leah Eagan-Stoddard, Liz Evans, Concetta Ferguson, Kathy Franklin-Adams, Catherine Herrick, Frank Housh, Pam Pollock, Matt Ryan

Trustees Absent: None

Others Present: John Sheffield, EVCS Director; Amy Flaherty, Chair EVCS CA; Jeff Russell, new Director of EVCS Boys and Girls club after-school program; Noel Sutton and Marina Luchkevych, on behalf of 149 Elmwood

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. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

-Noel Sutton, owner of the liquor store at 149 Elmwood, adjacent to the EVCS parking lot, showed photographs of water leaking into a basement. He alleges that the water is from the EVCS parking lot and is draining into his basement, at a rate of five gallons every three minutes, and is destroying his foundation. He asserts that EVCS needs to sell him a portion of our driveway in order to enable him to correct this problem. Representatives from the Facilities Committee agreed to investigate the situation.

-Jeff Russell, new Director of EVCS Boys and Girls Club, was introduced. He has been involved with Boys and Girls Clubs in various areas over the past ten years. He expressed a goal to change the image of the EVCS program, by returning focus to the five basic components of the program; character and leadership; health and life skills; arts; education and career development; and sports and fitness. He currently supervises twelve employees at the EVCS program. He reports that "things are running well and the kids are safe." Parents have reported a noticeable improvement in the program since his arrival.

-Amy Flaherty, Chair of the EVCS Community Association, was introduced. She spent several minutes describing the membership and activities of the CA, and passed around a copy of its newsletter. She expressed thanks to the parent organizers and to all the parents who support the six family nights during the year. She announced that the next "Evening In the Atrium" fund-raising event was tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 13, 2012. She hopes to formalize regular communication between the Board and the CA.

3. Minutes from the Board of Trustees Meeting held on January 18, 2012, were presented. Liz suggested several amendments. **Matt moved and Kathy seconded that the minutes be accepted as corrected. Approved unanimously.**

4. FINANCIALS

The Board reviewed the financial statement for the seven-month period ended January 31, 2012. During that period, EVCS has had an increase in net assets of \$187,802 vs. a budgeted decrease in net assets of \$184,223. The result is a favorable variance of \$372,025. **Liz moved and Frank seconded that the financial report be accepted as presented. Approved unanimously.**

5. EXPANSION/FACILITIES UPDATE

-Matt has reached out to the new neighbors, e.g. Kleinhans area, Days Park, and

Allentown Association, regarding the move and expansion project. EVCS has approval from the Preservation Board. However, some neighbors had questions for the Planning Board. Hence, that discussion and approval was tabled for two weeks. Matt and Liz will be present at the Days Park Bock Club meeting this coming Thursday in the hope of answering any remaining questions.

-Leah presented several options for the playground. The current playground has been declared "safe". It would be possible to keep it as it is and just re-surface it. She is also investigating a possible grant for a 40% reduction on the cost of a new playground. There are three fixed costs involved in the construction of a new playground; demolition, installation and surfacing. One option is for the professionals to do the complete installation. A second option is for two professionals to supervise a crew of 20 EVCS volunteers. This would result in considerable cost savings. The possibility of moving the playground to the front of the building, and the parking lot to the back, was raised.

-The Board returned to discussion of the current parking lot and the adjacent property at 149 Elmwood. Frank suggested that EVCS hire an engineer (civil engineer, surveyor) to take a look at the problem and give an unbiased opinion of what is happening and what role EVCS has in the problem. Current thinking is that EVCS does not wish to deed any portion of that property to another individual, but that a sub-lease might be considered if the school could be assured that it was completely indemnified. Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

-John has met with representatives from Autistic Services regarding their possible sub-lease of the current building. They are interested in the basement and the first floor. However, they were unprepared with specific figures. Talks will continue.

6. DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Academics

-Professional development was held on February 13, for all members of the teaching staff. The program included: how to interpret and use STAR Data Reports; how to better use Guided Reading to support the goals of Academic Intervention Services (AIS); how to better document teacher driven AIS for the purposes of Response To Intervention (RTI); and changes to the 2012 NYS Assessments, including new policies on proctoring.

-Now that EVCS is larger, the school will need to send teachers to participate in the scoring of the NYS Assessments. Approximately four to six teachers will travel to Rochester for four days, to grade assessments with charter schools from Rochester and Syracuse. Scoring will take place under the direction and supervision of Accelerated Student Academic Performance (ASAP), the same group that has been scoring EVCS assessments for the past five years. Teachers from EVCS will score assessments from other schools, and teachers from other schools will score assessments from EVCS.

-Mid-year data meetings will take place during the week of February 27. EVCS is using data from the STAR Assessments, DIBELS, and the mid-year Everyday Math Assessment, to monitor student progress toward growth and achievement goals. Academic Intervention Plans will be revised for students found not to be making adequate progress toward benchmark for the mid-year point.

Personnel

-Kate Smidt has returned to full-time work.

-As per the Department of Labor, *Notice of Acknowledgment of Pay Rate* forms have

been signed by all employees. This is a new requirement that identifies exempt and non-exempt employees and verifies regular and overtime wages.

Student Recruitment

- During the second open house on Feb. 8, 42 families toured EVCS.
- The outreach to Head Start Programs servicing high percentages of ELL students and students with special education needs seems to have been successful. Some of the programs' Directors mailed bunches of applications directly to EVCS.
- After sibling preference, it appears that there will be 30 seats open in kindergarten.
- EVCS currently has 255 applications for grades K-8 (Kindergarten, 135; first, 18, second, 19; third, 26; fourth, 12; fifth, 22; sixth, 12; seventh, 9; eighth, 2).

Busing Update

-John has been working with NYSCA (New York State Charter Association) and the NY State Department of Education. They are trying to be of assistance. If EVCS does not get any resolution from the Buffalo Public Schools Department of Transportation, they will file a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request for information about all the bus routes served by the BPS. John has also spoken with Al D'Amico again. He may be able to run exercises to see if some of the bus routes can be consolidated.

7. OLD BUSINESS

There was no further old business.

8. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was no new business and no announcements.

A motion to adjourn was made by Concetta and seconded by Frank. Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Pollock

FUTURE DATES:

Meetings at 6:00 p.m.: Mar. 21, 2012; Apr. 18, 2012; May 9, 2012*; June 20, 2012; Aug. 15, 2012

* 2nd Wednesday