

The Elmwood Village Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Trustees Present: Marguerite Battaglia-Evans, Shirley Courton, Liz Evans, Kathy Franklin-Adams, Concetta Ferguson, Kitty Herrick, Paul Marzello, Pam Pollock, Paul Souter
Trustees Absent: Mimi Barnes-Coppola
Others Present: John Sheffield, EVCS Director

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

1. Liz presented the agenda for the meeting. There were no additions. Approved.
2. Minutes from the meeting held on December 16, 2009, were reviewed. **Paul M. moved and Shirley seconded that the minutes be accepted as corrected. Approved.**
3. DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY

Assessments

- a. Mid year DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) were administered this month. EVCS grade 5 students showed noticeable weaknesses in fluency (the ability to read text accurately and quickly) for the mid-year point. This is not surprising because the program does not address fluency at this level. Supplemental strategies were given to the teacher. We will monitor the use of these strategies and outcomes.
- b. The mid-year Everyday Math Assessment is being administered this month. There are two parts to this assessment: skills that should be secure by this point and emerging skills. This year, we will only grade the first section of secure skills for reporting purposes. Both sections will be used to guide instruction.
- c. John distributed data showing performance of students enrolled at EVCS for three consecutive years on the 2008-2009 state tests. The percentages of students scoring at Level III and Level IV (the highest levels) were as follow:

	<u>2008-2009 ELA</u>	<u>2008-2009 Math</u>
Grade 3	85%	92%
Grade 4	87%	100%
Grade 5	100%	100%
Grade 6	93%	86%

These numbers are a great testimonial to the success of our curriculum, program and teachers. The 2009-2010 ELA will be administered at the end of April. The NYS MATH Assessment will be in early May.

Facilities

The process of replacing the fencing around the play area has begun.

Faculty and Staff Training

- a. Faculty meetings this year have included staff members sharing best practices with their colleagues. Teachers who are recognized for having a particular expertise or who have demonstrated exceptional instructional strategies are leading workshops with the entire staff.
- b. Some staff members CPR training is about to expire or they were not employed here when we last had CPR training. They will complete the training on Saturday, Feb. 6.

Charter Renewal

- a. Work is progressing on the charter renewal application. We need to have someone go through the Board minutes and show evidence that conflicts of interest were avoided. We also need to show, through evidence in the Board minutes, how complaints to the Board were resolved.
- b. Susan Gibbons will be at EVCS on January 26. We will take that opportunity to ask her questions about the charter renewal and about expansion issues. The renewal application is due in Albany on June 30, 2010. We Hope to have ours submitted by April or May to allow time to make any necessary corrections. The uncertainties involved in a possible expansion and appropriate location are slowing us down.

Funding Freeze

The New York State Charter School Association sent word yesterday that NY Governor, David Paterson, is proposing a second year freeze on funding for charter schools. Tomorrow, an e-mail will go out to families encouraging them to call or write their representatives in Albany to object to any further funding cuts to charter schools.

Paul S. Moved and Marguerite seconded that the Board enter executive session to deal with a personnel matter. Approved. Paul M. moved and Paul S. seconded that the Board accept John's recommendation regarding the personnel matter. Approved. The Board exited executive session.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial statement for the six-month period ended 12-31-09 was submitted by the accounting firm of Kirisits and Associates. This was accompanied by an explanatory narrative. In short, for the six months ended December 31, 2009, EVCS has a decrease in net assets of \$24,208 vs. a budgeted decrease in net assets of \$123,261. The result is a favorable variance of \$99,053. **A motion to accept the financial statement was made by Kathy and seconded by Concetta. Approved.**

5. OLD BUSINESS

New Board Member

Potential Board member, Janelle Anderson, has started a new job at First Niagara Bank and may feel that serving on our Board would create a conflict of interest. We may need to look elsewhere. Paul M. mentioned that he has several colleagues who might be interested in serving.

Middle School Expansion

An assessment hearing regarding the decommissioned School #36 building was held Monday, December 21, 2009. Representatives from EVCS attended as did representatives from the Days Park and Allentown Associations. An effort was made to

highlight discrepancies between the high appraisal of \$750,000 and the low one of \$250,000 and to point out the considerable rehab the building will need. In the end the value of the building was set at \$15 per square foot for a total of \$540,000. This was considerably more than we had expected to pay. We are currently seeking estimates for repairs and treatment of possible environmental problems to determine what our next step should be. The Mayor's office is reportedly seeking a quick resolution to the disposition of the building and hopes to have another meeting next week. EVCS has contacted the new representative to the Buffalo Common Council, Curtis Haynes, in hopes that he might be of assistance.

6. NEW BUSINESS

With thanks to Liz and Concetta for their assistance, Marguerite presented a Five-Year Board Self Evaluation Plan and a Five-Year Board Development Plan for the Board's review. **Pam moved and Paul M. seconded that both plans be accepted for inclusion in the charter renewal application. Approved.**

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

-The EVCS Family Satisfaction Survey is currently on line and will be available through Friday.

-Future Board Development sessions with Denise Pascziewicz regarding the Carver Model of Governance are pending. Kitty expressed concern that we are behind schedule in planning for this and that specifics may be needed for the charter renewal application. Most agreed that we need to do a bit more self-study before beginning the actual workshops.

-Upcoming in-service programs include:

Karen from Kirisits and Associates presenting "Understanding Financials"
Andy Steck with additional training in the "Responsive Classroom Model"

A motion to adjourn was made by Marguerite and seconded by Kathy. Approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Pollock

FUTURE DATES:

-Next regular meeting of the EVCS Board is Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

- Future meetings: Mar. 17, 2010; Apr. 21, 2010; May 12, 2010; June 16, 2010; July - NO MEETING; Aug. 18, 2010

