

The Elmwood Village Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Trustees Present: Marguerite Battaglia-Evans, Roy Clay, Liz Evans, Concetta Ferguson, Kathy Franklin-Adams, Pam Pollock, Matt Ryan

Trustees Absent: Mimi Barnes-Coppola, Leah Egan-Stoddard excused, Frank Housh

Others Present: John Sheffield, EVCS Director; Christopher Bieda, kindergarten parent

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 October 17, 2012, were presented.

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

Approved unanimously.

3. FINANCIALS

Concetta gave the financial statement. For the three months ended October 31, 2012, EVCS showed an increase in net assets of \$13,081 vs. a budgeted decrease in net assets of \$337,125. The result is a favorable variance of \$350,206.

4. EXPANSION/FACILITIES UPDATE

-The Facilities Committee hopes to meet with HHL and BRD within the next week to review the contingency log. Scott Stoddard has been invited to assist with the review. The fifth and final regular budget payment will be going out soon. The remainder will be held until all problems have been resolved to satisfaction. The noisy ventilation system remains a particular concern. The Committee will soon begin to investigate elements of Phase II.

-Buffalo Mayor, Byron Brown, visited EVCS. He toured the new facility and heard an explanation of the special education program. One of the students photographed the event.

5. DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Personnel

A. John presented the following candidates for teaching positions:

-Laura Battaglia to be hired as ESL Teacher, at an annual salary of \$24,000.

Laura has both a B.A. and an M.A. from Canisius College. She expects to complete her TESOL for grades K-6 in May 2013.

-Laticia Scutella to be hired as Spanish Teacher at an annual salary of \$25,000.

She has a B.F.A. from SUNY College at Alfred and an M.S. Ed. From CUNY Hunter College. Certifications include: Elementary Education, Grades 1-6; Bilingual Education, Grades 1-6; and Spanish, Grades 1-12.

Pam moved and Marguerite seconded that both candidates be accepted, Approved unanimously.

-B. John also noted some changes in assignment due to upcoming maternity leaves.

-Shawn Warnes, lead teacher in Kindergarten A, is requesting an extended maternity leave under the Family and Medical leave Act from November 26, 2012 to February 4, 2013. In her absence, Dawn Carroll, a former EVCS kindergarten

teacher will be a substitute in the classroom and Courtney Kerwin, teaching assistant for the past two years in that classroom will assume lead teacher responsibilities. Both Ms. Kerwin and Ms. Carroll are certified to teach grades pre-kindergarten through six.

-Kathleen Stanek, teaching assistant in Grade one B, is requesting extended maternity leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act from November 26, 2012, to February 4, 2013. Melissa Bak, former teaching assistant at EVCS, will substitute for Ms. Stanek. Ms. Bak is certified to teach grades pre-kindergarten through six.

-John requested approval for a stipend of \$45 per day, not to exceed \$1,500, for Courtney Kerwin for assuming lead teacher responsibilities during Ms. Warnes' extended leave. The stipend will narrow the gap between her pay as an assistant teacher and long-term sub pay for days when she will assume the lead teacher role. Courtney is a fully certified teacher who has served with Ms. Warnes for two years.

Concetta moved and Liz seconded that the Board approve the proposed stipend. Approved unanimously.

Facility Use

A group of men, many of whom are parents of EVCS students, played basketball every week at the Bob Lanier Center until it recently closed. They requested the use of the EVCS gym on Sunday mornings. As per the building use policy developed by the Board in 2007-2008, they were informed that they would need to purchase their own insurance. They are in the process of obtaining insurance quotes, and they have spoken to the school's insurance broker to find out exactly what type of insurance would be acceptable. John recommended that they be allowed to use the EVCS gym, should they secure their own insurance, and sign a statement that they have received, and agree to, the EVCS facility use policy.

Student Demographics

The student poverty rate at EVCS has dropped this year from 47% to 42%. In large part, this is a result of continuously enrolled families now reporting their income is above the poverty line. This is consistent with the falling poverty rate in Buffalo as a whole. This drop in the poverty rate will reduce the amount of money for Title I programs in the 2012-2013 school year, and may jeopardize the school-wide Title I program in the 2013-2014 school year.

Academics

-John announced that eligible eighth-grade students will have the opportunity to sit for the Integrated Algebra Regents Exam in June, provided they meet certain requirements. He circulated a handout explaining the program and requirements. John has spoken to Tapestry Charter School about the possibility of having our students take the test with theirs as "out of district students".

-Rob Campbell, Eighth Grade Class Advisor, has been given several advisory periods during the week to assist eighth graders and their parents with the high school application process. There will be a meeting of parents and eighth graders on the evening of November 15, 2012, to give whatever assistance might be needed, including hands-on assistance with Buffalo's online registration.

-John discussed Academic Intervention services. There are currently 89 students

(29%) receiving academic intervention services. This includes 59 students (20%) who are mandated based on NYS Assessment scores. Students who are receiving mandated AIS will continue to receive services throughout the year until they “test out” based on NYS Assessment scores. Because EVCS now has a School-Title I program, other groups are flexible and will fluctuate based on students’ needs and risk of not reaching benchmark. These students will receive extra help based on results of STAR Assessments, DIBELS, Running Records and in-class assessments. AIS support is a combination of push-in during core instructional time and pull-out during workshop time. Breakdown follows:

Kindergarten	1.2%
First grade	9.3%
Second grade	14.0%
Third grade	9.3%
Fourth grade	10.5%
Fifth grade	16.3%
Sixth grade	12.8%
Seventh grade	12.8%
Eighth grade	11.6%

AIS Services are provided by staff as follows:

- Anne Landrigan, Student Services Coordinator, is overseeing AIS.
- Jennifer Seitz is lead Title I AIS Teacher. Ms. Seitz holds a Master of Science degree in literacy and is certified in elementary education and literacy.
- Lisa Berk is the full-time Title I AIS teaching assistant in the primary grades. She holds a Master of Science degree in literacy and holds certifications in elementary education and literacy from Massachusetts.
- Jennifer Valeri, Courtney Kerwin, and Kathleen Stanek are classroom teaching assistants who dedicate 25% of their time to AIS. All three are certified teachers. When Ms. Stanek takes her maternity leave later this year, Melissa Bak, who is also a certified teacher, will be her substitute.
- Margo Lacure and Amos Fraccicia are Americorps assistants providing AIS services this year. Ms. Lacure works with middle school students. Mr. Fraccicia works with students in grades three through five. Both are certified teachers.

Transportation

Al DiAmico, Director of Transportation for the Buffalo School District, informed John in a recent phone conversation that the District is “holding firm to the transportation options that were offered Last year”. Schools new to District Transportation will be offered only 7:15 drop-off with 3:15 pick-up or 9:15 drop-off with 4:30 pick-up.

Important Visitors

The month of November brings a number of distinguished visitors to EVCS.

- On November 5, Lou Petrucci of the Buffalo Board of Education visited EVCS.
- On November 13, Mayor Byron Brown visited EVCS and spent a great deal of time with first, second and eighth grade students.
- On November 18, Ed Richardson, Superintendent (retired) and educational consultant, will be visiting EVCS with a particular interest in how Responsive Classroom has been effectively implemented to lower suspension rates and raise test scores.

-On November 21, Mary Beth Forton of the Northeast Foundation for Children (creators of the Responsive Classroom model) will be visiting to observe EVCS school-wide implementation of Responsive Classroom and Developmental Designs. Ms. Forton's visit was prompted by the recent article about EVCS in the Buffalo News. Ms. Forton holds a very prominent position with the Foundation. It is an honor to have her visit the school.

6. OLD BUSINESS

-John reminded the Board that this is the year for the next third year review by the NY State Education department. Patty Anderson was here at the beginning of the school year to check the certificate of occupancy for the new building and other documents. Otherwise, he has heard little from Albany.

-The Nominating Committee met prior to the Board meeting. They have developed a list of three possible new Board members. They will be checking on these individuals and hope to have a candidate by the December meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

-Matt relayed a question from the neighbors wondering if EVCS would be using Hudson Street for busing students. They are interested in removing some asphalt if this is not the case. Matt was advised to tell them that there has been no firm decision on the matter at this time.

-EVCS is now a part of the Days Park Block Club and hosted their meeting last week. Thanks to Matt for covering the \$12 membership fee. The neighborhood is reported to be satisfied with the winter parking restrictions.

-Journey's End refugee resettlement agency was mentioned for possible student recruitment.

A motion to adjourn was made by Concetta and seconded by Kathy. Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Pollock

FUTURE DATES:

Meetings at 6:00 p.m.- Dec. 19, 2012; Jan.16, 2013; Feb. 20, 2013; Mar. 20, 2013, Apr.17, 2013, May 8, 2013; June 19, 2013