

**The Elmwood Village Charter School**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Wednesday November 17, 2010**

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

**Trustees Absent:** Paul Marzello, Paul Souter

**Others Present:** John Sheffield, EVCS Director; Harry King, parent of EVCS 6<sup>th</sup> grade student

Liz Evans called the meeting to order at 6:10 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 20, 2010, were presented. **Matt moved and Concetta seconded that the minutes be accepted as presented. Approved.**
3. FINANCIALS

-The Annual Financial Report was approved by the EVCS Board last month. No additional information was available at this time. **Pam moved and Kathy seconded that the Financial Report be tabled until December. Approved.**

-John announced the purchase of three additional servers which were necessary for communication as well as for analysis and maintenance of student data. The purchase was made as a capital equipment expense on the budget.

4. DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

A. Personnel

-John presented the resume of Carol Veach, candidate for the part-time position of EVCS Librarian. Ms. Veach's prior experience includes serving as Librarian at St. Mark's School and Working as a Librarian at the City of Tonawanda Public Library. **Frank moved and Liz seconded that the Board approve the appointment of Carol Veach as EVCS part-time Librarian. Approved.**

-EVCS Music Teacher, Abby Unger, has resigned her position to accept a promotion and full-time appointment at Hospice of Buffalo. Search for a replacement is underway.

B. Enrollment and Recruitment

-Enrollment remains at 199 students.

-Fifth graders are doing well in their transition to a new teacher.

-Open house dates for prospective students have been scheduled for Thursday, January 27, 2011, from 6:00 until 7:30 p.m., and Thursday, February 3, 2011, from 8:30 until 10:30 a.m. The lottery is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 2011.

-Now that the new servers are installed, repairs to the web site have commenced. Most of the site has been restored. There is still a problem with several tabs and links. Nathan Schneekloth is trying to resolve these issues.

-Twelve of the fourteen fourth graders who took part in the City Honors Admission Test were called back to take Part II.

C. Charter Renewal Update - The Public Hearing before the Buffalo Board of Education for EVCS Charter renewal was held on Wednesday, November 3, 2010. The Hearing reportedly went smoothly. There were no criticisms, but a few questions. We hope to have final approval on the expansion and renewal by mid-December.

D. Academics

-The DORA and DOMA assessment programs are up and running, providing EVCS with weekly progress monitoring of AIS students.

-EVCS will be participating in the Race to the Top school improvement initiatives. In many ways this will put a great deal of strain on a small school. However, it is anticipated that the initiatives will eventually be required of all schools and EVCS will need to be part of the Network to implement them. The \$12,000 will be used to pay BOCES for network costs. A completed scope of work was filed with SED on November 8, 2010.

-First quarter report cards will be sent home tomorrow ( 11-18-2010).

#### E. Finances

-EVCS has billed the Buffalo School District at the higher reimbursement rate and they have refused to pay it. Dr. Williams stated that he is waiting until January, and if no decision has been made by the Governor, he will authorize the higher payments.

However, John is working on a letter of intercept to be sent to the NYS Commissioner of Education.

-Dr. Williams had scheduled a meeting with Charter School Directors for December 14, 2010, but cancelled today without explanation.

#### F. Advocacy

-A First-Friday Open House is scheduled at EVCS on January 7, 2011, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. This opens the school to the wider community so that they can learn more about charter schools in general and about EVCS in particular. Every school has a First Friday Open House at the request of Buffalo Reform.Ed, a non-profit organization promoting educational reform in Buffalo.

-Advocacy Day in Albany is now scheduled for Monday, February 7, 2011. Last year EVCS sent a delegation of two teachers, two parents, and the Director. It is hoped that EVCS can participate again this year. Anyone interested in going should contact John. It is an all-day event, participants leaving at 5:00 a.m. and returning by 10:00 p.m.

G. Facilities - John proposed that the Board approve a contract with Nigro Landscaping for \$2500 for this year's snow removal. **Pam moved and Kathy seconded that the contract with Nigro Landscaping be approved. Approved.**

### 5. OLD BUSINESS

-Public Comment: Harry King, parent of a sixth grade EVCS student expressed concerns about the need for decisions regarding whether EVCS will have a seventh grade next year. He expressed frustration that little has been communicated to the parents about the status of this matter. The Board and the Director re-affirmed their commitment to expanding the school upward to include grades 7and 8, and also to adding a second class at each grade level, as was started this year with a second kindergarten. Both Liz and John explained that, while word from Albany has been encouraging, EVCS is not allowed to announce the expansion until the matter has had an official vote which is scheduled for mid-December. The Board continues to investigate various options for housing an expanded student body during the coming years.

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

### 6. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

-The issue of staff compensation was revisited. The fact that EVCS was unable to offer raises for the current academic year has been troubling to the Board and to the

administration. The recent financial report showed an unexpected surplus. John proposed that a portion of the surplus be used to offer an across-the-board bonus of three percent per person. The cost of this would amount to approximately \$40,000 including payroll expenses. **Marguerite moved and Kathy seconded that staff members be awarded bonuses of three percent for the current academic year. Approved.**

-The Reverend Darius Pridgen will be invited to visit EVCS in the near future.

**A motion to adjourn was made by Marguerite and seconded by Concetta. Approved.**  
The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela Pollock

**FUTURE DATES:**

Meetings at 6:00 p.m. : Dec. 15, 2010; Jan 19, 2011; Feb. 16, 2011; Mar. 16, 2011; Apr. 20, 2011; May 11, 2011; June 15, 2011, NO JULY MEETING; Aug. 17, 2011