

The Elmwood Village Charter School

Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, October 15, 2008

Trustees Present: Mimi Barnes-Coppola, Shirley Courton, Liz Evans, Marguerite Battaglia-Evans, Kathy Franklin-Adams, Regan Ihde, Pam Pollock, Kelli Simpson, Paul Souter

Trustees Absent: Kitty Herrick, David Rodriguez

Others Present: John Sheffield (Director), Gary Freedman, "Clubhouse Director" for the Boy's and Girl's Club after-school program

Liz Evans called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

1. Liz presented the agenda for the meeting. There were no additions. Approved.
2. **Motion to approve the minutes from Wednesday, September 17, was made by Regan, seconded by Kathy. Approved.**
3. **After-school Program update.**

Gary Freedman reported that there are currently 75 students per day attending the program. There are currently 10 staff members and plans to hire 4 additional staff. Staff is scheduled to receive training in the Responsive Classroom model in order for the Clubhouse to be consistent with the school. Hot meals are available to students who want them. Division of Social Services reportedly visited a month ago and visitors were pleased with the young program. Mr. Freedman presented a printed outline of the program for Board perusal.
4. Director's summary of activities
 - a. Enrollment remains at 172 students. There are two seats open in 5th grade and one seat open in 6th grade. Demographics are as follow: Native American - 3%; Black - 27%; Multiracial - 11%; Hispanic - 12%; White - 47%. The poverty rate is 37%. The percentage of students classified with an IEP is 16%; with a 504 plan 10%. The number of students receiving AIS assistance in reading is 33%; in math 32%. There is some overlap between these groups.
 - b. There have been several personnel additions. Tiffany Turner will be the AmeriCorps assistant assigned to grade 6. Alyssa Van Wormer will be the AmeriCorps assistant in grade 4. Lea Dick, the school's Administrative assistant, fell down the school stairs last week. She will be out on Workman's Compensation for an undetermined period.
 - c. John discussed several facilities issues. There is a sinkhole in the school parking lot. There was an estimate of \$1700 to fill the hole and re-blacktop. Most of the gym mats have been hung. Several need to be re-cut before hanging. The school is still due for asbestos inspection. It is hoped that this will be completed prior to newer, more stringent regulations.
 - d. Andy Steck will not be assigned to EVCS for his Responsive Classroom internship. He will consult at the school during the first semester. Payment will come from money set aside in the 2008-2009 budget and from Title IIA funds. This will save the school some money. It is a goal to send one of our own

teachers for the full Responsive Classroom training so that we can be fully recognized as a responsive classroom school.

- e. Terra Nova assessments are being administered this week to students in grades 1-6. On Terra Nova tests administered last May, EVCS students scored in the upper half of students across the country.
 - f. Student attendance continues to be a concern. During the 2007-2008 academic year the average daily attendance rate was 84%. There were a total of 136 unexcused absences. Efforts are being made to improve attendance.
 - g. EVCS has joined the charter schools basketball league and is fielding three teams of 5th and 6th graders.
 - h. John distributed a schedule of upcoming school field trips and discussed field trip funding, policies and procedures.
 - i. John announced that there was a surprise visit from the NY State Education Department last Wednesday. He thought the meeting had gone well. Albany has stated that there should be a specialist for each curricular area. Sue Gibbons told him that this should not be an issue for the 3-year review, but may be for the 5-year review. The state Ed. Department will be conducting their own reviews rather than using consultants.
5. **Treasurer's report**
Treasurer, Regan Ihde, reviewed the financial statement for the year ending June 30, 2008. It indicated total net assets of \$645,040.43 and total liabilities of \$175,029.82. **Marguerite moved and Pam seconded that the report be accepted. Approved.** Regan also distributed copies of financial reports for the periods ending July 31, 2008 and August 31, 2008. As she had only received these this afternoon, she felt unprepared to discuss them. Discussion of the July and August financial reports was postponed until the November meeting. Kelli and Regan volunteered to be part of a committee to meet with the accountant to try to determine how the reporting process might be accomplished more smoothly.
6. **Old business.**
There was some discussion of how we might begin to prepare for the school's upcoming three-year review. Liz passed out copies of a brief charter summary and a list of board Members and their terms of office.
7. **New business**
Liz attended the conference of the New York State Charter School Association in New York City. She found it a valuable way to meet others involved in the charter school movement and to share ideas. She noted that other parts of the state, especially New York City, were much more charter friendly than Western New York.

A motion to adjourn was made by Marguerite and seconded by Regan. Approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Pollock