

The Elmwood Village Charter School

Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, September 17, 2008

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

Trustees Absent: None

Others Present: John Sheffield (Director)

Liz Evans called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

1. Motion to approve the agenda for the meeting was made by Marguerite, seconded by Kelli. Approved.
2. Motion to approve the minutes from Saturday, August 16, was made by Mimi, seconded by Marguerite. Approved.
3. Board Member update

Liz announced that last month's resolutions to appoint Paul Souter and Kitty Herrick to the EVCS Board of Trustees have been recorded in Albany.

- a. Kathy Franklin-Adams agreed to serve a second term on the Board . **Motion was made by Pam and seconded by Paul to appoint Kathy to a second term on the Board of Trustees. Passed.**
 - b. Shirley Courton also agreed to serve a second term on the Board of Trustees. **Motion was made by David and seconded by Kitty to appoint Shirley to a second term on the Board of trustees. Passed.**
4. Treasurer's report
Treasurer, Regan Ihde, distributed and discussed a draft of 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. The firm of Lumston ad McCormick will begin the EVCS audit 9-18-08. The financial statements for July and August will be available after the audit has been completed. Regan hopes to have everything up to date for the October meeting. **Approval of the financial statements was tabled for the October, 2008 meeting.**
 5. Director's summary of activities
 - a. Enrollment as of 9-17-08 is at 172 students. There are two seats open in 5th grade and one seat open in 6th grade. Attrition rate was 13% (20 students). Currently there are 28 students (16%) receiving special education services.
 - b. John reported some personnel changes. EVCS was unable to attract a highly qualified half-time special education teacher. Jackie Gonser was offered and accepted the full-time position. Melissa Nicholas, a certified early childhood teacher, accepted the full-time position as special-education aide while she pursues her Master's degree in early childhood literacy. Diane Huzl was hired to teach Spanish. She is also certified to teach English and English as a second language.

c. John discussed student behavior and discipline. There was a 47% increase in student enrollment from 2006-2007 to 2007-2008 with the addition of the 6th grade. With this increase, there was a 25% increase in short-term school suspension, but a 100% decrease in formal suspensions, a 63% decrease in in-school suspensions, a 100% decrease in impartial disciplinary hearings and a 100% decrease in students referred back to CSE for adjustments to IEPs for behavior.

d. It is expected that Andy Steck will be assigned to EVCS for his Responsive Classroom internship. Part of his responsibilities will be to provide ongoing mentoring and training to teachers. Financial obligations incurring from this assignment will be met from money set aside in the 2008-2009 budget and from Title IIa funds.

e. As stated at the August meeting, EVCS was one of eleven Schools to be awarded an Arts in Education Grant from the NY State Council on the Arts. The purpose of the grant was to more fully integrate arts into the core curriculum. The teaching artists will go into the classroom one day each week to learn the curriculum and to participate in core instruction. EVCS received \$11,000 toward this program and will be responsible for funding at least an equal amount. Money for this was included in the 2008-2009 budget.

f. Graphs illustrating EVCS student performance on NY State ELA and math tests were distributed. With a single exception, students met or exceeded goals. John cautioned the board that in a small school a single student can dramatically skew statistics.

6. Old business.

The August 16 Board Development program, presented by Brian Carpenter, generated a discussion of our meeting format. Members agreed that it is not our place to be micro-managing the day-to-day running of the school. However, we felt that, in this year of charter renewal, it is important for us to be kept up to date on what is happening. We also wanted to spend time on more Board development and study of the Charter.

7. New business.

Liz suggested that in preparation for our Charter re-evaluation, the Board should create our own mini "Wiki" pertaining to the charter and other school business. Liz, David, Regan, Kitty and Pam agreed to help put this together.

b. There was a report of some behavior problems during the after-school Boys and Girls Club Program. EVCS charges the Club no rent, utilities, etc. in exchange for the Club providing a pleasant, safe after-school environment for our students. The club charges parents on a sliding scale for their service. The after-school program is critical for many of the parents. However, negative behaviors from the program cannot be allowed to harm any students or to infect the school day. The club must provide adequate and appropriate staff to engage the students and manage behaviors. David, Kelli, and John agreed to meet with the club's site director to express our concern and to draft a memo of understanding.

A motion to adjourn was made by Marguerite and seconded by Pam. Passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Pollock