

**Elmwood Village Charter Schools
Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, November 16, 2022
Meeting Site, EVCS Hertel**

Trustees Present: Jennifer Bernacki Smith; Mimi Barnes Coppola; Lacle Brumfield; Ed Castine; Kathy Franklin-Adams; Ken Gholston; Joshua Pennel; Jacob Piorkowski; Pamela Pollock; Anna Sotelo Peryea

Trustees Absent: None

Trustees Excused: Matt Ryan

Others Present: Danielle Bruno, EVCS Director of Schools; Liz Evans, EVCS Director of Operations; Anne Wechsler, EVCS Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Lisa Kirisits, CPA, of Kirisits & Associates, EVCS Accountants

CALL TO ORDER

Jennifer Bernacki-Smith called the meeting to order at 6:04PM. She presented the agenda. There were no changes.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Elmwood village Charter Schools Board of Trustees meeting held on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, were presented.

Lacle moved and Kathy seconded that the minutes be approved as presented. Approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lisa Kirisits summarized the report of the independent audit of EVCS's finances which was recently completed by Lumsden-McCormick and presented to the Financial Committee. The unqualified opinion was "a healthy balance sheet" giving the organization "a clean bill of health".

For the four months ended October 31, 2022, EVCS showed a decrease in net assets of \$(1,185,700) vs. a budgeted decrease in net assets of approximately \$(1,147,200). The result was an unfavorable variance of approximately \$(38,500).

The current ratio is the ratio of the school's current assets (e.g., current assets consisting of cash, receivables and prepaid expenses = approximately (\$7,010,800) to current liabilities (e.g., consisting of accounts payable, deferred revenue, accrued expenses, current portion of long-term debt = approximately \$2,584,400) and measures the school's ability to meet current obligations as they become due. The school's current ratio on October 31, 2022 was 2.46 to 1. A current ratio in excess of 2:1 is considered favorable.

There has been no additional information regarding intercepted monies by NY State.

Ed continues to investigate favorable possibilities for an investment account.

Liz Evans has hosted representatives from Northwest Bank for tours of EVCS. She is hoping to write a grant to finance a playground for the school. **Ed moved and Mimi seconded that the Treasurer’s report be approved. Approved unanimously.**

DIRECTORS’ REPORT

Annual Goals 2022-2023				
Academic Achievement	Family Satisfaction	Student SEL	Staff Satisfaction	Advocacy
By June of 2024, the median SGP on the STAR Reading and Math will increase to 65. The SGP gap between demographic subgroups* will decrease by half. (* IEP/No IEP, POC/NPOC, Economically Disadvantaged/Not Economically Disadvantaged)	For SY 22/23 & SY 23/24, 90% of students will re-enroll at EVCS. In addition, 95% of families overall and 95% of all self-reported racial subgroups will say they are satisfied with EVCS.	By June 2024, 80% of students will report feeling capable, connected, and contributing with a gap no greater than 5 points between demographic subgroups*. (*IEP/No IEP, POC/NPOC, Male/Female/Nonbin ary, Economically Disadvantaged/Not Economically Disadvantaged)	By June 2024, 95% of staff will say that EVCS is a great place to work with a gap no greater than 5 points between staff that identify as a POC and staff that do not identify as a POC.	By the end of SY22/23 build a plan & coalition to ensure charter schools receive all the funding and services that each child is entitled to.

Director of Schools/Principals

School Leadership Update

STUDENT CULTURE

WHOLE SCHOOL MORNING MEETINGS

September: Hopes and Dreams, CARES

October: Empathy

November: Gratitude

FIELD TRIPS

-Becker Farms

-Planetarium at Buffalo State College

-Community Helper visits to Kindergarten - EMS workers

-Great Pumpkin Farm

-And more upcoming (Buffalo Museum of Science, Greater Niagara Ballet, another class visit to the Buffalo State Planetarium)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Days Park Cleanup Day

EXTRACURRICULARS

- Soccer - both campuses
Basketball - both campuses
Safety Patrol - both campuses (in process)
- Chess Clubs - both campuses (in process)
- ASL Club & Girl Scouts - Days Park
- Drawing Club - Hertel

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BUDDY CLASSES

Days Park Examples:

- 5th Grade and 1st Grade Buddies - pumpkin painting

Hertel Examples:

- 7th Grade and 3rd Grade Buddies -

COMING SOON

Panther Pride Awards - Each teacher will nominate 1 student each month for exhibiting CARES. Names will be displayed in a visible place in each school.

STAFF CULTURE

New Staff Coffee

Bowling Night

Coffee & Doughnuts

Community building in monthly faculty meetings

Paint n Sip (Hertel)

Potluck Lunch (Hertel)

Teacher-Student Soccer Game

INSTRUCTIONAL UPDATES

to be shared during Academic Excellence Committee Report

HR/Hiring

Position	Name	Campus	Qualifications
Substitute Teacher	Tabitha Wechter	Days Park	Bachelor's Degree - SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Conservation Biology

AIS Teacher	Melissa Murdoch	Hertel	<p>Bachelor's Degree - SUNY Buffalo English</p> <p>Master's Degree - Medaille College Literacy (Birth - Grade 6)</p> <p>Certifications: Childhood Education Grades 1-6 Literacy Education (in progress)</p>
Substitute Teacher	Hunter Bardin	Days Park	<p>Bachelor's Degree - SUNY Fredonia Visual Arts</p> <p>Certificate (in progress)- SUNY Buffalo Teaching Certification in Art Education</p>
Evening Custodian	Tyrone Fowler	Hertel	High School Diploma Lafayette High School
Substitute Teacher	Elizabeth Hayden	Days Park	Master's Degree - University of Glasgow Pharmacology and Medicinal Chemistry
			Bachelor's Degree - University at Buffalo Biomedical Sciences
Substitute Teacher	Raven Nelson	Days Park	Bachelor's Degree - Niagara University Political Science
Evening Custodian	David London-Clemons	Days Park	Some College - Erie Community College

Pam moved and Ed seconded that all proposed hires be approved. Approved unanimously.

Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Academics

Interim Assessments in ELA and Math - Interims were administered in both subject-areas in K-8 and data meetings were held to plan for reteaches of key skills.

SEL - Panorama Data Point #1

GOAL #3: By June of 2024, 80% of students will report feeling capable, connected, and contributing with a gap no greater than 5 points between demographic subgroups*.

	Grades 2/3	Grades 4-8
Capable	I keep working on things even when they are hard.	When it is challenging to meet a goal that you set, how likely are you to keep trying?
Connected	I feel welcome at my school.	Overall, how much do you feel like you belong at your school?
Contributing	I help others when they need my help.	Do you feel that your talents, ideas, and actions positively add to the school community?

% Favorable Responses

	Capable	Connected	Contributing	Average	
All Students	73%	64%	65%	68%	
POC	69%	62%	62%	64%	
NPOC	82%	70%	73%	76%	GAP: -12%
Female	68%	62%	65%	66%	
Male	79%	67%	65%	70%	GAP: 3.4%

- Favorable responses increased from BOY 2021 by 1 percentage point.
- Grade level Teams met with coaches to plan SEL interventions based on this data.

Professional Development Practice Clinics

- Trauma Informed Instruction - Relating and Trauma Informed Language

-Whole class reset

Instructional Rounds

-Morning Meetings

-Student Engagement

Coaching Support

-We have temporarily shifted coaching focus to allow coaches to provide as much in-class support as possible.

Report Cards

-Trimester 1 ends on Dec. 1

- First ever Teacher recording Day (Dec. 2)

Director of Operations

Operations/Facilities

Hertel: At the request of the teachers, new bottle fillers were installed on both floors of the building.

Days Park: Shades are continuing to be installed throughout the building. The installers will finish on the day after Thanksgiving.

Shared: Space Planning meetings were held during the past week and a half at both campuses. Agenda and minutes are available in the subcommittee reports.

Admissions and Student Enrollment

Offers are continuing to be made and communications about orientation and welcome events are being sent to new families. **EVCS Days Park enrollment is currently at 440; EVCS Hertel enrollment is currently at 387.** Offers are out for kindergarten seats at Hertel, but enrollment is paused at other grade levels to allow for classrooms to settle. The goal is to continue to add students at K and 1 gradually and as able to ensure stability.

EVCS Admissions coordinator, Data Manager, Communications coordinator, and Director of Operations have sketched out an outreach and communications plan for the

coming months to ensure more robust communication with new families to ensure persistence in the enrollment process. This will be rolled out to the admin team for feedback in the coming months.

EVCS is participating in Enroll Buffalo Charters consortium again this year. The new application will be available on December 1st for new students and siblings applying for the 2023-2024 school year.

Technology

EVCS central Office Staff have been looking at visitor-management systems in order to better manage visitors and contractors at both buildings.

Grants/Finance

EVCS reviewed a new safety and security grant announced by the New York state division of Criminal Justice Services with Kirisits. A proposal is being written for improved lighting and upgraded camera systems at both campuses.

On December 6, at 10:30 AM, EVCS is hosting a visit at Days Park from a new organization, Foundation 214, which only funds charter schools. School leaders hope to introduce them to EVCS and discuss their funding priorities. Board members who would like to attend can tell Danielle or Liz Evans.

Finance

There is nothing new to report.

Other Business

None.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Space planning Committee

The committee met at Days Park on November 7, to assess needs and to formulate a plan. Possibilities included grassroots gardens, space for organized games, updated playground equipment, picnic tables for small groups, new sidewalk in front of school, structured play area for older students, ways for students to contribute to the beauty of the school.

The committee met at Hertel on November 14. Some similar ideas were mentioned including: Long ;outdoor tables; gazebo or pavilion for outside learning; greenhouse for plant projects, etc.

Finance Committee

Nothing further to report.

Nominating Committee

The committee will meet when Matt Ryan returns to lead the meeting.

Academic Excellence Committee

The committee reviewed data in three areas identified as measures of school health:
-Student Attendance: for 9-1-22 through 10-11-22;
Average Daily Attendance: Hertel 92.40%
Days Park 91.26%
38% of chronic absences due to COVID, RSV or transportation issues.
-School Culture: Among students suspended behavior patterns included physical aggression, & failure to manage emotions.
-Student Achievement: Reviewed data from STAR reading and math assessments. Looked at gaps between economic subgroups and data from previous years and median end-of year over time.
The committee met to begin planning new ideas for fundraising.
The committee met to discuss several items which were identified at the EVCS Board Retreat.

Development and Advocacy Committee
EVCS Culture Committee

124 ELMWOOD - Lawsuit update

A meeting Scheduled for November 9 was cancelled. It will need to be re-scheduled for additional information to be available.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Halloween “Trunk or Treat” event sponsored jointly by The Days Park and Hertel CAs included 34 trunks - up from 25 last year. The event, held in the Hertel Parking lot was well attended and a good time was had by all.

Hertel's wreath and poinsettia sale is in progress. Pickups are scheduled for December first.

A Becker Farms Pie sale is being considered for next year.

Hertel is planning a staff and Faculty Breakfast for the holidays.

Antler Ridge farms will be bringing reindeer to visit at days Park.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEW BUSINESS

There was no additional business and no announcements.

Ed moved and Jake seconded that the Board enter executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters. Approved unanimously.

Relevant discussion ensued.

Pam moved and Jake seconded that the Board exit executive session. Approved unanimously.

Jake moved and Josh seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Pollock
Board Secretary

Future Meeting Dates:a December 21, 2022; January 18, 2023; February 15, 2023; March 15, 2023; April19, 2023; May 17, 2023; June 21, 2023; July 19, 2023; August 16, 2023

All meetings begin at 6:00 PM

