

**Elmwood Village Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, April, 20, 2022
Meeting Site: EVCS Days Park**

Trustees Present: Jennifer Bernacki-Smith; Ken Gholston; Kathy Franklin-Adams; Joshua Pennel; Joshua Piorkowski; Pamela Pollock; Matt Ryan; Anna Sotelo Peryea

Trustees Excused: Mimi Barnes-Coppola; Lacle Brumfield; Ed Castine;

Trustees Absent: None

Others Present: Danielle Bruno, Director, EVCS Days Park; Liz Evans, EVCS Director of Operations; Liz Fisher, Director, EVCS Hertel; 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 6:01 PM. She presented the agenda. There were no changes.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Elmwood Village Charter Schools Board of Trustees Meeting held on March 16, 2022 were presented.

Matt moved and Jacob seconded that the minutes be accepted as presented. Approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Matt reported That EVCS currently has approximately \$2.7 million in the bank earning approximately .01% in interest. As interest rates begin to rise, he proposes that EVCS begin to use this money to begin purchasing laddered CDs.

Lisa Kirisits, CPA, reported that, for the nine months ended March 31, 2022, EVCS showed an increase in net assets of \$512,900 vs. a budgeted decrease in net assets of approximately (\$356,300). The result was a favorable variance of approximately \$869,200. According to Lisa, " You have a favorable ratio of cash to liabilities, and revenue in excess of budget. What could be better?"

Lisa also stated that there had been no additional news regarding the BPS intercept. The outcome will be dependent on action by the State Education Department.

The Form 990 for June 30, 2021 was distributed, reviewed and discussed.
Jacob moved and Kathy seconded that the Form 990 be approved. Approved unanimously.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Directors' Report was prepared jointly by Danielle Bruno, Liz Evans, Liz Fisher, and Anne Wechsler.

Reopening Update

Health and Safety

Following the practices of the majority of schools in the area, EVCS has removed the daily health attestation. Instead, a daily text reminder is sent to families asking those whose children are symptomatic to keep them home from school and to call their school nurse. Staff now follow the same protocols.

Operations/ Facilities

Hertel:

-Full staffing for custodial positions is now in place.

-Building staff are getting prepared for the start of renovation.

Days Park:

Nothing to report.

Shared:

Operations staff and School Leadership team members are meeting with a Food Service vendor to explore the possibility of contracting out breakfast and lunch service. This could provide EVCS with cost savings.

Admissions/Student Enrollment

EVCS held its public lottery at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5th. The admissions Coordinator, Michelle Canty, is in the process of managing offers and registrations. An Open House will be held at each campus this Saturday, April 23, 2022 for families of students who have been offered seats, or are at the top of the wait list for grades with likely open seats in the coming year. EVCS Hertel will host from 10-12 a.m. and EVCS Days Park will host from 1-3 p.m. So far about 117 people have replied that they will attend.

TOTAL APPLICATIONS for 2022-2023

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Days Park	204	56	42	40	50	57	35	56	47	587
Hertel	223	50	38	42	44	50	32	51	0	530

Total: 1117

The total number of 1117 includes post-deadline applications (which appear at the bottom of the waitlist). Last year at this time (4-21-2021) EVCS had received 911 applications at both schools.

Technology

Station 28 is taking inventory of current devices and making recommendations for purchases for the 2022-2023 school year.

Grants

EVCS received \$35,000 in grants from the Cullen Foundation to send Hertel School leaders and 2 instructional coaches to Relay's Leadership Development Programs.

HR Updates

New proposed administrative structure and position

A slide show was presented showing a graphic of a leadership structure headed by a Director of Schools who would be supported by a Principal and an Assistant Principal or Dean of Students at each campus. Educational and financial implications were discussed. The Board agreed that the matter deserved additional consideration and agreed to postpone further discussion at this time.

New Hires

Position	Name	Campus	Qualifications
Custodian	Melissa Rodriguez	Hertel	High School Diploma - Baldwin High School (Jacksonville, FL) 7 years custodial experience
Substitute Teacher	Sydney Bradford	Days Park	-Bachelor's Degree: St. Bonaventure University; International Studies and Spanish -Master's Degree (in progress): St. Bonaventure University; School Counseling
Substitute Teacher	Allison Sinclair	Days Park	-Bachelor's Degree: National Technology Institute for the Deaf; ASL-English Interpretation -Master's Degree (in progress): SUNY at Buffalo; Speech and Language Pathology

Middle School Social Studies Teacher	Nathan Linchuck	Days Park	-Bachelor's Degree: SUNY Geneseo: History -Master's Degree: SUNY Geneseo: Education: Reading and Literacy Certification: Social Studies (Grades K-7) Literacy (Birth-Grade 6) Literacy (Grades 5-120)
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Currently Hiring: Middle School Spanish Teacher, Instructional Assistant. Began 2022-2023 staffing season.

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

Members of the Shared Leadership Team attended the 2022 Teacher Recruitment Day and have identified a number of prospects for future hires.

They will also be attending an event sponsored by the Canisius College School of Education to match Canisius residents with EVCS Classrooms. EVCS has had a partnership with the College's Urban Teacher Residency Program for several years. It is anticipated that next year 4-6 residents will be placed across EVCS campuses. These individuals have proven to be of high quality and, after a year of residency, (in an Assistant role at EVCS), many are ready to step into full time teaching positions on the faculty.

Academics

- NYS ELA Assessments have been completed.
- NYS Math Assessments are on 4/27 & 4/28.
- Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for May 19.

Professional Development/Strategic Planning

- The Admin Team has an offsite strategic Planning day on 4/21.

Culture

- EVCS is busy planning for end of the year activities such as Field Day, Kindergarten graduation, 8th grade graduation, and 8th grade class trip.
- Teacher Appreciation Week is the first week of May. Activities are planned for each day of the week to show EVCS teachers how much they are valued.

Other Business

Ed In Equity Campaign: There is a state-wide tour being kicked off in the Bronx on April 30th. The group is expected to be in Niagara's Square on May 14 at noon.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Space Planning

A ZOOM meeting was held to review bids for work at the Hertel campus. Bids for the work to be done were considered to be somewhat high. The group was able to negotiate them down by \$90,000 - \$120,000. The Days Park playground is being discussed with all stakeholders.

Finance:

Matt indicated that the Finance Committee will meet soon to review the budget.

Nominating:

Matt reported that the Terms of the following Trustees were about to expire:

Mimi Barnes Coppola

Jennifer Bernacki Smith

Pamela Pollock

Matt Ryan

Jake moved and Josh seconded that the previously named trustees be approved for an additional term on the EVCS Board of Trustees.

Approved unanimously by members present.

Academic Excellence:

The Academic Excellence Committee had nothing to report.

Fundraising:

The Fundraising Committee had no report.

EVCS Culture:

The Culture Committee has developed a statement regarding equity, diversity and inclusion.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Days Park Jacob reported that the school website had been updated to include information from the CA. They are planning various treats to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. These include items such as cards, lottery tickets, water bottles, tote bags, candy, etc. They have planned several family activities such as Bowling Night and a roller skating event. The Association has earmarked \$700 from their budget to purchase supply kits for 14 students in September.

Hertel The Hertel CA has formed a subcommittee to identify ways in which they might better engage families. Responses included replies from 28 different families. They will be looking at the data to develop further plans. They are planning a short outdoor book fair to coincide with Field Day. A Chiavetta's chicken barbecue fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday, May 26. Some of the older students will sponsor a Lemonade Sale on the side. The group continues to collect bottles and cans for recycling.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ NEW BUSINESS

Matt moved and Jake seconded that the Board enter Executive session to discuss some legal and personnel matters. Approved unanimously.

Several items were discussed.

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

There were no further announcements. and no additional business.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Pollock

Future Meetings: May 18, 2022; June 15, 2022; and July 20, 2022.

All meetings begin at 6:00 PM.