

**Elmwood Village Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, May 18, 2022
Meeting Site: EVCS Hertel**

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

Trustees Excused: Matt Ryan

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; Angel Beiter, CPA and Lisa Kirisits, CPA, of Kirisits & Associates, EVCS Accountants

CALL TO ORDER

Jennifer Bernacki-Smith called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM. She presented the agenda. There were no changes.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Elmwood Village Charter Schools Board of Trustees Meeting held on April 18, 2022 were presented.

Jake moved and Josh seconded that the minutes be accepted as presented. Approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Angel Beiter reported that the Projected Operating Budget for the Year Ending June 30, 2023, had been reviewed in detail by the Financial Committee. It was recommended that EVCS use some extra funds that will be available next year to compensate for the learning loss due to COVID and to support teacher retention.

Ed moved and Ken seconded that the Projected Operating Budget for the Year Ending June 30, 2023, be accepted. Approved unanimously.

Lisa Kirisits reported that, for the ten months ended April 30, 2022, EVCS showed an increase in net assets of \$679,700 vs. a budgeted decrease in net assets of approximately (\$204,900), the result was a favorable variance of approximately \$884,600.

Lisa further indicated that, for some time, the interest on the CD investments "has been dismal", less than one percent. In addition, the modest interest on accounts at Northwest Bank has been cancelled by fees. Matt suggested that better rates might

be available elsewhere. He suggested that the Committee might want to investigate some other options.

Lacole moved and Ed seconded that the Financial Report be approved.

Approved unanimously.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

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

Reopening Update

Safety and Security Update

Official statements have been issued to families, students, and other concerned individuals regarding the Tops shooter incident on 5/14 and the School-Wide Alert on 5/18. The situation continues to be monitored and appropriate measures have been, and will continue to be taken.

Health and Safety

EVCS recently/finally received its LSL (Limited State License) Certificate. The COVID Team will be meeting as soon as possible to develop protocols for a test-to-stay program. This will allow the school to keep unvaccinated close contacts in school, rather than requiring them to quarantine if exposed.

Operations/Facilities

Hertel: Construction on the Arts Building began on May 9. R&P Oak Hill has been communicating with operations staff to ensure that instruction and other school activities are not interrupted,

Days Park: Nothing to report.

Shared: EVCS opened the **Family Satisfaction Survey** on May 12. It will remain open until May 23. Data will be gathered and analyzed to help inform decisions about programming and operations during the coming year.

EVCS Safety Team has been undertaking building walk-throughs and reviewing and revising the building-based safety plans. These will be updated and the Board will be asked to review and formally approve these plans before the end of August, 2022.

Admissions/Student Enrollment

The Admissions Coordinator is in the process of managing re-enrollments for returning students, and making offers and getting new students registered.

Incoming kindergarten students will participate in “Kindergarten Camp”. Students spend the first two weeks of school in small groups with teachers and service providers. Students engage in a variety of readiness and assessments, and teachers have the opportunity to ensure the creation of balanced classrooms. At the conclusion of Kindergarten Camp, families are informed of their child’s final placement for the year. Last year’s camp was highly successful, and translated to positive outcomes for students. Families also provided positive feedback about the experience.

Technology

Nothing New to report.

Grants

EVCS received \$10,800 for data cabling and security system infrastructure for the Arts Building at Hertel.

HR Updates

New Hires

Position	Name	Campus	Qualifications
Substitute Teacher	Caitlin Parasch	Days Park	-Bachelor’s Degree: University at Buffalo. Mathematics -Master’s Degree: University at Buffalo (in progress). Mathematics Education
Substitute Teacher	Alexa Fiden	Days Park	-Bachelor’s Degree: National Technology Institute for the Deaf. ASLEnglish-Interpretation -Master’s Degree: Canisius College. (in progress) Elementary Education

Currently Hiring: Middle School Spanish teacher, Day Porter, 2022-2023 staffing.

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

Academics

Approval of 2022-2023 School year Calendar

The proposed Academic Calendar for the 2022-2023 SchoolYear was presented and reviewed.

Pam moved and Anna seconded that the proposed calendar be accepted.

Approved unanimously.

- NYS ELA Assessments have been completed.
- NYS Math Assessments have been completed.
- Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for Thursday May 19.
- Science Assessments for grades 4-8 take place in late May/Early June.
- Regents exams in Living Environment and Algebra will take place in June.

Professional Development/Strategic Planning

- Danielle Bruno and Anne Wechsler are participating in a 12 hour workshop (spread across 4 days). The workshop, led by the New Teacher Project (TNTP), focuses on teacher retention.

Culture

- Upcoming Events: Bison's game on June 7th (grades 4-8), Field day, K Graduation, 8th grade Graduation, 8th grade Class trip, Whole School meeting at each campus.
- Exploring an on-campus experience for students in K-3. Possibly bring in presenters from Museum of Science, the Aquarium, or Hawk Creek.

Other Business

- A visit from the School Leadership Team from the University Preparatory Charter School for Young Men, scheduled for today has been re-scheduled.
- EVCS will also be hosting a "Critical Friends" visit from school leaders from the Buffalo and Rochester area. This will be focused on our draft culture rubric that the Leadership Team has been developing in order to reinforce a unified and strong school culture throughout buildings.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Space Planning

Subcommittees have met to address specific issues at both the Hertel and Days Park Campuses.

Nominating

Matt nominated the following candidates to serve three-year terms on The EVCS Board of Trustees, filling the slots expiring 6-30-22:

Mimi Barbes Coppola
Jennifer Bernacki Smith
Pamela Pollock
Matt Ryan

	Jacob moved and Kathy seconded that the slate be approved. Approved unanimously.
Finance	No Report
Academic Excellence	No report at this time. A meeting will be scheduled for late June or early July when test results become available for review.
Fundraising	No report.
Culture	Anna reported that she had met with faculty and staff to discuss how extraordinary service might be recognized. Several possibilities were discussed.

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PLANNING

Jen announced the adoption of the new leadership model. The Leadership team will now consist of the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, the Director of Schools and the Director of operations. Each campus will be led by a Principal who reports to the Director of Schools. Further information about the reasons for this change are available on request.

It was reported that Danielle Bruno was interviewed by the the Board of Trustees and was approved to become Director of Schools at EVCS.

Jake moved and Ed seconded that Danielle Bruno be hired to serve as EVCS director of Schools. Approved with one abstention.

Dave Phillips was also interviewed by the Board of Trustees.

Kathy moved and Mimi seconded that Dave Phillips be hired to serve as Principal at the days Park Campus. Approved unanimously. These new positions will officially begin with the 2022-2023 Academic Year which starts July 1, 2022. The school will be seeking candidates for a new Assistant principal at Days Park.

UPDATE 124 ELMWOOD

EVCS lawyers are working on discovery. Lawsuit conversations are ongoing. No specifics have been asked for.

BUSING UPDATE

Current practice is that EVCS pays the bus company for bringing the students to school when Buffalo Schools are not in session. A ruling for a school district downstate indicated that the school district should be responsible in such cases. The ruling is under appeal. It may be awhile before the matter is settled. Charter schools may want to pursue this issue as a group.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Jake reported that the Community Associations celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week by giving out tote bags, lottery tickets, etc. Some individual families gave gifts as well. Parents have expressed an interest in coordinating activities/events/procedures between both schools . They plan to try joint meetings at alternate

locations. A monthly CA newsletter is planned and the first issue completed. Future plans include an adult mixer and a family event.

Anna reminded everyone that Hertel's Chiavettas' Chicken Barbecue sale was coming up. Their CA is working on an ongoing "Campus Clean Up" program. They are also looking for a way to install a basketball court on the Hertel Campus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEW BUSINESS

There was no additional business and no further announcements. That being the case, **Mimi moved and Lacle seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Approved unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Pollock

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

All meetings begin at 6:00 PM.