

**Elmwood Village Charter School  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Wednesday, June 15, 2022  
Meeting Site: EVCS Days Park**

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

**Trustees Excused:** None

**Trustees Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Danielle Bruno, Director, EVCS Days Park; Liz Evans, EVCS Director of Operations; Anne Wechsler, EVCS Director of Curriculum and Instruction

#### 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 School Board of Trustees Meeting held on May 18, 2022 were presented.

**Ed moved and Josh seconded that the minutes be accepted as presented.**

**Approved unanimously.**

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of EVCS Accountant, Lisa Kirisits, Ed Castine, Chair of the Financial Committee reported. He noted that EVCS Financials are in good shape to close out the fiscal year. For the eleven months ended May 31, 2022, EVCS showed an increase in net assets of \$826,800 vs, a budgeted decrease in net assets of approximately (\$24,400). The result was a favorable variance of approximately \$851,200. The Financial committee is preparing for the annual audit which occurs in September.

Ed also reiterated that EVCS maintains investment accounts worth in excess of \$2.5 million. The Financial committee is actively seeking no-fee investment options at better interest rates and planning to stagger them for liquidity.

**Ed moved and Mimi seconded that the Financial committee be empowered to begin the process of evaluating the best options and executing purchases. The motion was approved, Matt Ryan having recused himself from the process.**

On another note, as of June 8, 2022, there was no new information on the BPS special education recouplement process.

**Matt moved and Ken seconded that the Financial report be approved.  
Approved unanimously.**

## DIRECTORS' REPORTS

The Directors' reports were prepared by Danielle Bruno, Liz Evans, Liz Fisher, and Anne Wechsler.

### Reopening Update

#### **Health and Safety**

EVCS received approval for a limited services laboratory (LSL) license from the New York State Department of Health. With this LSL License, the school has been able to implement the Test-to-Stay program at both campuses under the supervision of the medical director.

The Test to Stay (TTS) program allows **asymptomatic unvaccinated school-based close contacts** (students and staff) to remain in school by testing negative for COVID each day during a five-day period following exposure,

### Operations/Facilities

**Hertel:** Construction on the arts building is continuing. Bi-weekly construction meetings are being held.

**Days Park:** Nothing to report.

The Operations team is gathering quotes for capital projects, including Hertel parking lot repaving (\$140,000); Blinds for EVCS Days Park (\$41,000). Once multiple bids have been submitted, It is hoped that the Board might consider allocating money from the school's reserves to address the two projects. Final numbers will be presented next month for the Board's consideration and discussion.

#### **Shared:**

#### **Safety and Security Update**

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.

In light of the recent events that have taken place in the Buffalo Community and around the nation, school personnel have been meeting to discuss safety and security. One of the changes to the 2022-2023 Building Level Safety Plans will be a new annex that will be added. The new annex is called *A State of Alert*.

*A State of Alert* is an annex that can be initiated if there is a concern in the community within a defined distance that may develop into an imminent threat. (Maps available on request.) The State of Alert is largely a communication tool for the EVCS community that would prepare the community for further communication or actions to be taken. Examples of concerning situations may be a fight in the neighborhood, a

potentially armed individual, a heavy police presence in response to a danger of which the school becomes aware. Other examples of when a State of Alert may be used are during large community events near campus or community threats which may not yet be credible. State of Alert may transition into a Shelter-in-Place or another annex and will end when there is a clear resolution to the event of concern communicated via news update or law enforcement.

### **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. Retentions of current students are being finalized so she can determine how many spots are available in which grade levels.

Eighth graders are making decisions about which high schools they will be attending in the fall.

### **Technology**

Nothing new to report

### **Grants**

EVCS is scheduling feedback meetings for Title funds for the 2022-2023 school year, as required by the NY State Education Department. These funds are usually applied to salaries for academic intervention teachers, ENL teachers, counselor salaries, and teaching coaches salaries.

### **HR Updates**

#### **Days Park Assistant Principal Search**

A representative group of stakeholders (administrators, teachers, support staff, central staff, parent/Board Member) at EVCS Days Park have collaborated in the process of selecting a new Assistant Principal. The team has interviewed four highly qualified candidates and received writing samples from each. On Thursday, June 16, Danielle Bruno and Dave Phillips will hold site visits with the top two candidates for 90 minutes each. The visits will consist of follow-up questions, case study scenarios, a tour and informal observation/debrief of the EVCS school culture. The team will reconvene on Thursday afternoon to review all of the data from the process and make a recommendation for hire.

### **New Hires**

There were no new hires this period.

**Currently Hiring:** Day Porter, 2022-2023 staffing

## **Academics**

The Academic Excellence Committee is scheduled to meet on the afternoon of June 28 at the Days Park Campus.

## **Professional Development/Strategic Planning**

The two-week August Professional Development is in the planning stages. The first week will be for staff who have worked at EVCS for less than three years. It will include the introductory level, 4-day Responsive Classroom workshop. The second week will be for all staff. Among other things, training on Trauma-informed instruction, and further DEI work with Dr. Hunter from Buffalo State College will be included.

## **Culture**

- Whole School Morning Meetings were held at both campuses for the first time since 2020! There was great positive energy in both groups.
- The Bison's Game outing for students (grades 4-8) scheduled for June 7 was cancelled due to rain. Students will receive tickets to another game to make up for the cancelled field trip.
- Field Days are on Friday June 17 at both Campuses.
- At Hertel, 6th grades are walking to Sonic on Friday to pick up lunches and return to campus for a picnic.
- K-3 students at both campuses enjoyed a Wacky Science presentation by Cris Johnson on June 7th. Cris was understanding about older students missing out on the Bisons game and quickly adjusted his presentation to allow students in grades 4-6 to attend as well.
- Kindergarten Graduation will be held Tuesday, June 21 for Hertel and Wednesday June 22 for Days Park. Both ceremonies will be held outdoors at the Hertel Campus. The Moving Up Ceremony for the Days Park 8th grade will be held Thursday, June 23 at 6 p.m. at Babeville. Board members are cordially invited to attend - It's always a moving ceremony!

## **Other Business**

There was no additional Business.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Space Planning Committee**

The Committee will continue to meet with the Hertel CA to discuss construction and paving issues. Meetings are also planned for Days Park.

### **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee will meet with Lisa to develop optimum strategies for future investing.

**Nominating  
Committee**

No report

**Academic  
Excellence  
Committee**

The Academic Excellence Committee will meet later this month to discuss STAR testing results and progress toward Stated goals.

**Fundraising  
Committee**

No report.

**EVCS Culture  
Committee**

The committee is working some type of "Recognition Wall" to showcase various awards/achievements of the the EVCS community.

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No significant change has been reported in this matter. Autism Services has reportedly collected its data and may report to opposing Counsel and a mediator.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Danielle plans to meet jointly with both the Days Park and the Hertel Community Associations. One item on the agenda is to review their by-laws. Both groups are interested in meeting together to ensure their alignment while maintaining their individuality.

Jacob reported that The Days Park C.A. will be losing its Co-chairs and will be looking for someone(s) to assume that position. The C.A. has purchased 14 School Supply kits to assist as needed with the opening of school in September. They hope to be able to purchase more. There will be a popcorn fundraiser at the school. There will also be a Book Fair associated with the year-end Field Day.

Hertel reported having another successful Chiavetta's chicken Barbecue fundraiser. The C.A. has donated \$500 in order to make sure that each child will be able to select a Book from the Field Day Book Fair. The clothing drive has been completed. They are looking toward a food/fresh produce drive. The anticipated basketball court is on order.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEW BUSINESS

A letter was read from Teresa Roma who is interested in starting a Charter High School and was wondering whether there might be some interest at EVCS. A number of questions were raised. The matter was referred to Liz Evans for further conversation.

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

Discussion followed.

**Mimi moved and Lacle seconded that the Board exit executive session. Approved unanimously.**

There was no additional business.

**Ed moved and Kathy seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Approved unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Pollock

Future Meetings: July 20, 2022.

All meetings begin at 6:00 PM.