

**Elmwood Village Charter Schools  
Board of Trustee Meeting  
Wednesday, January 18, 2023  
Meeting Site, EVCS Hertel**

**Trustees Present:** Mimi Barnes-Coppola; Jennifer Bernacki-Smith; Kathy Franklin-Adams; Ken Gholston; Joshua Pennel, Jacob Piorkowski; Pamela Pollock; Anna Sotelo-Peryea (via ZOOM)

**Trustees Absent:** None

**Trustees Excused:** Lacoie Brumfield; Ed Castine; 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; Angel Beiter, CPA, Kirisits & Associates

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the Elmwood Village Charter Schools Board of Trustees meeting held on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, were presented.

**Mimi moved and Kathy seconded that the December 21st minutes be approved as presented. Approved unanimously.**

The minutes of the Elmwood Village Charter Schools Board of Trustees special meeting held on January 7, 2023, online via ZOOM were then presented.

**Jacob moved and Josh seconded that the minutes of the Special Meeting be approved as presented. Approved unanimously.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Lisa Kirisits presented the Treasurer's Report. For the six months ended December 31, 2022, EVCS showed a decrease in net assets of \$(880,400) vs. a budgeted decrease in net assets of approximately \$(880,700). The result was a favorable variance of approximately \$300.

In review, for grants and other receivables expenditures must be made prior to the cash being received. Lead time for grant requisitions being reimbursed is typically 6-8 weeks. There were grant receivables on December 31, 2022, of approximately \$1,503,500. Other receivables include \$501,328 of BPS "claw back" matter offset by (\$124,100) due to Buffalo Public Schools for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school months and other district receivables from 2020-21 & 2021-22 of \$45,100.

The school's current ratio of assets to liabilities as of December 31, 2022 was 2.92 to 1. A current ratio in excess of 2:1 is considered favorable.

Angel Beiter discussed the complex issue of the "Claw back". The SPED "claw back" issue came to light in May, 2019, as a result of an audit the Buffalo Public

Schools underwent from the State Comptroller's Office. BPS has already recouped all of the \$501,328 in aid already paid that it claims to be excess. An intercept has been filed with NYSED for the deductions in 2019-20 to receive these funds directly from the state and is currently under consideration by them. In February, 2021, NYSED recommended that intercepts for 5 of 6 and 6 of 6 for 2019-2020 school year be approved for one school. This approval (for one school) was forwarded to the State Comptroller's Office and was deducted from the district's next payment. The assumption is the approval will be replicated for all charter schools affected including Elmwood Village. NYSED initially requested that 2020-21 related intercepts be held while 2019-20 was considered but has now released all remaining intercepts to be submitted for consideration. EVCS has been advised that the state will resume this review in June 2023.

**Josh moved and Jake seconded that Financial report be approved. Approved unanimously.**

#### HERTEL LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Unforeseen circumstances have resulted in the fact that as of June 30, 2023, the Positions of both Principal and Assistant at the Hertel Campus will have been vacated and will need to be filled with new personnel. The positions have been posted and several high quality candidates have already submitted resumes. The hiring committee is expected to consist of at least 2 Board members, a member of the instructional staff, a member of the non-instructional staff, and a parent representative. The Committee's tasks will include review of the resumes, holding interviews, and reviewing/scoring qualified candidates

#### DIRECTORS' REPORTS

##### **Director of Schools**

##### **School Leadership and Culture**

The organization's top priority at this time is securing a strong Leadership team for the Hertel campus.

The postings for Principal and Assistant Principal went live on January 14 2023. At this time the Board and the Leadership Team will begin the administrative hiring process by:

- Identifying members of the hiring committee
- Reviewing resumes
- Scheduling Round 1 interviews

## **HR/Hiring**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Campus</b>	<b>Qualifications</b>
Substitute Teacher	Faith Britt	Hertel	Bachelor's Degree: SUNY Buffalo; Biology
Substitute Teacher	Ari Elaine	Hertel	Bachelor's Degree: Arizona State State University; English Linguistics
Substitute Teacher	Kathy Federick	Hertel	Master's Degree: Canisius College: Counseling and Human Services Bachelor's Degree: Buffalo State College; Secondary Education
Substitute Teacher	Nelli Kisliuk	Hertel	Bachelor's Degree: University at Buffalo; Public Health
Substitute Teacher	Himdeep Singh	Hertel	Bachelor's Degree: Daemen University; Biology
General Education Teacher	Suzanne Wolf	Hertel	Master's Degree: D'Youville College; Childhood Education Bachelor's Degree: D'Youville College; Business Management Certifications: -NYS Early Childhood Education (Birth- Grade. 2) -NYS Childhood Education (Grades 1-6)

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

## **Director of Curriculum and Instruction**

### **Academics**

Mid-year STAR assessments are to be completed this week.

STAR data meetings will be held the week of 1/23/23



Last year at this time EVCS had received 194 applications at EVCS Days Park, and 159 at EVCS Hertel.

### **Technology**

EVCS's application for the third round of Emergency Connectivity Funding through USAC was approved in the amount of \$89,400 and will cover the cost of iPads and Chromebooks for classrooms.

### **Grants/Finance**

Grants: Grant applications are being submitted to various foundations such as the 214 Foundation and Grow with One. Updates will be given upon decision. The ESSER grant is ongoing.

Finance: The first budgeting meeting of the year will be held on 1/20/23.

### **HR Updates**

Open enrollment took place for EVCS staff from 1/10/23 to 1/17/23. The new plan year for benefits begins 2/1/23. The cost of health insurance renewal was initially proposed at 18%. EVCS took the plans to market and, after meetings and research, the decision was made to move from Highmark to Univera at a 2.5% increase, and to move dental and vision to Sun Life at a reduced cost to the school and employees.

### **Other Business**

NYS Assembly member Jonathan Rivera will be visiting Days Park for the Black History Month assembly. This assembly will be held 2/10/23 from 1-2 pm. The assembly member will join EVCS for a tour and discussion of EVCS programs.

The New York Charter School Association has a charter board member working group which meets monthly. The next meeting will be held 1/19/23 from 4-5p.m. The topic will be finance/budgeting. The registration link is:

[https://nycharters.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAod0CopzoiGNJW1K9ILQqHg6J4Pzxtv\\_T3](https://nycharters.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAod0CopzoiGNJW1K9ILQqHg6J4Pzxtv_T3)

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Space Planning Committee**

The Hertel committee met on January 9, 2023. They discussed ways in which the outdoor spaces might be used most effectively and established the following priorities for the Hertel Campus:

- Playground
- Blacktop; pairing games, etc.
- Fields
- Parking Lot/driveway
- Lighting and Gardens

<b>Finance Committee</b>	Issues were as discussed in the Financial Report
<b>Nominating Committee</b>	The Committee did not meet this month.
<b>Academic Excellence Committee</b>	Melina Hong expects testing data to be available in early February. A meeting will be scheduled for 2-9-23.
<b>Development and Advocacy Committee (AKA Fundraising)</b>	Activities are in the early planning stages.
<b>EVCS Culture Committee</b>	The committee looked at suspension data and discussed specific goal and strategies.

#### 124 ELMWOOD LAWSUIT UPDATE

Key parties met on December 31, 2022. There was not much new information to report. EVCS representative, Colby Smith, reported that the estimates “seemed fair”.

#### COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

##### Days Park

Jake reported that the pre-holiday reindeer visit went smoothly and was a popular event. They are considering other holiday happenings that might be considered for a three-year rotation. Student artwork samples, on mugs etc., are available online at Square-One. The group is planning to have an author make a presentation online. In order to honor Days Park teachers they will be providing a monthly snack and hoping to do a “faculty room makeover” to include deep cleaning and reorganization.

Anna reported that the Hertel CA is continuing its “winter warmth campaign” collecting and distributing gently used winter wear to families in need. They are planning a shed to house these items. The group is scheduled to meet during the week of January 23, 2023.

#### ADMINISTRATION, PERSONNEL and BOARD MANAGEMENT

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

Pertinent discussion ensued.

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEW BUSINESS

There was no additional business and no further announcements.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Pollock  
Board Secretary

**Future Meeting Dates:** February 15, 2023; March 15, 2023; April 19, 2023; May 17, 2023, June 21, 2023, July 19, 2023

**All meetings begin at 6:00 PM**