

**Elmwood Village Charter Schools
Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, February 15, 2023
Meeting Site, EVCS Days Park**

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

Trustees Absent: None

Trustees Excused: Ed Castine

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; Dave Phillips, Principal EVCS Days Park; Liz Fisher, Principal, EVCS Hertel; Amy Adornetto, Chair, Hertel CA, accompanied by Cassie Calabrese, Megan King and Becky Zuppardo, Parents representing the Hertel Community Association

CALL TO ORDER

Jennifer Bernacki-Smith called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. She presented the agenda. There were no changes

Jen introduced Amy Adornetto who spoke on behalf of some of the Hertel parents who are concerned about the high rate of teacher turnover at the school - and in one classroom in particular. This concern elicited much discussion and a partial explanation that teacher turnover has become a huge problem nationwide since COVID and that the Board and EVCS Hertel leaders are aware of the problem and are putting processes in place to actively seek ways to recruit and retain highly effective teachers.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Elmwood Village Charter Schools Board of Trustees meeting held on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, were presented.

Matt moved and Josh seconded that the minutes be approved as presented.

Approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lisa presented the Financial Report. She began with a brief explanation of the fiscal year (July 1 - June 30). She noted that because, as a school, EVCS will always begin the year with a negative balance. No state funding is received in July or August because there are no students in attendance. However, spending occurs during that period in order to be ready for the arrival of students in September. Once the state funding begins the school is able to work its way onto a positive position.

For the seven months ended January 31, 2023, EVCS showed a decrease in net assets of \$(756,700) vs, a budgeted decrease in net assets of approximately \$(749,000). The result was an unfavorable variance of approximately \$(7,700).

Lisa noted that work on the 2023-2024 budget is in progress and that the #990 Form is complete.

Jake moved and Matt seconded that the Treasurer's report be approved. Approved unanimously.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Directors' reports were submitted by Danielle Bruno, Liz Evans and Anne Wechsler.

Director of Schools

Principals will present and answer questions during Academic Excellence Committee report.

School Leadership and Culture

Black History Month Assemblies

American Heart Association Assembly, grades K-4

FBI Digital Citizenship/Safety Assembly, grades 4-8

HR/Hiring

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Campus</u>	<u>Qualifications</u>
Substitute Teacher	Riley Robertson	Hertel	Master's Degree - Temple University; English Bachelor's Degree - Huntingdon College; English
Evening Custodian	Jaylin Harrison	Hertel	High School Diploma Sweet Home High School
Substitute Evening Custodian	Andrew Rosenfeld	Hertel	D'Youville University; Biology
Substitute Teacher	Nazia Tafader	Hertel	Master's Degree - University of Toronto; English Bachelor's Degree - University of Toronto; English
Substitute Teacher	Julia Hamilton	Days Park	Master's Degree - Buffalo State University; Museum Studies Bachelor's Degree - Buffalo State University; Art History and Philosophy

Ken moved and Lacle seconded that all prospective hires be approved. Approved unanimously.

Promotions

Ebony Eison was promoted from Digital Literacy/Career Connections Teacher and Student Support Assistant to Student Life and Community Connections Coordinator at EVCS Days Park.

Randy Chi, an EVCS Alumnus, was promoted from Instructional Assistant to Digital Literacy/Career Connections Teacher and Student Support Assistant at EVCS Days Park,

Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Academics

- Academic Excellence Committee met - Committee will report.
- ELA Interim Assessments - Administered the assessments, held data meetings and planned reteaches. (IA's differ from STAR in that they are more likely linked to the curriculum and measure whether students have mastered the specific content taught over a period of time.)
- Panorama survey was administered and data meetings are being held this week.
- Math Interim Assessments - to be administered the week after return from winter break.

Professional Development

- Turn & Talk Practice Clinic

Director of Operations

Operations/ Facilities

Hertel: Projects and inspections are to be done during break.

Days Park: Projects will be done during break.

Shared: EVCS has begun interviews for the temporary Facilities Manager Role.

Admissions/Student Enrollment

EVCS hosted an open house at both campuses on Saturday, February 11th, from 9-11 a.m., and will host another open house Thursday, February 16th from 5-7pm.

Applications for 2023-2024 School Year

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Totals
EVCS	140	26	32	15	20	27	20	22	8	314
Days Park										
EVCS	123	26	24	15	17	34	30	26	11	306
Hertel										

Last year at this time EVCS had received 289 applications at EVCS Days Park and 263 at EVCS Hertel.

Technology

EVCS purchased and received Chromebooks funded by the Emergency Connectivity Fund.

Grants/Finance

Grants: Grant applications for Hertel lighting and security system upgrades were submitted.

Finance: EVCS was selected to participate in a desk audit for ESSER funds, Title funds, and is undergoing an attendance audit at Days Park by BPS.

HR Updates

EVCS is continuing the building leader searches at Hertel.

Other Business

EVCS hosted NYS Assembly Member Jonathan Rivera on February 10th. He watched part of the Black History Month assembly, toured the school, and talked with EVCS representatives for about an hour.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Space Planning Committee

-The Committee met and had a good discussion. They appreciated hearing from stakeholders at both locations.

Finance Committee

-The 23-24 Budget is being compiled. A meeting with Lisa is scheduled for April. The budget will be presented in May.

Nominating Committee

-Matt is reviewing terms of Board members and is actively seeking possible new Board members.

Academic Excellence Committee

-A document showing student mid-year results in the areas of Attendance, Academics and Social /Emotional Growth was presented. Results were varied. Strategies for improvement, including a Student Support Team, were discussed.

Development & Advocacy Committee

-Dave Phillips discussed student involvement, including the idea of a Student Advisory Committee which would include the voices of selected 7th and 8th grade students.

EVCS Culture Committee

-There was no meeting this month.

HERTEL LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Committees have been formed and the search for a Principal and an Assistant Principal at the Hertel Campus has started. Some resumes have been reviewed. The process is just beginning.

LAWSUIT

Discussions continue about the best strategies for completing needed repairs to the Elmwood Avenue building under lease from Sam Savarino by EVCS and sublet to Autism Services. Various possibilities are under consideration.

DISCUSSION OF FORMER EVCS FAMILY'S COMMUNICATION TO BOARD MEMBERS

Discussion was had regarding a letter received by administration and board members from family of a student who left EVCS. The Administrative Team briefly addressed statements made in the letter. Public response and privacy issues were reviewed. Board chair, Jennifer Bernacki Smith plans to reach out to legal counsel to appraise them of the matter and inquire if any additional action is warranted.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Josh reported that the Days Park CA has not met this month. The group is planning a pre-Easter chocolate sale in conjunction with the Hertel CA and is hoping to sponsor some activities relating to Earth Day. He also reported having received some phone calls regarding some inappropriate behaviors in one of the classrooms.

Anna added that the Hertel CA would also be working on the chocolate sale. Their group has sponsored a teacher appreciation breakfast. They have purchased a disco ball and a smoke machine to be used in future events. They have planned to make a \$5000 donation to the arts program and to give \$2000 to the Coach for Field Day. They will be organizing an Earth Day Clean Up. There will be an Anderson's fundraising event on March 20, and a Chiavetta's Chicken sale on May 11. Another "school Dance" is scheduled for May 6.

ADMINISTRATION, PERSONNEL AND BOARD MANAGEMENT

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

Pertinent discussion ensued.

Matt moved and Mimi seconded that the Board exit executive session. approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEW BUSINESS

There were no further announcements and no additional business.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Pollock

Future Meetings: Mar. 16, 2023; April 20, 2023; May 18, 2023; June 15, 2023; and July 20, 2023.

All meetings begin at 6:00 PM.