

**Elmwood Village Charter Schools**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 12, 2024**  
**Site: EVCS Days Park**

**Trustees Present:** Mimi Barnes-Coppola; Ed Castine; Ken Gholston; George McLean; Jake Piorkowski; Pamela Pollock; Anna Sotelo-Peryea

**Trustees Excused:** Patti Amderson; Jennifer Bernacki-Smith; Lacole Brumfield; Kathy Franklin-Adams; Niicca Lebeda; Matt Ryan

**Trustees Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Danielle Bruno. EVCS Head of Schools: Liz Evans, EVCS Director of Operations; Anne Wechsler, EVCS Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Angel Beiter, CPA and Lisa Kirsits, CPA, of Kirsits & Associates, EVCS Accountants

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ed called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. He presented the agenda. There were no changes.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the Elmwood Village Charter School Board of Trustees meeting held on May 15, 2024, were presented. There were no changes.

**Mimi moved and George seconded that the minutes be approved as Presented.**  
**Approved unanimously.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Lisa Kirsits presented the Financial Report. She indicated a cash balance of \$8.8 million with an additional \$4.8 million in the checking account. An audit is to be scheduled. Ideally, this will be accomplished prior to the September Board of Trustees meeting.

Angel Beiter reported that six bills for reimbursement have been sent to the Buffalo School District. The final bill will be sent and settled the last week in July when final rosters have been tallied.

Reviews of Special education funding have indicated that some errors have may have been made and EVCS may owe BPS some reimbursement of funds.

**Anna moved and Ken seconded that the financial report be approved.**  
**Approved unanimously.**

**DIRECTORS' REPORTS**

The Directors' Reports were prepared jointly by Danielle Bruno, Liz Evans and Anne Wechsler

## **Director of Schools**

### **School Leadership and Culture**

#### Leadership Highlights:

- New Principal at Days Park has been on site observing and attending key culture events (performances, Whole School Morning Meeting, graduation ceremonies)
- Sara Corona and Brandon Williamson have been visiting each class individually to introduce themselves
- Hertel and Days Park Leadership are doing Listening Tours with staff informal "chat & chews" and 1-1 invites
- Staffing is in progress for School Year 2024-2025

School leaders for each campus will be present at the July Board meeting and will present the draft Strategic Plan for 2024-2025.

#### School Culture Highlights:

- Arts Performances at both schools
- Days Park music concert at Asbury Hall and dance performances at Days Park Campus
- Kindergarten and 8th Grade Graduation ceremonies

## **Staff Snapshot**

### **Hires**

Position	Name	Campus	Qualifications
Substitute Teacher	Camilla Tate	Days Park	-Bachelor's Degree: Buffalo State University; Music Performance; English Literature
Substitute Teacher	Cassandra Critsimillios	Days Park	-Bachelor's Degree: University at Buffalo: Studio Art

### **Promotions** - no promotions this month

### **Terminations**

Type of Termination	Number of Terminations
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Voluntary	1
Involuntary	1

### **Unpaid Leave of Absence Requests**

-Special Education Teacher Days Park

\*Requests an unpaid leave of absence until the end of the school to care for their newborn.

**Jake moved and George seconded that the requested unpaid leave of absence be granted. Approved unanimously.**

### **Director of Curriculum and Instruction**

Anne Wechsler reported as follows:

-An Academic Excellence Committee meeting is scheduled for 6/27/24

-Third trimester ends on 6-14-24. Report cards will be mailed home on 6/25/24

### **Professional Development**

Plans are currently being made for two weeks of professional development for faculty and staff at the end of August.

### **Director of Operations**

#### **Operations/Facilities**

**Hertel:** Electrical in gym is being relocated over the summer in anticipation of Installation of bleachers.

**Days Park:** Plumbers are installing plumbing in current 5B classroom to convert it to an art room in the 2024 - 2025 school year.

**Shared:** -Plans are underway for summer cleaning.

-A job listing for a temporary Operations Manager for the 2024-2025 school year has been posted.

### **Admissions/Student Enrollment**

Enrollment projections:

Enrollment projections are similar to last month. The admissions team has been working with coaches to identify possible transfers and to communicate with families to assess open seats.

Communications Coordinator will have a table at Juneteenth and Taste of Diversity. She is also working on a family movie night to be held at each campus in conjunction with school supply drop off in August. This will be a way for the Community Association to do outreach to new families and for new and existing families to meet up at each building.

### **Technology**

EVCS is having to migrate to a new communication system with very little notice from the vendor, who is ceasing operations. EVCS's Data Manager is working on getting that done by the end of June. It is hoped that the transfer will be seamless.

The website release date has been moved back to July.

### **Grants/Finance**

Grants: EVCS received \$15,000 from the Cullen Foundation to continue to work on compensation.

Finance: Nothing new to report.

### **HR Updates**

Work is being finalized on the Title IX policy updates and the workplace violence policy, as required by law.

### **Other Business**

#### **2024-2025 BOARD TRUSTEE RENEWALS AND OFFICER ELECTIONS**

The Personnel Committee presented the following slate for the EVCS Board of Trustees Term Expiring 06/30/2027:

- Ed Castine,
- Jacob Piorkowski,
- Kenneth Gholston, and
- George McLean.

The Personnel Committee also presented the following slate of officers for the EVCS Board of Trustees for the 2024-2025 academic year:

Board Chair	Matthew Ryan
Vice Chair	Jacob Piorkowski
Treasurer	Ed Castine
Secretary	Anna Sotelo-Peryea

**Mimi moved and George seconded that the proposed slate be approved.  
Approved unanimously.**

The Days Park Campus continues to seek an individual to serve as Parent Representative.

## SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Space Planning Committee**

-The Committee continues to identify and develop optimal use of shared spaces.

### **Nominating Committee**

-A slate of EVCS Board Officers for the 12 months 7/24-6/25 was identified and approved.

### **Academic Excellence Committee**

-Academic Excellence Committee is scheduled to meet on June 27, 2024 to review data from 2023-2024 year.

### **Development and Advocacy Committee**

-The committee is seeking to identify and engage an individual or group to prepare and present an appropriate Board training retreat.

### **EVCS Culture Committee**

-The Committee has met regularly and worked on a variety of projects involving staff diversity, volunteer involvement and developing a strategic plan for upcoming years.

### **Finance Committee**

-The Finance Committee has nothing additional to report at this time

## SUNY CHARTER SCHOOLS INSTITUTE

No new information has been received regarding the Days Park 2024-2025 Charter Renewal.

## PEOPLE INC./HERTEL CAMPUS WATERLINE ISSUE

The status of the waterline issue between EVCS Hertel and the People Inc. property next door remains unresolved.

## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Days Park Association has not met since the last Board Meeting. However, they rented an Ice cream truck for the students. A Field Day event was held at the Hertel Campus on 6-12-24.

## ADMINISTRATION, PERSONNEL & BOARD MANAGEMENT

**Anna moved and Jake seconded that the Board enter executive session. Approved unanimously.**

Several confidential matters were discussed.

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

**Anna moved and Jake seconded that the meeting be adjourned.**

**Approved unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Pollock  
EVCS Board Secretary

**Future Meeting Dates:** July 17, 2024; August 21, 2024; September 18, 2024;  
October 16, 2024; November 20, 2024; December 18. 2024

*Respectfully amended to reflect the slate of trustee renewals approved alongside the slate of officers previously reflected in the minutes.*

*Anna Sotelo-Peryea  
EVCS Board Secretary, 2024-2025*