

ELMWOOD VILLAGE CHARTER SCHOOL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024

EVCS HERTEL CAMPUS

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Kathy Franklin-Adams; Nicca Lebeda; Ken Gholston; Lacole Brumfield; Jacob Piorkowski; Pamela Pollock; Mimi Barnes Coppola; Patti Anderson; Anna Sotelo-Peryea

TRUSTEES EXCUSED: Matt Ryan; Jennifer Bernacki-Smith; Ed Castine; George McLean

TRUSTEES ABSENT: none

OTHERS PRESENT: Danielle Bruno, EVCS Director of Schools; Liz Evans, EVCS Director of Operations; Anne Wechsler, EVCS Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Christine Cleary, Days Principal; Katie Istas, Days Park Vice Principal; Lisa Kirisits, Kirisits & Associates; Chief Aaron Young, Commander of School Resource Unit; Lieutenant Kelly Craig, School Resource Unit

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Jacob Piorkowski called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. He presented the agenda. There were no changes.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Elmwood Village Charter School Board of Trustees meeting held on October 16, 2024, were presented. There were no changes.

Lacole moved that the minutes be approved, and Kathy seconded. Approved unanimously.

The minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees meeting held on October 29, 2024, were presented. There were no changes.

Nikka moved that the minutes be approved, and Patti seconded. Approved unanimously.

3. CHAIR REPORT

BPS Billing for Service – tabled to Executive Session.

4. TREASURER’S REPORT

Reviewed financial statements for the four months ended October 31, 2024. Includes “change in net assets from operations loss due to disposal of fixed assets” line addition, necessitated by the recently concluded lease agreement.

Lacole moved that the financial report be approved, and Kathy seconded. Approved unanimously.

5. DIRECTORS’ REPORT

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

DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS:

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP & CULTURE

Strategic Plan Goal: School Culture

- Culture rounds - team approach to monitoring and improving school culture (arrival, dismissal, breakfast, lunch, hallways)

Strategic Plan Goal: Family Partnership

- Family facing version of strategic plan
- Meat Raffle planning committee
- Family Heritage Night
- P/T Conferences
- Publishing parties

Strategic Plan Goal: Organizational Clarity

- Leadership Team Retreat and strategic planning

STAFF SNAPSHOT:

HIRES (VOTE)

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Campus</u>	<u>Qualifications</u>
IA	Pedro Aguirre	Days Park	Masters
Receptionist	Kerry-Ann Fairclough	Days Park	
IA	Aileen Walter	Days Park	Masters
Sub	David Schuler	Hertel	Masters
Sub	Yaa Morris	Days Park	

Evening Custodian	Charnelle Alexander	Days Park	
Evening Custodian	Johvanna Sanchez	Days Park	
Dance Teacher	Kendil Banks	Days Park	

Lacole moved to approve new hires; Pam seconded. Approved unanimously.

PROMOTIONS: 0

EXITS: 1

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

ACADEMICS

- Report cards will be sent home on 12/6/24
- Math Interim Assessment #1 data meetings and reteaches were completed last week
- ELA Interim Assessment #2 will be administered the first week of December

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL: EXCELLENT TEACHING

- 11/18 teachers had a ½ day of professional development and ½ day of report card recording. PD topics included: 2024 NYS Assessment Data Action Planning, the Show Call, and Holidays the EVCS Ways (new teachers only)
- Coaches are scheduling peer observations for new teachers
- We rolled out the last two of our high impact strategies (academic monitoring and the show call). Initial implementation of each will be monitored during instructional rounds at each school. Teachers will receive targeted feedback on all four strategies throughout the remainder of the school year.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS:

OPERATIONS/FACILITIES

Hertel: Gym floor is getting waxed on Wednesday 11/27. Fire inspection will be performed in December.

Days Park: EVCS passed its annual fire inspection and boiler inspection.

Shared: Safety and security discussion: A discussion was held on 11/5 via zoom. A review of current safety measures, and proposed future actions and security coverages was discussed.

Next steps: EVCS is re-engaging its current security provider for upcoming basketball games, held after school in the Hertel gym. David Phillips will be getting a proposal for a security audit from a

company who performs these services at another large local charter school that has multiple buildings. David Phillips has shared the spectator protocols with the security company and with other schools playing in our facilities.

ADMISSIONS/STUDENT ENROLLMENT

ENROLLMENT COUNTS:

Days Park: 429

Hertel: 418

Past and upcoming outreach/promotional efforts:

- Community Tabling completed at all 6 Holy Cross Head Start Programs to incoming Kindergarten (2025-2026 school year).
- Community Tabling completed at the Westminster Early Childhood Program.
- Community Tabling and programming planned for several area libraries, starting as early as 11/22.
- Advertising campaigns secured with WNY Family Magazine (December & February), Greyline Outside Advertising (bus shelters, December), Ujima Company, Inc. Theatre (full season through spring shows), and Step Out Buffalo (December through March).
- Distribution of new lawn signs has begun in key neighborhoods.
- New marketing materials created and beginning to be distributed, including 'one stop shop' postcard and a rack card focusing in on our Kindergarten Camp.
- New student photoshoot completed to 'refresh' EVCS assets.

Applications for 2025-2026 open on December 1st.

TECHNOLOGY

Data Manager submitted updated family survey data and suspension data for Days Park renewal; Led progress to goals meeting using current school-wide data to drive presentations by school leaders at PD day on 11/18.

GRANTS/FINANCE

GRANTS: Securing Communities against Hate Crimes Grant, which was awarded in 2022, was finalized and is awaiting execution.

FINANCE: Compensation work is continuing and EVCS is holding meetings with facilitator for the Cullen-funded cohort work on talent (recruitment and retention of high-quality staff) and will be working with Edgility on next steps in compensation strategy.

HR UPDATES

EVCS received rates for the health insurance renewal from Univera and Sun Life. We are working with Lawley Benefits to negotiate the best possible rates for all benefits.

OTHER BUSINESS

The NY Charter School Association is partnering with Bellwether (a nonprofit that partners with leaders and organizations across the education sector) to help match potential board members with Buffalo charter schools, and in the near future to provide training to area charter boards.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Bruno, Liz Evans, and Anne Wechsler – November 20, 2024

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Updated committee list circulated by Chair.

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. Academic Excellence Committee | Did not meet. |
| b. Space Planning Committee | Playground survey forthcoming. |
| c. Finance Committee | Nothing to report. |
| d. Nominating Committee | Nothing to report. |
| e. Development and Advocacy Committee | Shuttering until needed. |
| f. EVCS Culture Committee | Afterschool programming. Inviting outreach/recruitment staff to future meeting. |

7. COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION REPORTS

- a. Days Park: Trunk or Treat successful, candy was running out at 3PM. Wreath & Poinsettia sale successful. Room parents have begun attending CA meetings. Discussions for teacher appreciation week.
- b. Hertel Campus: Lots of overlap with Days on joint Trunk or Treat, Poinsettia sale. Voted to commit funds to increase period product access, all supplies ordered. Staff appreciation breakfast.

8. OLD BUSINESS

SUNY Charter Schools Institute: 2024-25 Charter Renewal Days Park – pending, no issues anticipated, expect to hear back in February. Moving forward Days Park and Hertel will be on the same renewal cycle.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEW BUSINESS

Chief Aaron Young and his partner Lt. Kelly Craig shared insights on the role of school resource officers, and the supports they offer to our school communities.

Next meeting December 18 at Days. Future meetings as follows: January 15 (H), February 12 (D), March 19 (H), April 23 (D), May 21 (H), June 18 (D), and July 16 (H).

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Patty moved to enter executive session, seconded by Nikka. Motion carried.

Discussion ensued.

Pam moved to exit executive session, seconded by Kathy. Motion carried.

Nikka moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Pam seconded. Approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Sotelo-Peryea

EVCS Board Secretary