

ELMWOOD VILLAGE CHARTER SCHOOL

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

# MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2025

EVCS HERTEL CAMPUS

TRUSTEES PRESENT: *Jennifer Bernacki-Smith; Ed Castine; Kathy Franklin-Adams; Ken Gholston; Jacob Piorkowski; George McLean; Patti Anderson; Anna Sotelo-Peryea*

TRUSTEES EXCUSED: *Matt Ryan; Mimi Barnes Coppola; Nicca Lebeda; Jason Lang; Lacole Brumfield*

TRUSTEES ABSENT: *Pamela Pollock*

OTHERS PRESENT: *Liz Evans, EVCS Director of Operations; Lisa Kirsits, Kirsits & Associates*

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Jacob Piorkowski called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

## 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Elmwood Village Charter School Board of Trustees meeting held on June 18, 2025 were presented. There were no changes.

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

## 3. CHAIR REPORT

Nothing to present.

## 4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Reviewed financial statements the year ended June 30, 2025, discussion and analysis presented by Lisa Kirsits.

*Ed moved that the financial report be approved, and Jen seconded. Approved unanimously.*

Finance committee chair discussed exploring investment options, and no change to investment strategy is recommended at this time.

## 5. DIRECTORS' REPORT

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

### DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS:

#### SCHOOL LEADERSHIP & CULTURE

Both principals are participating in the RELAY National Principal Fellowship in July (summer session) and throughout the 25-26 School Year (funded by a grant from the Cullen Foundation).

Strategic Planning is in the final phases. We have set 3-Year Organizational Goals, and each campus is creating their Year 1 School-Based Plan in service of these organizational goals.

Hiring and staffing for the year is nearly complete and school leaders are planning for the return of staff and students.

### STAFF SNAPSHOT:

#### HIRES (VOTE)

Position	Name	Campus	Qualifications
General Education Teachers	Josette Franzone	Hertel	MA
	Marisa Girling	Days Park	BA
	Jacob Greenway	Hertel	MA
	Kyle Ricotta	Days Park	MA
	Sarah Snyder	Hertel	MA
	Abigayle Tweedy	Hertel	MA
	Rosanne Sanchez	Days Park	MA
	Alexander Kolazny	Days Park	BA
	Amy Drew	Hertel	BA
	Stephanie Allaire	Hertel	MA
Special Education Teachers	Amanda Dailey	Days Park	MA
	Georgia Gurney	Days Park	MA
	Marisa Mergler	Hertel	MA
	Taisei Kikuchi	Hertel	MA
Instructional Assistants	George Boria	Hertel	HS
	Maeve Devine	Days Park	BA
	(Canisius Resident)		
	Colleen Poleon	Days Park	BA
	(Canisius Resident)		
	Clarice Scarpace	Hertel	BA
	(Canisius Resident)		
	Elizabeth Kemmer	Hertel	BA
	Madisan Raynor	Hertel	BA & Certified Teacher (12/25)
	Justiss Kovack	Hertel	BA & Certified Teacher
	David Schuler	Hertel	BA
	Katherine Condon	Days Park	

	Aziyon Clemons	Days Park	BA & Certified Teacher
	Jenelle Ortolano	Hertel	(12/25)
			BA
			AS
Specialists	Mariel Buchtman - Librarian	Hertel	BA

*George moved to approve new hires; Ken seconded. Approved unanimously.*

PROMOTIONS: 4

EXITS: 20

*Board requested a breakdown of change in staff representation with exits and new hires, and breakdown of voluntary vs. involuntary exits. Administrators will share at next meeting.*

## DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

### STRATEGIC PLAN KEY IMPERATIVE: ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

- Planning for professional development
  - academic focus areas will include new K-5 Math curriculum, Writing in the Wit & Wisdom curriculum (K-3), Writing in Reading Reconsidered Curriculum (4-8)
- Formalized a plan for continuous monitoring, coaching, and accountability around our established Strategies for Excellent Teaching

## DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS:

### OPERATIONS/FACILITIES

#### **Hertel:**

Driveway being repaired in worst spots. New HVAC unit needed for the area above the library and nurse's office.

#### **Days Park:**

Quote for fencing outside of library and Kindergarten classrooms has been obtained and we are reaching out to Days Park block club and Mitch Nowakowski to inform them of the plan. We were advised that a 48" fence will not require a variance nor a need for a review by the City.

#### **Shared:**

Summer cleaning is underway and summer inspections are scheduled.

## ADMISSIONS/STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Admissions is continuing to enroll students for the coming year. Current projections are close to enrollment numbers in the budget.

Completed community outreach and engagement events:

- Juneteenth Festival - 6/14
- Taste of Diversity Festival - 6/28
- EVCS Hosted Read & Play Event at Days Park Campus - 7/7

Upcoming summer community outreach and engagement events:

- Michigan Street Farmer's Market at 136 Broadway Avenue - 7/15, 7/29, 8/5 - @ 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm (might do additional dates in August, TBD)
- D-District Community Day at Hertel Campus - 7/31 @ 4 pm to 7 pm
- EVCS Hosted Read & Play Event at Hertel Campus - 8/4 @ 9 am to 11 am
- Shakespeare in Delaware Park's Touring Show at Hertel Campus - 8/4 @ 7 pm
- Elmwood-Bidwell Farmers' Market - 8/23 @ 8 am to 1 pm

## TECHNOLOGY

Summer inventory and device assessment is underway. Station 28 will be managing student and staff accounts in preparation for the start of school.

## GRANTS/FINANCE

GRANTS: Year one of Cullen grant was received covering participation in Relay Principal Fellowship and STEAM initiatives for 25-26.

FINANCE: As currently projected, EVCS's balance at the end of 24-25 is positive. *Jen moved to approve purchase; Jason seconded. Approved unanimously.*

## HR UPDATES

HR Manager, Director of Operations, and Kirisits met with Actuarial Consulting Services, Inc. and we are continuing to work on finalizing plan documents which should be completed by the end of July.

## OTHER BUSINESS

None to report.

*Respectfully submitted by Danielle Bruno, Liz Evans, and Anne Wechsler – July 16, 2025*

## 6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a. <b>Academic Excellence Committee</b> | Nothing to report.   |
| b. <b>Space Planning Committee</b>      | Working with new playground architect for additional proposal. |
| c. <b>Finance Committee</b>             | Nothing additional to report.                                  |

- d. **Nominating Committee** Looking for nominees. One potential; lawyer.
- e. **Development and Advocacy Committee** Shuttered until needed.
- f. **EVCS Culture Committee** Nothing to report.

## 7. COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION REPORTS

- a. DAYS PARK: Has not met.
- b. HERTEL CAMPUS: Discussed leadership transition, opportunities to build community with families.

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

Sara Carona officially in Hertel Principal role.

## 9. ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEW BUSINESS

Jake shared projected meeting dates for 2025-2026:

- 2025: August 20 (D); September 17 (H); October 15 (D); November 19 (H); December 17 (D);
- 2026: January 21 (H); February 11 (D); March 18 (H); April 15 (D); May 20 (H); June 17 (D); July 15 (H).

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at Days Park.

## 10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

*George moved to enter executive session, seconded by Jen. Motion carried.*

Discussion ensued.

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

*Jen moved that the meeting be adjourned, and George seconded. Approved unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Anna Sotelo-Peryea*

*EVCS Board Secretary*