

ELMWOOD VILLAGE CHARTER SCHOOL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026
EVCS DAYS PARK CAMPUS

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Jacob Piorkowski; Ed Castine; George McLean; Jennifer Bernacki-Smith; Kathy Franklin-Adams; Owen VanKerkhove; Patti Anderson; Nicca Lebeda; Michael Larry; Anna Sotelo-Peryea

TRUSTEES EXCUSED: Mimi Barnes Coppola; Ken Gholston; Jason Lang

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Matt Ryan; Lacle Brumfield

OTHERS PRESENT: Danielle Bruno, EVCS Director of Schools; Liz Evans, EVCS Director of Operations; Anne Wechsler, EVCS Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Angel Beiter, Kirisits & Associates; and the following members of the Hertel school community – Jemima Herrera, Katrina DiGennaro, Eve Johnstone

1. CALL TO ORDER

Jacob Piorkowski called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Elmwood Village Charter School Board of Trustees meeting held on March 18, 2026 were presented, with an adjustment to excuse Mimi Barnes Coppola's absence.

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

3. CHAIR REPORT

Succession planning is going well and continues. Report back to the board planned after one more meeting. 20th Anniversary celebration was a success, and appreciation is expressed to all who contributed. Mortgage refinance has closed.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Reviewed final financial statements for the eight months ended March 31, 2026, with discussion and analysis presented by Angel Beiter.

Budget process continues, scheduled to be presented to the board in May. Some rates may not yet be confirmed by May meeting.

Ed moved that the financial report be approved, and Mike 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

- Continued focus on academic achievement - preparation for NYS Assessments
- Staffing preparation for SY 26-27 - 97% of teachers intend to return
- Exits: Moving out of Buffalo; completing PhD program, seeking a position in their certified field
- Teacher Recruitment Day

STAFF SNAPSHOT:

HIRES (VOTE)

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CAMPUS</u>	<u>QUALIFICATIONS</u>
ENL	CAITLIN BIRECREE	DAYS	MA

Motion to approve new hire made by Nicca, seconded by Patti. Approved unanimously.

PROMOTIONS: 0

EXITS: 0

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

STRATEGIC PLAN KEY IMPERATIVE:

Academic Achievement (student performance goal)
<p>NYS assessment <i>proficiency</i> in ELA and Math</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 percentage point increase in ELA (Percent Increase: Hertel - 26.5%, Days Park - 16.7%) • 8 percentage point increase in Math (Percent Increase: Hertel - 26.1%, Days Park - 16.8%)

NYS ASSESSMENT DATES:

- April 22nd: NYS Science Assessments (Grades 5 & 8)
- April 28th & 29th: NYS ELA Assessments (Grades 3-8)
- Tuesday 5/5 & Wednesday 5/6: NYS Math Testing

Excellent Teaching (teacher performance goal)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STAR Student Growth Percentile (SGP) of 65 in both ELA and Math • STAR <i>Proficiency</i> increase of at least 10 percentage points in ELA and Math • All teachers who have been at EVCS for 2 or more years will have attained mastery of excellent teaching strategies, <i>defined</i> as 80% achievement on the Strategies for Excellent Teaching Rubrics for all 5 arcs

COACHING

- Practice Clinics and Instructional Rounds are on pause due to state testing
- Coaching PD: Continue virtual coaching with our LEAP math coach

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS:

OPERATIONS/FACILITIES

Hertel: Repairs continue to take place – mostly HVAC units and also the backup generator.

Days Park: Facilities Manager expecting three quotes this week for replacing a portion of the roof and cost will be included in the 26-27 budget.

Shared: Permit for playground at Days Park has been requested and we are waiting on the City. Hertel playground will be installed after the summer, since it is additional, rather than replacing a current playground. Elements of the designs will be up for input by the school community this month.

ADMISSIONS/S TUDENT ENROLLMENT

Current enrollments are below target at Days Park and are on target at Hertel.

Open houses were held at both schools and attendance was strong.

Applications overall were up at both schools. See Kindergarten application numbers below:

Total K Apps (pre-lottery)

2026/27	Kindergarten Apps	Ranked #1
Days (total)	143	68
Hertel (total)	115	38

Technology/Data

We are implementing new printing software that will allow us to limit printing in the future in order to mitigate excessive costs. The cost is comparable to the old product that we had but it allows for more control.

GRANTS/FINANCE

GRANTS: Nothing new to report.

FINANCE:

Budget meeting scheduled for Friday 4/17 for final adjustments (pending budget approval by NYS). The Finance Committee will review the proposed budget in detail in May, ahead of the full Board meeting.

HR UPDATES

Implementation of the new HR/payroll system is continuing with twice weekly implementation and training meetings.

OTHER BUSINESS

Tentative date for Board training with SUNY counsel, Carrie Gee, is July 25th from 12:30-3:30

EVCS raised \$10,700 to date for the Evening with Elmwood Village.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Bruno, Liz Evans, and Anne Wechsler – April 15, 2026

6. 2025-2026 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

School Principals presented STAR Proficiency data for school year 2025-2026 middle of year proficiency numbers, student growth percentile, student suspensions, and student attendance for both Hertel and Days Park.

7. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| a. Academic Excellence Committee | Has not met. |
| b. Space Planning Committee | Nothing additional to report. |
| c. Finance Committee | Nothing further. |
| d. Nominating Committee | Encouraging recommendations for Hertel parent representative. |
| e. Development and Advocacy Committee | Shuttered until needed. |
| f. EVCS Culture Committee | Moving to quarterly meeting schedule. |

8. COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION REPORTS

- DAYS PARK: Glow Dance a success, planning to make annual.
- HERTEL CAMPUS: Candy sale successful, discussing online-only sales next year, plan to keep current vender. Chiavetta's chicken dinner sale and

9. OLD BUSINESS

None.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEW BUSINESS

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 20 at Hertel.

Projected 2026 meeting dates:

June 17 (D); July 15 (H).

Patti moved to reschedule July board meeting to July 22, preceding Board Retreat. Seconded by Kathy. Approved unanimously.

Date, time, and location of July meeting to be updated and published.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Discussion ensued.

Jen moved to exit executive session, seconded by Owen. Motion carried.

Nicca moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Ed seconded. Approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Sotelo-Peryea
EVCS Board Secretary