ELMWOOD VILLAGE CHARTER SCHOOL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2026
DUENDE

TRUSTEES PRESENT: *Jacob Piorkowski; Mimi Barnes Coppola; Ed Castine; Kathy Franklin-Adams; Owen VanKerkhove; Jason Lang; Patti Anderson; Ken Gholston; Lacole Brumfield; Nicca Lebeda; Michael Larry; Matt Ryan; George McLean; Jennifer Bernacki-Smith; Anna Sotelo-Peryea*

TRUSTEES EXCUSED:

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: *Danielle Bruno, EVCS Director of Schools; Anne Wechsler, EVCS Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Lisa Kirisits, Kirisits & 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 May 20, 2026 were presented, acknowledging absence of Jen and George.

Kathy moved to accept the minutes, with notation of Jen and George's absence. Lacole seconded. Approved unanimously.

3. CHAIR REPORT

Chair recognized the end of service of Nicca, Lacole, and Jen to the board and school. The board thanks them for their valuable service and leadership.

Owen has submitted his resignation to the chair.

George made a motion to accept Owen's resignation. Ken seconded. Approved unanimously.

Chair recognized Katie Istas' service closing out the school year as acting principal.

Jason moved to extend a 1-year principal contract to Katie Istas. Nicca seconded. Approved unanimously.

Chair noted the recommendation of a change in leadership model that has emerged in succession planning.

Mimi motioned we move to single-head leadership model. Ken seconded. Approved unanimously.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Reviewed final financial statements for the ten months ended May 31, 2026, with discussion and analysis presented by Lisa Kirisits.

Ed moved we approve proposed EFT/ACH payment policy. Ken seconded. Approved unanimously.

Lisa put forward a board resolution to support replacing corporate credit cards with pre-approved purchasing cards.

Matt moved to accept the resolution. Jen seconded. Approved unanimously.

Ed shared that the finance committee put out RFP for auditor and reviewed sever proposals. Committee recommends we change auditor to EFPR.

Matt moved that we change auditor. Ed seconded. Approved unanimously.

Ed moved that the financial report be approved, and Jason 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

- Strong finish to the 26-27 year - remaining focused on engaging instruction and activities through the last day of school.
- End of year events - Graduations for K and 8th Grade, Whole School Morning Meetings, Field Day
- Staffing for the 26-27 school year.
- Renewal preparations underway for both schools.

STAFF SNAPSHOT:

HIRES (VOTE)

Position	***Name***	***Campus***	***Qualifications***
Substitute Teacher	*Jacob Smith*	*Days Park*	*MA*

Motion to approve new hire made by George, seconded by Jason. Approved unanimously.

PROMOTIONS:

EXITS: 0

STRATEGIC PLANNING:

The Board engaged Rasheeda Washington of Beyond Sixth to lead the strategic planning process in response to anticipated leadership changes in the coming years. We worked with Ms. Washington during EVCS's replication process in order to develop and refine our organizational structure for two schools, as well as build out our job descriptions and short term plan for growth.

Jacob Piorkowski, Anne Wechsler, Danielle Bruno, and Anne Wechsler participated in 10 sessions to identify the strongest and most sustainable leadership model appropriate to EVCS.

This will be communicated to our stakeholders upon finalization of the plan.

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

STRATEGIC PLAN KEY IMPERATIVE:

Academic Achievement *(student performance goal)*
NYS assessment proficiency in ELA and Math • *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%)*

- Algebra Regents 6/17
- Living Environment Regents 6/18
- Report Cards will go home 6/26
- Academic Excellence Committee Meeting TBD

Excellent Teaching *(teacher performance goal)*
• *STAR Student Growth Percentile (SGP) of 65 in both ELA and Math* • *STAR Proficiency 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, defined as 80% achievement on the Strategies for Excellent Teaching Rubrics for all 5 arcs*

COACHING

- Finishing up end of year SMARTE Goal meetings (teachers and coaches)
- Planning professional development for August

➢ Preview of EOY STAR data - SGP is highest it has ever been at either school. Median is 60 or above in both subjects at each campus.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS:

OPERATIONS/FACILITIES

Hertel: EVCS received a proposal for an outdoor scoreboard for the soccer field area that was significantly higher than the estimate included in the budget. This quote is from a vendor who has a negotiated contract with Sourcewell, a government agency that provides publicly solicited, pre-approved cooperative purchasing contracts to government, education, and nonprofit entities (like the NYS contract). For budgetary context, it's likely that the Hertel playground will come in under the projection included in the because we will be using mulch rather than poured-in-place surfacing, for a cost neutral impact to the overall capital budget line if this item is approved.

Action Item: Vote on approval of outdoor scoreboard, coded to capital improvements at a cost of $11,594 plus electrical work estimated to be approximately $1,500 **($13,094.)**

Motion to approve outdoor scoreboard capital improvement made by Lacole, seconded by Nicca. Approved unanimously.

Days Park: Nothing to report this month

Shared: Planning underway for summer deep cleaning, including supplies, moving and sufficient staffing. Furniture for next year is being ordered.
Playground work continue to move forward.

ADMISSIONS/STUDENT ENROLLMENT

The lottery was held last month and enrollment is in full swing. Currently enrollment numbers are on track to meet budgeted enrollment projections.

TECHNOLOGY/DATA

Station 28 will be working with Lizzie Seward, the Technology and Operations Manager, to begin transfer of school database management to her. This will allow us to dial back on hours for Station 28 for next year. They will begin summer refurbishing of devices and performing inventory in July.

Station 28 will be leading the programming work of the new PA system at Days Park.

GRANTS/FINANCE

GRANTS: EVCS had a school visit from SchoolWorks in connection with our grant from the Cullen Foundation. They met with school leaders and focus groups of teachers across campuses. They also collected evidence of the professional learning culture at EVCS. We have a call scheduled with SchoolWorks in mid-July.

FINANCE:
Finance Committee has been meeting with audit firms who responded to the RFP for auditing services, issued May 11 to five firms. Three responded and were interviewed and the Finance committee will put forward their recommendation to the board.

Kirisits is presenting a EFT policy for consideration by the Board.

Kirisits is also presenting a resolution for the transfer of money from our operating account to an online account in AirWallex.

HR UPDATES

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Final date for Board training with SUNY counsel, Carrie Gee, is July 25th from 12:30-3:30. The board meeting will be held first, from 12:30-1:30 with PD to follow. It will be held at the Massachusetts Avenue Project (MAP) 387 Massachusetts Ave, Buffalo, NY 14213 in the conference room.

PROPOSED MEETING DATES FOR 2026-2027:

JULY 25, 12:30-1:30 (MAP)	*JANUARY 20, 2027 (HERTEL)*
AUGUST 19, 2026 (DAYS PARK)	*FEBRUARY 10, 2027 (DAYS PARK)*
SEPTEMBER 16, 2026 (HERTEL)	*MARCH 17, 2027 (HERTEL)*
OCTOBER 21, 2026 (DAYS PARK)	*APRIL 21, 2027 (DAYS PARK)*
NOVEMBER 18, 2026 (HERTEL)	*MAY 19, 2027 (HERTEL)*
DECEMBER 16, 2026 (DAYS PARK)	*JUNE 16, 2027 (DAYS PARK)*
NEXT SCHOOL YEAR:	*JULY 21 2027 (OFF SITE OR HERTEL)*

Jason motioned to approve proposed meeting dates for the 2026-2027 academic year. Lacole seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Bruno, Liz Evans, and Anne Wechsler – May 20, 2026

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a. **Academic Excellence Committee** Scheduled to meet June 25.
b. **Space Planning Committee** Nothing additional to report.
c. **Finance Committee** Nothing further.
d. **Nominating Committee** Sent slate. Recommending Jemima Herrara for EVCS Hertel Parent Representative, and included on slate put forward for approval.

   Nicca motioned slate be approved. Jake seconded. Approved unanimously.

   Ongoing board member candidate recommendations encouraged.
e. **Development and Advocacy Committee** Shuttered until needed.
f. **EVCS Culture Committee** Moving to quarterly meeting schedule, Patti to lead.

8. COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION REPORTS

a. DAYS PARK: Field day was a success!
b. HERTEL CAMPUS: Has not met. Recruiting new leadership.

9. OLD BUSINESS

None.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEW BUSINESS

Danielle thanked Jen, Lacole, and Nicca for their tireless service to the board on behalf of the school.

Floor opened for new business, public discussion. No new business raised.

Next meeting will be board retreat on *July 25 (Massachusetts Avenue Project).*

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Sotelo-Peryea
EVCS Board Secretary