ELMWOOD VILLAGE CHARTER SCHOOL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026
EVCS DAYS PARK CAMPUS

TRUSTEES PRESENT: *Jacob Piorkowski; Patti Anderson; Ken Gholston; Michael Larry; Ed Castine; Matt Ryan; and Anna Sotelo-Peryea*

TRUSTEES EXCUSED: *Kathy Franklin-Adams; Mimi Barnes Coppola; Jason Lang; George McLean; and Jemima Herrera*

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: *Danielle Bruno, EVCS Director of Schools; Liz Evans, EVCS Director of Operations; Anne Wechsler, EVCS Director of Curriculum and Instruction; and Angel Beiter, Kirisits & Associates.*

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 July 25, 2026 were presented. No issues were raised.

Motion to approve the minutes could not move forward as a quorum was absent. No vote took place.

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 year ended June 30, 2026, with discussion and analysis presented by Angel Beiter.

Reviewed final financial statements for the one month ended July 31, 2026, with discussion and analysis presented by Angel Beiter.

Motion to approve the financial reports could not move forward as a quorum was absent. No vote took place.

Angel Beiter presented summary of changes to Fiscal Policies & Procedures Manual as well as the Guidance for Grants policy.

Motion to approve the policies could not move forward as a quorum was absent. No vote took place.

5. DIRECTORS' REPORT

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

DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH UPDATE

Impressive slate of candidates. Will be closing the posting shortly. All submissions shared with BOT for review. Board to flag candidates of interest and send to Director of School for initial screening.

STAFF SNAPSHOT:

HIRES (VOTE)

New Instructional Hires				**Certs/Qualifications**
Deborah Alejandro	Instructional Assistant	Hertel Campus	BA - Buffalo State University (Childhood/Special Education, Urban Studies)	Bilingual Education Certificate, Teacher Certification Pending
Sarah Bergman	Instructional Assistant	Days Park Campus	MA Candidate (Dept of	

			Education) at Canisius University	
Julia Hamilton	Instructional Assistant	Days Park Campus	MA Candidate in Dept of Education, Buffalo State University	
Agatino Maccarrone	Instructional Assistant	Hertel Campus	MA, Business & Sports Administration; Canisius University	
Elizabeth Ortiz	Instructional Assistant	Hertel Campus	BA, Management & AAS in Early Childhood Education; Bryant & Stratton	
Emma Stanton	Instructional Assistant	Hertel Campus	BA, Fine Arts; University at Buffalo	
Shiquan Tell	Instructional Assistant	Hertel Campups	AAS, Early Childhood Education, Erie Community College	
Jenna Ward	Instructional Assistant	Days Park Campus	Child Development Associate (CDA)	
New Non-Instructional Hires				
Michael Lowry	Human Resources Generalist	Shared Employee	MS, Business Strategy, Buffalo State University	

Motion to approve the hires could not move forward as a quorum was absent.

EMPLOYEE RETENTION:
Instructional Employee Retention - 85% (up from 82% in 2025)
A full report will be provided at the October Board meeting following BEDS Day.

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%)*

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*

Academic Excellence Committee Meeting will report out

- Charter renewal submitted 8/17
- Working on grant proposal for Cullen Foundation - focus areas are early literacy and talent
- PD for teachers who have been at EVCS less than 2 years started on 8/17
- New and improved:
    - Math K-5 fluency- K-5 fluency curriculum that consists of a 10 minute vertically aligned warm-up routine that alternates between automaticity, flexible number sense, and application (solving story problems)
    - Scripted small group SEL intervention lessons aligned with the CASEL framework, which outlines five core competencies that address both intrapersonal and interpersonal development (Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision-Making)
    - Focus on special education:
        - Tool aligning special education co-teaching practices with our 5 Strategies for Excellent Teaching to establish common vision and provide clarity and transparency
        - Special education professional development for Supervisors of Special Education Coordinators and special education teachers led by Meghan Fitzgerald of *Inclusion Drives Equity*, focused on Growth Mindset & Inclusion, Specially Designed Instruction, and Lesson Plan Application. Follow-up workshops will happen throughout the year.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS:

OPERATIONS/FACILITIES

Hertel: Repairs have been completed. The gym floor will be sealed and buffed prior to the first day of school.

DAYS PARK: Playground groundbreaking scheduled for either week of 8/24 or 8/30.
Roofing at DP will be completed this week.

SHARED: Emergency Response Plans have been available for comment for 30 days in the School offices and the district safety plan has been available on the website and there has been no feedback. They have been reviewed with school leaders by the facilities manager.

ACTION ITEM: Board approval is required to finalize the safety plans for the 2026-2027 school year. After approval the district plan will be posted on the website as final, and the building level plans will be finalized and will be available to school leaders as needed.

Motion to approve the Emergency Response Plan and District Safety Plan could not move forward as a quorum was absent.

ADMISSIONS/STUDENT ENROLLMENT
Enrollment for the fall is continuing, with Ready Set Enroll sessions taking place each week at alternating campuses. Enrollment is on target to meet budgeted numbers.

Outreach events are continuing to take place during the remainder of the summer and into the fall.

TECHNOLOGY/DATA
Implementations of new software are complete and are being shared with staff in emails and on the updated staff portal. GRANTS/FINANCE

GRANTS:

EVCS received a final report from SchoolWorks in connection with our grant from the Cullen Foundation. The three questions they explored were:

Does the school foster a strong culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and does it provide educators with appropriate professional supports?

> **Finding:** The school's leadership and staff are engaged in a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
>
> **Finding:** The school provides appropriate professional supports for educators.

Does the school's culture indicate high levels of collective responsibility, trust, and efficacy?

> **Finding:** Educators' mindsets and beliefs reflect shared commitments to the school's goals, priorities, and core values.
>
> **Finding:** The school reflects a mostly safe, trustworthy, and growth-oriented professional climate.

Do school leaders facilitate intentional, strategic efforts to ensure the effectiveness of the school's program and the sustainability of the organization?

> **Finding:** School leaders implement systems to recruit and retain teachers and staff.
>
> **Finding:** School leaders ensure effective communication and inclusive, transparent decision-making.

Finance: Independent audit by EFPR has been completed and the firm will present their report to the board at the September 16 board meeting. The process was smooth and the audit team was on site at EVCS Hertel for three days.

Updated draft Fiscal Policies and Procedures manual, as well as Uniform Grant Guidelines were reviewed by the Finance committee on July 15th and should be reviewed and approved with changes, if any at tonight's board meeting.

FINANCE:

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HR UPDATES

The new HR/payroll system, Paycom, continues to be updated and customized.

A new HR Generalist, Michael Lowry Sr. will start at EVCS on August 27th.

OTHER BUSINESS

EVCS's renewal application for both Days Park and Hertel was submitted Monday, August 17th. SUNY's Charter School Institute has scheduled site visits to the schools during the week of November 2nd.

Respectfully submitted Respectfully submitted by Danielle Bruno, Liz Evans, and Anne Wechsler – August 19, 2026

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a.	**Academic Excellence Committee**	Holding for September meeting.
b.	**Space Planning Committee**	Nothing additional to report.
c.	**Finance Committee**	Nothing further.
d.	**Nominating Committee**	Excited about nomination of Barbara Delgross, term ending 6/30/2028.
e.	**Development and Advocacy Committee**	Shuttered until needed.
f.	**EVCS Culture Committee**	New board members invited to join.

7. COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION REPORTS

a. DAYS PARK: Nothing to report.
b. HERTEL CAMPUS: Meeting tomorrow for succession planning of CA leadership, discuss recruitment strategy.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEW BUSINESS

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 16 at Hertel.

PROJECTED 2026-2027 MEETING DATES (LOCATIONS):

OCTOBER 21, 2026 (DAYS PARK), NOVEMBER 18, 2026 (HERTEL), DECEMBER 16, 2026 (DAYS PARK), JANUARY 20, 2027 (HERTEL), FEBRUARY 10, 2027 (DAYS PARK), MARCH 17, 2027 (HERTEL), APRIL 21, 2027 (DAYS PARK), MAY 19, 2027 (HERTEL), JUNE 16, 2027 (DAYS PARK)

NEXT SCHOOL YEAR: JULY 21 2027 (OFF SITE OR HERTEL)

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public joined the meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting could not move forward as a quorum was absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Sotelo-Peryea
EVCS Board Secretary