Evergreen Charter School
Virtual Meeting of the Board of Trustees
605 Peninsula Blvd, Hempstead, NY 11550
January 24, 2024

7:45 pm

The meeting was held at 605 Peninsula Boulevard
It was also held virtually.

Members:

Mr. Gil Bernardino	**Present**
Dr. Sarah Brewster	**Present**
Ms. Nancy Iglesias-Gillen	**present**
Ms. Yvonne Mowatt	**present**
Ms. Gladys Rodríguez	**Present**
Mr. Luis Ras	**Excused**

Also present:

Dr. Elena Litescu, 2-4 Principal, Superintendent
Ms. Christine Weigand, Principal Lower Elementary
Dr. Frances Echevarria, Interim HS Principal
Mr. Matthew Chuchul, MS Principal
Mr. Nicolas Agosti, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Carlos Pumar, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Luis Tejada, HS Dean
Mr. Shaun Skariah, Director of Special Education
Ms. Alicia Anderson, Director of Data and Attendance

Note: As always, the Board Meeting was conducted in English and Spanish.

I. Call to Order
By Mr. Gil Bernardino. President

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm.

II. Superintendent's Report

By Dr. Elena Litescu, Superintendent

Benchmark 1 – Student Performance

- All students in K-6 grades are in the process of taking the second reading benchmark assessment (Fountains and Pinell).
- 3-4 grade students will complete a practice ELA state exam during week three of January.
- Students began their second interim assessments as of mid-January.
- The third week of January they will take a practice Computer Based Test (CBT) to familiarize with the new format of the state exam.
- PSAT was administered.
- ELA Regents exam will be administered during the third week of January.
- All 35 seniors applied to colleges.
- Guidance counselors plan college trips for Juniors and 8th graders.

Benchmark 2 – Teaching and Learning

- Progress reports were completed and distributed to MS families.
- All teachers will have been observed three times (two informal and one formal observation) before going out for winter break.
- The Hydroponics STEM curriculum is being incorporated in all classrooms at K-1 building, to enhance the Science 21 curriculum.
- Various assessments formal and informal are implemented in all grades.
- A tiered intervention approach is implemented in all buildings.
- Support continues to be provided to ENL and SWD students.
- Various clubs are hosted in all buildings.
- Students will participate in the 41st Annual Nassau Reading Council Young Authors Contest.

- Evergreen submitted the highest number of entries to the NYS Exhibition honoring Dr. MLK's legacy.

Benchmark 3: Culture, Climate, and Student and Family Engagement:

- The entire school celebrated Evergreen 15th Birthday and Founders Day with special Morning Assemblies in all four buildings.

- The Out of School Suspensions for Middle and High School students were converted to In School Suspensions served at Front St.

- Meetings were conducted with families of students with excessive absences.

- Parent meetings took place at the HS to ensure the feedback is gathered from HS families.

- Restorative meetings with families of students who are serving OOS or ISS are always hosted in advance of the discipline step being implemented.

- The 8th grade students signed a contract committing themselves to displaying appropriate behaviors.

- The second quarter ends on 1/26/24, and the parent teacher conferences will take place on the following dates.

    - 2/13/24 – Peninsula and High School.
    - 2/15/24 – Front St and Loretto

- Picture Day was scheduled in all four buildings and families were notified accordingly.

- Various clubs are taking place in all four buildings.

- The Derner clinic professionals started a professional group for teachers sharing best practices on addressing challenging behavior.

- The Culturally Responsive Hydroponics Curriculum is being incorporated in all classrooms at Peninsula to enhance the SEL curriculum.

- A new elective SEL oriented was launched at the HS, "Overcoming Obstacles".

Benchmark 7: Organizational Capacity

- Leadership consultant visited MS and HS.

- Consistent PD takes place either by grade level teams, or teaching subject.
- Teachers are encouraged to seek also professional development opportunities, individually.
- Staff feedback is gathered either individually or as a group from teachers during the weekly and monthly meetings.
- Teachers and leadership continue to work with ELA /Math /ENL /Leadership coaches.
- A Guidance consultant provides support and coaching to the guidance counselors;

Benchmark 8: Mission and Key Design

- Provide updates directly relevant to the mission and key design elements -may be appropriate to cross-reference updates from above here.
- Middle school students' progress is tracked in relation to Checkpoint A and Checkpoint B readiness and completion.
- Spanish instruction is differentiated by co-teaching Spanish at the middle school.
- During the Science courses, the 5th and 8th grade students continue to learn about ecology.
- The salad bar menu option is offered both to MS and HS students.
- National School Choice Week participation this year will include K-12 grades.
- The Spanish awards is scheduled in all four buildings the first week of February.
- The entire school allocated specific Morning Assembly to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- Common planning time is allocated for all teachers in all four buildings.

III. Questions and Comments from the Board of Trustees related to Superintendent's and Principals' reports:

There were none.

IV. Questions and Comments from the Public related to Superintendent's and Principals' reports:

None.

V. Director Finance and Operations Report

By Trustee Brewster in the absence of Ms. Knox, Director of Finance and Operations

Benchmark 4: Financial Condition

- We still have not received per pupil fundings from eight districts including Hempstead. We are following up with two districts who were short on their second payment. Payment three was sent in December. We are now preparing for payment four of six.

- We have submitted meal claims for the month of December. We are waiting to receive payment for title grants.

Benchmark 5: Financial Management

- The Financial Committee continues to receive regular reports including cash flows, bank reconciliations, information on operating and related accounts, financial statements and other relevant reports.

Benchmark 9: Enrollment

- We have begun the registration process for the new school year. Registration will close April 1, 2024.

VI. Questions and Comments from the Board of Trustees related to the Financial Report:

There were none.

VII. Questions and Comments from the Public related to the Financial Report:

There were none.

VIII. Approval of Minutes

Resolved the Board of Trustees approved the minutes December 13, 2023

Motion: Trustee Sarah Brewster
Second: Trustee Yvonne Mowatt
Vote: 5:0

IX. Reading of the Resolutions:

The resolutions were read in English and Spanish. Resolutions were explained.

X. Questions and comments from the public related to resolutions:

There were none.

XI. Voting of the Resolutions:

Proposal Area:

<u>Benchmark I:</u> Student Performance (include proposals to support achievement in this areas)

1. **<u>Be it therefore resolved</u>,** that the Board of Trustees approves the following proposals under <u>Student Performance</u>:

    a. The HS is proposing an Under Armour shirt and sweatpants with pockets for purposes of hygiene, warmth and aesthetics. The Under Armour shirt will ensure that students are appropriately dressed for gym without students changing into black shirts due to the excessive amount of sweat noticeable through our current grey shirts. The sweatpants with pockets will ascertain that students place hands in pockets when cold, rather than inside their pants to remain warm.

Motion: Gladys Rodriguez
Second: Sarah Brewster
Vote: 5:0

<u>Benchmark II:</u> Teaching and Learning (include professional development, curriculum)

2. **<u>Be it therefore resolved</u>,** that the Board of Trustees approves the following proposals under <u>Teaching and Learning</u> that include professional development:

    a. Ms. Camilli is requesting approval to attend a conference on March 21st, 2024 – "Practical Early Intervention Stages that Work: Supporting Young Children with Developmental Delays and Challenging Behaviors" PreK-K.

    b. The Kindergarten Team is proposing a Parent Engaging Literacy Event.
    The kindergarten team would like to help establish a positive home-school connection by having the students invite a special person to school to participate in an activity. This will help promote literacy, nutrition, and social-emotional development.

    c. Mr. Agosti is requesting a proposal for Educational Vistas (Ed Vistas) for the Middle School. The license would be active for use from K-12. The major and initial focus of of EdVistas use at the Middle School would be for test preparation for the NYS Assessments.

    d. Ms. Weigand is requesting approval to partner with World Vision to allow Evergreen Teachers to visit their free Teacher Resource Center.

Motion: Yvonne Mowatt
Second: Nancy Iglesias
Vote: 5:0

<u>Benchmark III:</u> Culture, Climate, Student/Family Engagement (include activities to meet student/family needs, trips)

3. **Be it therefore resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the following proposals under <u>Culture ,Climate, Student/Family Engagement</u>:**

a. The Kindergarten Team would like to invite the parents to participate in a Literacy Event on February 14th, 2024 and February 15th, 2024.

b. Mr. Agosti is proposing Spirit Week. Spirit week would be held from February 5-9.
Mr. Agosti is proposing "Valentines Day Grams". Staff have collected a number of items to sell in the days leading up to Valentine's Day as Valentines Grams. Students and teachers would be able to purchase items to be delivered to students on February 14th.

c. Ms. Mayra Acosta is proposing to order Yearbooks for our graduating class 2024. Students will be responsible for paying for their own yearbooks, which will contain their senior pictures, along with other pictures of events, school trips and activities to remember their years at Evergreen after graduating.

d. The senior committee would like to propose an overnight senior trip to Boston. This senior trip will be educational filled with visits to free museums, yet fun and entertaining for our seniors. Students will share a hotel room with 1-2 classmates of the same gender, with individual beds. Each student will be contributing for their hotel stay and food. Students will also have the opportunity to visit Harvard University.

e. Mr. Edward Olson is requesting After School Sport "Badminton" for the HS.

Motion: Nancy Iglesias
Second: Yvonne Mowatt
Vote: 5:0

Benchmark VII: Organization Capacity (include new staff here, improvement of systems and protocols)

3. Be it therefore resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the following proposals under <u>Organizational Capacity</u>:

a. (Some of these were approved earlier this month. This resolution ratifies their approval).

Name	Position	Building	Effective
Jason E. Zove	Permanent Substitute	Front St	01/03/2024
Alexandra Scott	Special Education Teacher	Front St	01/10/2024
Sophia J. Baptiste	Physical Education Teacher	Fulton	01/29/2024
Berlize Pena Jimenez	Social Worker	Fulton	02/01/2024
Kristen Bischoff	Permanent Substitute Teacher	Peninsula	02/08/2024

Maria Spagnuolo	MS Dean of Students	Loretto	TBD
Kris Noonan	ELA AIS Teacher	Loretto	TBD
Sharon Harris	Special Education	Front St	TBD

Employee Position and Salary Changes:

Name	Current Position	New Position	Effective
Natalie Alicea	Teacher Assistant	Permanent Substitute Teacher	02/01/2024
Taylah J. Lovett	Teacher Assistant	Stem Teacher	02/01/2024

Motion: Sarah Brewster
Second: Gladys Rodriguez
Vote: 5:0

XII. Additional Reports
By Dr. Sarah Brewster, Vice President

Benchmark 6 Oversight and Governance
Benchmark 10: Legal compliance

School Hearing:

Evergreen has asked the New York State Board of Regents and the Charter School Office to approve its request for enrollment expansion. Evergreen initiated its request several years ago and was told to wait until 2024 year to submit an increase.

Our current enrollment in 1,100 students. We have 125 students from kindergarten to fourth grade, seventy-five students from fifth to seventh grade and fifty students from eighth to twelfth grade. We want all students to continue their education at Evergreen and have asked that enrollment be expanded this coming school year by seventy-five students to enable fourth and seventh grade students to move to the next grade level. This is because we only have seventy-five spaces for the fifth grade and we currently have one hundred and twenty-five

fourth grade students. They will be fifth graders next year. We also only have fifty spaces for eighth grade and we currently have seventy-five students at the seventh grade level who will be moving to eighth grade. We want to support these students to continue their education at Evergreen.

The Hempstead School District will hold a hearing for this purpose sometime in February. We informed the New York State Office of School choice of the discrimination our families have been subjected to by the Local School District at past hearings and our fear of this continued abuse. We were encouraged to attend. We will document any abuses if they occur and send them to our authorizer.

School Construction:

Trustee Brewster provided an update about the school construction. Supports for the gymnasium were completed. Last week Evergreen celebrated the" topping out" of its school. This involved the setting of the last beam of steel for the facility. Members of the Board and Administrators attended and signed the beam. The construction continues to be on schedule. Installation of the HVAC equipment is occurring. The next phase entails enclosing the building. The building is scheduled to be completed by January 2025.

We will be meeting with administrators and staff to plan for the opening of the building.

Nassau Music Educators Association:

Trustee Brewster stated that several students were selected to participate in the All-County Music Festival held in early January. This is an exciting event that features youth musicians from all schools across the county. Students learn several pieces over a few weeks and perform them.

XIII. Old/New Business:

There was none.

XIV. Adjournment

Motion: Trustee Yvonne Mowatt
Second: Trustee Nancy Iglesias
Vote: 5:0

Meeting adjourned at: 8:38 pm

Minutes submitted by:
Gladys Rodriguez