Evergreen Charter School
Virtual Meeting of the Board of Trustees
605 Peninsula Blvd, Hempstead, NY 11550
October 30, 2025

8:00 pm

The meeting was held at 605 Peninsula Boulevard

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	**Present**

Also present:

Dr. Elena Litescu, Superintendent
Ms. Lisett Knox, Director of Finance and Operations
Ms. Christine Weigand, Principal K-1
Mr. Nicolas Agosti, Principal 2-4
Ms. Carlos Pumar, AP MS
Ms. Nancy Noris AP 2-4
Ms. Lisa Camili, AP K-1
Mr. Matt Baruch, Director of Data and Attendance
Ms. Alicia Morero, Director of World Languages

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

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

Mr. Bernardino welcomed everyone.

II. Superintendent's Report By Superintendent, Dr. Elena Litescu

Benchmark 1: Student Performance

Elementary/Middle/High School Proficiency:

Student Assessment:

- The first i-Ready Reading and Math Diagnostic was finalized for K-8 grade students;
- RTI/AIS groups were set based on the students' i-Ready scores and their ELA/Math NYS Exam scores (where applicable), and the small group instruction started in all four schools.
- The scores for the New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL) were received and ENL groups were finalized.
- The evaluations to determine reading levels began for all students in grades K-8;
- Intermediate assessments were administered to all HS students.

Graduation/College & Career:

- The HS Seniors and Juniors started the college tours, and the Columbia University tour took place mid-October.
- The annual College and Career fair hosted by Evergreen is scheduled on 11/13/25 at Peninsula, and multiple higher education institutions have confirmed their participation.
- The Second Senior Workshop is scheduled for Friday, October 31st, from 1:33 PM to 3:55 PM.

Benchmark 2: Teaching and Learning

Shared Accountability/HighExpectations:

- The monthly faculty meeting took place on 10/15/25.
- Administrators, Lead Teachers, Grade Level, and Department Meetings take place as scheduled.
- Formal and informal Classroom Observations will begin the week of October 27, 2025; the platform used is Observe4Success.

Research-based Practices/Instructional Strategies:

- ELA, Math, and World Languages Consultants provide professional development to review and support curriculum and best practices.
- The Data Director is meeting with teachers per grade levels to support them in analyzing the students' academic performance and planning differentiation to highly customize the instruction.

Curriculum:

- Ongoing classroom walkthroughs provide real-time feedback on instructional practices, supporting student achievement growth.

Educational Success/Gap Closing:

- After school, homework help, and Saturday programs started to be offered this month.
- During the second week of October a Hofstra professor provided a lecture to all HS students that was very well received.

Support for Diverse Learners:

- Push in support for Spanish classes is being provided.
- The Special Ed coordinator provided a refresher training to administrators on hosting Child Study Meetings.

Academic Enrichment:

- Enrichment reading groups have been established.
- Clubs to foster the students' interests and passions were formed and started this month.

Other:

- Three high school seniors are participating in community service opportunities at the Elementary School.

BENCHMARK 3 UPDATES

Chronic Absenteeism:

- Letters were mailed to families whose child had multiple absences or latenesses.
- Administrators in all four schools are meeting with families to discuss the challenges for their child's attendance (excessive absences and tardies), and an improvement plan is discussed.

Out-of-School Suspensions:

- Reported by the Dean of Students

School Climate, Culture Evaluation:

- The teachers are using Dean's List to monitor and report the students' behavior, and a weekly report is provided to families.

Behavior Management & Safety:

- Teachers and administrators continue to review the expectations for positive behavior and compliance with classroom and school rules.
- Trauma-Informed Drills (fire and lockdown drills) continue to take place, and procedures are being reviewed with staff and students. Families are informed in advance of these drills taking place.
- The Hempstead Fire Department visited the Peninsula on Friday, October 24, 2025, to educate the students about fire prevention and fire safety.

Family Engagement:

- Picture Day make-up/ retake day is scheduled in November, and families will be notified in advance.
- A Parent Workshop presented by Elizabeth Murcia, Peninsula School Social Worker "Defining Child Abuse," will take place on Thursday, 11/13 from 5:00-6:00 pm

- Various ceremonies, i.e. Purple Awards, Spanish Awards, Attendance Awards, Fall Concert are scheduled to take place in the coming month, before the Thanksgiving break.
- The first Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held the third week of November.
- The Scholastic Book Fair will take place in November.

School Clubs:

- Various Clubs started this month, and they are well attended by students.

McKinney-Vento and Unaccompanied Minors:

- Mr. Skariah continues to support families experiencing this hardship.

SEL:

- Staff and students will celebrate World Kindness Day on Thursday, November 13, 2025.

BENCHMARK 7 UPDATES:

Professional Climate/Professional Development:

- Administrators participated in Observe4Success training on Monday, October 20, 2025
- Administration participated in Child Study Training on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 hosted by Mr. Skariah.
- Teachers participated in various webinars, workshops, and conferences throughout the month in person or virtually.

- Department Chairs, Lead Teachers, and Mentor Teachers support staff with resources, best practices, teaching strategies, procedures, policies, lesson planning, etc.

Staff Feedback:

- Staff feedback is valued and welcomed during all meetings.
- Teachers' individual meetings with administrators are scheduled throughout the month to discuss student progress, implementing the curriculum, etc.

Contracted Services:

- Various consultants continue to deliver their services to staff.

BENCHMARK 8 UPDATES:

Mission: Key design elements are integrated in the curriculum and included in the morning assembly slides.

Spanish Instruction:

- Hispanic Heritage Month was celebrated from 9/15-10/15/2025.

Integration of Ecology:

- A greenhouse was constructed on school grounds at Peninsula, which was funded by a Grant.

Fostering Healthy Life Choices:

- Nutrition tips continue to be provided during daily morning assemblies.
- The salad bar was launched this month to MS and HS.

Integration of Hispanic Culture and Respect for All Cultures:

- During the Hispanic Heritage Month, students presented their artwork, poems, songs, or dances based on the research they conducted on the Spanish culture.

- Students promoted kindness, acceptance, and inclusion and participated in National Bullying Prevention this month.

Planning and Using the Workshop Model:

- Lesson plans are reviewed and revised when needed based on the feedback provided to teachers.

IV. Questions and Comments from the Public related to Principal and Directors reports:

None.

V. Director Finance and Operations Report
By Ms. Lisett Knox, Director of Finance and Operations

VIII. Approval of Minutes

Resolved the Board of Trustees approves the minutes October 10, 2025

Motion: Trustee Yvonne Mowatt
Second: Trustee Sarah Brewster
Vote: 6:0

Resolved the Board of Trustees approves the minutes September 26, 2025

Motion: Trustee Yvonne Mowatt
Second: Trustee Sarah Brewster
Vote: 6:0

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:

Resolutions

Evergreen Charter School
Resolutions

1. **Be it therefore resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the following proposals under Teaching and Learning that include professional development:**

#	Name of Staff	Workshop	Date
a.	Ms. Christine Weigand & Nurse Yanira Sanjurjo	Requesting approval to provide 10 staff members with First Aid, CPR and AED training (Pediatric and Adult.)	TBD
b.	Ms. Ana Castro	Requesting approval to attend the Art of Education NOW Virtual Conference.	Fri 01/30/26-Sun 02/01-26
c.	Ms. Natalie Alicea	Requesting approval for a 2nd grade homework help/afterschool program.	Nov 2025-May 2026
d.	Ms. Laurie Volel	Requesting approval for a 3rd grade test preparation afterschool program.	Nov 2025-May 2026
e.	Ms. Nancy Smalley	Requesting approval to attend the Art of Education NOW	Fri

		Virtual Conference.	01/30/26-Sun 02/01-26
f.	Ms. Christine Civitano	Requesting approval for a math extra help afterschool program.	October 2025-May 2026
g.	Ms. Christine Civitano	Requesting approval for an ELA extra help afterschool program.	October 2025-May 2026
h.	Mr. Carlos Pumar	Requesting approval for a early morning ELA & Math RTI support program.	November 2025-May 2026
i.	Mr. Carlos Pumar	Requesting approval for a social studies club.	October 2025-May 2026
j.	Ms. Ana Castro	Requesting approval for an art club for the Junior High School and High School.	TBD

Motion: Gladys Rodriguez
Second: Sarah Brewster
Vote: 6:0

2. **<u>Be it therefore resolved</u> that the Board of Trustees approves the following proposals under <u>Culture, Climate and Student and Family Engagement</u> that include activities to meet student/family needs and trips:**

#	Name of Staff	Workshop	Date
a.	Dr. Elena Litescu	Requesting approval for the following staff to attend a NYSED training course on implementing Restorative Justice Practices: • Ms. Civitano, Mr. Olson, Mr. Brown, Ms. Murcia, Ms. Trevino, Mr. Holt, Ms. Caggiano, Ms. Reyes	11/10/25, 11/18/25, 12/1/25, 12/9/25, 12/16/25
b.	Ms. Alicia Morera Tirado	Requesting approval visit the Dos Puentes Elementary School located in Washington Heights, NYC.	11/5/2025
c.	Ms. Christine Civitano & Ms. Brianna Golio	Requesting approval for the Fall Festival & Book Character Dress-Up Day.	10/31/25
d.	Ms. Stacey Martin	Requesting approval for the 11th grade English students to take a trip to Ellis Island & Liberty Island.	Mon 11/24/25 OR Wed 11/26/25
e.	Ms. Amy Hughes	Requesting approval for the 12th grade Government / Economic students to take a trip to the Statue of Liberty.	Tue 11/25/25

Motion: Sarah Brewster
Second: Yvonne Mowatt
Vote: 6:0

3. **<u>Be it therefore resolved</u> that the Board of Trustees approves the following proposals under <u>Organization and Capacity (that include new staff, improvement of systems and protocols):</u>**

#	Name of Staff	Workshop	Date
a.	Ms. Alicia Morera Tirado	Requesting approval to hire one visiting teacher from Spain.	2026-2027 SY
b.	Ms. Christine Civitano	Requesting approval to update the titles and positions of the following faculty/staff members: - Erik Haughn: SpEd -> 6th Grade Math Teacher - Nicole Carolan: HS Perm. Substitute Teacher -> 6th Grade ELA Teacher	2025-2026 SY
c.	Ms. Alicia Morera Tirado	Requesting approval to hire language assistants from Spain.	Not Specified

Motion: Nancy Iglesias
Second: Gladys Rodriguez
Vote: 6:0

4. **Resolved**, the Board of Trustees approves the following new staff:

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

Name	Position	Building	Effective
Stacey Martin	11th Grade English Teacher	33 Laurel Ave	10/10/2025
Mary LaSpagnoletta	Substitute Teacher 7-12	33 Laurel Ave	10/14/2025
Bettyna Brutus	School Nurse 2-4	Front St	10/09/2025
Yanilda Suriel	Receptionist	Front St	TBD
Miguelina Feliz de Sanchez	Lunch Aide	Peninsula	10/20/2025
Miguelina Feliz De Sanchez	Lunch Aide	Peninsula	10/20/2025
Darlin Vargas	Lunch Aide	Peninsula	TBD
Lixy Brea	Lunch Aide	Peninsula	TBD .
Martha Sanchez	Rehired-Lunch Aide	Peninsula	TBD
Tanya Nunez	HS AP	33 Laruel	TBD .

Employee Position and Salary Changes:

Name	Current Position	New Position	Effective
Erik Haughn	Special Education Teacher 5-6 6th	Grade Math Teacher	10/14/2025
Claudia P. Salazar	Lunch Aide	FS Assistant Coordinator	09/01/2025
Isaac Sahoye	Custodian	Custodian	09/16/2025
Ariel R. Trelles	Coronel Custodian	Custodian	09/16/2025

Motion: Sarah Brewster
Second: Gladys Rodriguez
Vote: 6:0

5. **Be it therefore resolved**, the Board of Trustees approves the lease amendment with the Diocese of Rockville Centre for 436 Front Street.

Motion: Gladys Rodriguez
Second: Sarah Brewster
Vote: 6:0

6. **Be it therefore resolved**, the Board of Trustees approves Gladys Rodriguez for a three year term to the Board of the Board of Trustees as the Secretary.

Motion: Sarah Brewster
Second: Yvonne Mowatt

Vote: 6:0

XII. Questions

There were none.

XII. Additional Reports By Vice President Dr. Sarah Brewster

Updates:

Dr. Brewster thanked everyone for their contributions to the successful school year start. Dr. Brewster reminded participants to reach out to the school for support including the school social workers.

XV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm

Motion: Yvonne Mowatt
Second: Nancy Iglesias
Vote: 6:0

Minutes submitted by:

Gladys Rodriguez
Secretary