Evergreen Charter School
Virtual Meeting of the Board of Trustees
605 Peninsula Blvd, Hempstead, NY 11550
November 20, 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	**Excused**
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. Emma Collado, Principal HS
Mr. Nicolas Agosti, Principal 2-4
Ms. Christine Civitano, Principal 5-6 and MS
Ms. Carlos Pumar, AP MS
Ms. Nancy Noris, AP 2-4
Mr. Matt Baruch, Director of Data and Attendance
Ms. Alicia Morero, Director of World Languages
Mr. Shaun Skariah, Director of Special Education

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 UPDATES:

Student Assessment:

- The first marking period, Quarter I, ended on Friday, November 7, 2025. All report card grades will be completed, signed by the Principals and Assistant Principals, and sent home before Parent Teacher Conferences.

Graduation/College & Career:

- The Second Evergreen College Fair took place on 11/13/25. It was well attended by more than 100 students and their families. Five Jr HS students and their families attended it also.

- High School students are provided with community service opportunities at the Elementary School so they can accumulate the required hours needed for graduation.

BENCHMARK 2 UPDATES:

Shared Accountability/HighExpectations:

- Teacher Observations started the week of October 27, 2025.
- A district faculty meeting was held on Wednesday, November 12, 2025.
- Lead Teacher Meetings, Grade Level Meetings, and Department Meetings continue to be held.
- The DCI is meeting with the coordinators periodically.

Research-based Practices/InstructionalStrategies:

- The RTI/AIS program was defined clearly for uniform implementation throughout the school district.

Curriculum:

- As part of the SEL Curriculum, staff and students continue to focus on GRATITUDE during the month of November.
- November is the Literacy Family month, and in all grades, reading and writing are encouraged.
- At the Elementary School, students and staff will participate in a Literacy Day based on the book, "Turkey Trouble" by Wendy Silvano on Wednesday, November 26, 2025.

Assessments:

- Interim Assessments were administered at the HS and instruction will be adjusted based on the students' performance.

Educational Success/Gap Closing:

- Extra support during after school and on Saturdays continues to be offered for all grades.
- Child Study Meetings continue to take place.
- Students' transcripts are reviewed to ensure they are meeting NYS requirements for the grades they are in. We have discussed with each graders NYS states Regents they will be taking this academic school year.

Support for Diverse Learners:

- Differentiation of instruction is provided for SWD and ENL students.

Academic Enrichment:

- Enrichment reading groups have been established.

BENCHMARK 3 UPDATES:

School Climate, Culture Evaluation:

- Adherence to the uniform policy is being tracked in Dean's List. A weekly report is provided to families.

School Spirit:

- Staff and JR HS and HS students will participate in Spirit Week implementing various themes.
- School Thanksgiving Day parades are scheduled at the ES and IS.

Behavior Management & Safety:

- Staff continue to review the expectations for positive behavior and compliance to classroom, uniform, nutrition policy and overall school's rules.

    - Trauma- Informed Drills (Fire Drill and Lock Down) are taking place periodically. As per NYSED requirements, families are provided advanced notice.

Family Engagement:

- The makeup/ retake of Picture Day is scheduled in all buildings. Families will be notified of the date by the school principals.
- We have reached out to families about being a part of the Parent Association.
- Outreach to families takes place on a regular basis, from teachers and administrators, to discuss students' academic progress and behavior.
- A Literacy Night was hosted at the Intermediate School and it was a well-attended event, with more than 100 families in attendance.
- Digital Equity surveys were emailed to all families on Friday, November 7, 2025.
- At the Elementary School, a Parent Workshop presented by Elizabeth Murcia, "Defining Child Abuse" took place on Thursday, November 13, 2025 from 5:00-6:00 pm.

- Various ceremonies were scheduled during November in all four schools, i.e. Purple Awards, Spanish Awards, Attendance Awards, etc.
- *Storytime with Ms. Camilli* will take place on Friday, November 21, 2025.

- Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled on:

    - Peninsula: November 24, 2025.
    - Front St: November 20, 2025.
    - Loretto: November 19, 2025.
    - Junior HS: November 19, 2025.
    - High School: November 18, 2025.

- The Scholastic Book Fair will take place during the PTCs.

School Clubs:

- Various Clubs are hosted in each school, i.e. Spanish Club, Social Club, Hydronauts Club, Kindness Club, Earth Keepers Club, OSCARS Club, etc.

McKinney-Vento And Unaccompanied Minors:

- Mr. Skariah continues to support families.

SEL:

- Staff and students continue to focus on GRATITUDE during the month of November.
- A mentorship program will be launched for the HS students who will be the mentees of various staff members.

<u>BENCHMARK 7 UPDATES:</u>

Professional Climate/Professional Development:

- Administration and staff participated in a training with the FCA -Hempstead Family Treatment & Recovery Center during the November faculty meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 2025.
- Professional Development half a Day will be held on November 26, 2025, for all teachers in the district.

- A team from the World Languages Department will attend a three day conference in Washington DC at the beginning of December.

- Teachers are encouraged to attend any PD workshops they feel would better their skills as an educator and professional.

- The DCI attended the *STEM PLTW and the Long Island Social Studies Conference*

Staff Feedback:

- Staff is encouraged to provide feedback during meetings with administration.
- Teacher check-ins are scheduled throughout the month to discuss student progress and curriculum.

Contracted Services:

- SWD are receiving their services for occupational therapy, counseling, physical therapy and speech therapy.
- Pam Kinnon (ELA Consultant) and Sue Morris (Math Consultant) provided professional development to review and support curriculum and best practices in ELA and Math.
- The Data Director continued to receive support and training from the BOCES representative.
- The Director of the World Languages Department continued to receive support from the consultant from a fully bilingual school.

BENCHMARK 8 UPDATES:

Mission:

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

Spanish Instruction:

- The Spanish curriculum continues to be aligned and implemented uniformly throughout the school district.

Integration of Ecology:

- During November, Iris and Peonies bulbs will be planted on school grounds at Peninsula.
- The solar panels at Jr HS will be connected to the EV charging stations.

Fostering Healthy Life Choices:

- During the daily morning assemblies, healthy nutrition tips continue to be shared.
- Staff continues to monitor the students' compliance with the school's nutrition policy.

Integration of Hispanic Culture and Respect for All Cultures:

- Throughout the school year various cultures will be celebrated, i.e. Black History Month, Asian and Pacific Islander Culture, Chinese New Year, and students continue to be taught about all cultures, so they know how to appreciate, respect, and celebrate the difference and uniqueness of all students & cultures.

Planning and Using the Workshop Model:

- Lessons plans are reviewed and revised.

IV. Questions and Comments from the Board related to Superintendent's Report:

None.

V. Questions and comments from the public related to the Superintendent's Report.

None.

VI. Business Office Report, By Lisett Knox, Director of Finance and Operations.

Benchmark 4: Financial Condition

- District billing 3 of 6 is being prepared to go out next week. We have received payments for billing 2 of 6 from 17 out of 27 school districts. We have four districts that have not made any tuition payments yet for this school year. Those districts are Elmont, Lynbrook, Rockville Centre and West Hempstead.

- We have submitted claims to The Child Nutrition Administration for meals served in the months of September and October for a total of $198,382 and we received so far a total reimbursement of $85,815. The next claim for meals served in the month of November will be submitted in the first two weeks in December.

- We are still pending to receive funding for Title claims I and III for the previous school year. The amount pending to be received is $243,438.

Benchmark 5: Financial Management

- All financial reports from July through October for this fiscal year have been submitted to our Board of Directors and School Administrators including all bank reconciliations.

- As per October's 2025 bank statements for the ECS Parent Association accounts they have a total balance of $2,855.34.

Benchmark 9: Enrollment

- We have several students completing the registration process and are at full enrollment.

VII. Questions and Comments from the Board related to Superintendent's Report:

None.

VIII. Questions and comments from the public related to the Superintendent's Report.

None.

IX. Approval of Minutes

Resolved the Board of Trustees approves the minutes October 30, 2025

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

X. Reading of the Resolutions:

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

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

There were none.

XII. Voting of the Resolutions:

1. **Be it therefore resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the following proposals under Student Performance that include proposals to support achievement in these areas:**

#	Name of Staff	Workshop	Date
a.	Dr. Elena Litescu	Requesting approval for 6-8 grade students to participate in the "Mathematics Empowerment Through Standards-Based Grading". It is U.S. Department of Education Funded.	2025-2026 S.Y

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

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:**

#	Name of Staff	Workshop	Date
a.	Dr. Elena Litescu	Requesting approval for a 4-hour training to be provided from the hours of 12:00 – 4:00 pm to teachers on behavioral management and students engagement in class.	11/26/2025

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

3. **<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 includes activities to meet student/family needs and trips:**

#	Name of Staff	Workshop	Date
a.	Mr. Nicholas Agosti / Ms. Lydia Fraga	Requesting approval for an Afterschool Spanish Reading Club.	November 2025 – May 2026
b.	Mr. Nicholas Agosti / Mr. Christopher Colantuono	Requesting approval for the Intermediate School to host a Winter Concert Showcase.	November 2025
c.	Mr. Nicholas Agosti / Ms. Jennifer Gulino	Requesting approval for a Winter Olympics Showcase Assembly.	February 2026
d.	Ms. Christine Civitano	Requesting approval to hold an Award Ceremony to recognize and celebrate students hard work, growth and accomplishments throughout the school year.	TBD
e.	Ms. Christine Civitano	Requesting approval for 2 art clubs; Art Club and National Art Honor Club	TBD
f.	Ms. Emmanuela Collado & Mr. Roland Brown	Requesting approval for the 'Leaders of Tomorrow Peer Mentorship Program'.	December 2025
g.	Ms. Alicia Morera Tirado	Requesting approval for an 8th Grade Afterschool Spanish Club.	November 2025 – May 2026

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

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

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

Name	Position	Building	Effective
Derrick Williams	Assistant Chef	33 Laurel Ave	TBD
Lourdes D. Hernandez	Lunch Aide	Peninsula	TBD

Motion: Yvonne Mowatt
Second: Gladys Rodriguez
Vote: 5:0

5. **Be it therefore resolved** that the Board of Trustees approves the following vendor proposals:

    1. **Sav Mor Mechanical Services, Inc.**
    Yearly HVAC Maintenance Contract for 33 Laurel Avenue.
    Yearly Amounts $84,450 to be paid in quarterly installments of $21,112.50.

    2. **Invictus Pest Management**
    Pest Control Services for 33 Laurel Avenue.
    $275. Monthly cost for one visit per month.

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

6. **Be it therefore resolved** that the Board of Trustees approves the following employees to carry and use a school Home Depot and American Express credit card for purchases exclusive for the school, following the school's purchasing and cred card policies:

    - Patrick Muscarella, Director of Facilities
    - Orlando Rodriguez, Facilities Supervisor
    - Daniel Quintanilla, Drive

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

7. **<u>Be it therefore resolved</u>, that the Board of Trustees approves the following revision to its charter:**

   Evergreen Charter School respectfully requests an enrollment increase of 100 students for the 2026-2027 school year. This request ensures that students can continue their education at Evergreen.

   As Evergreen has different cohorts for grade levels, 125 students at the elementary level, 75 students at the middle school and 50 students at the high school level, (due to past enrollment expansions), we seeks an enrollment increase to ensure that students can successfully advance to the next grade level. The result is an increase of 75 students. We also request an increase of 25 students to account for the reduction to our enrollment request last year. This request will enable Evergreen to return to its original enrollment plan submitted to NYSED in 2018.

	Current Enrollment	Projected Enrollment
	25-26	**26-27**
Kindergarten	125	125
First	125	125
Second	125	125
Third	125	125
Fourth	125	125
Fifth	125	125
Sixth	125	125
Seventh	75	125
Eighth	75	75
Ninth	50	75
Tenth	50	75
Eleventh	50	50
Twelfth	50	50
Total	**1225**	**1325**

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

XII. Questions

There were none.

XII. Additional Reports By Vice President Dr. Sarah Brewster

Updates:

Dr. Brewster updated everyone on the purchase of 44 and 40 Laurel Avenue. The closing occurred earlier during the week. This is exciting news for Evergreen. The land will support the needs of the school.

Dr. Brewster also provided information about the artists in residence at Evergreen. Evergreen will welcome two artists this next week who will be working with students at 33 Laurel over the next year to create a mural project. Evergreen is very excited to be part of this exciting partnership with renowned artists Sebastian Curi and Jiaqi Wang.

Dr. Brewster thanked administrators, staff and families and wished everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

XV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm

Motion: Yvonne Mowatt
Second: Gladys Rodriguez
Vote: 5:0

Minutes submitted by:

Gil Bernardino
President of the Board of Trustees