Evergreen Charter School
Virtual Meeting of the Board of Trustees
605 Peninsula Blvd, Hempstead, NY 11550
December 15, 2025

2:30 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:

Elementary/Middle/High School Proficiency:

Student Assessment:

- All Middle School students will complete Interim assessments the second week of January. The data will be analyzed to determine which students need additional support. This will allow the school to identify students who have shown growth and identify teachers who need additional support with their instructional methods and practices.
- HS students will take Regents exams during the third week of January .
- Students in 2-9 grades have completed the MAP Fluency assessment which is designed to identify the student's reading level.
- MAP Reading Fluency is being used to determine instructional reading levels for Grades 2–9, aligning assessment practice with research-based fluency measurement.

Graduation/College & Career:

- 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:

- Administrators conduct walkthroughs and informal observations using the standards-based Observe4Success platform to monitor instructional effectiveness and provide actionable feedback.
- Teachers met with the Director of Curriculum to review lessons and discuss best teaching practices. This collaboration provides guidance, supports instructional planning, and promotes the use of effective strategies to enhance student learning. Mr. Hillman has ensured that all teachers have physical copies of teacher manuals or digital access to the curriculum in order to plan appropriately.

Research-based Practices/InstructionalStrategies:

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

Curriculum:

- The ELA curriculum, Magnetic focuses on building knowledge through a variety of text

sets, Essential Question, End of Unit Writing Tasks, Reading and Writing Skills, Practice Assessments, Formative Assessments, Module Assessments, Exit Tickets, Grammar, Turn/Talk Activities, Vocabulary, Exit Tickets, and Graphic Organizers.

Assessments:

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

Educational Success/Gap Closing:

- The HS students are attending the Regents Prep program offered Monday-Thursday from 3:15-3:55 PM.
- 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:

- Building administrators and special education teachers are working on building-level
- Processes, i.e. sign-up forms for teachers and testing spaces, and designating staff members for testing accomodations.
- ES & IS administrators met with the SpEd Coordinator to ensure uniformity in providing RTI/AIS services.
- At the HS we provide **ENL (English as a New Language) classes twice a day** for students who were selected based on their **NYSALT exam results from the prior year.** These classes are taught by a **New York State–certified ENL teacher** to ensure high-quality language instruction and support.
- In addition, **ENL push-in support** is offered within content-area courses. This allows for **small-group instruction** and targeted assistance, helping students access grade-level content while developing their English proficiency.

Academic Enrichment:

- High School students assist elementary school students with reading and math activities most afternoons, and during Saturday School and Homework Help.
- All students will receive ELA and Math assignments for the Holiday Break Packet.

<u>BENCHMARK 3 UPDATES:</u>

Chronic Absenteeism:

- Meetings are being scheduled with families and students to provide support, address barriers to attendance, and reinforce the importance of consistent participation in school.

Out Of School Suspensions:

- Reported per school.

School Climate, Culture Evaluation:

- During the month of December there are numerous festivities, i.e. Polar Express Day at Peninsula, Holiday Boutique allowing students to buy gifts for their loved ones, using ECS dollars, Holliday Raffle for students in all grades will be hosted, etc.

School Spirit:

- Evergreen students will participate in the National School Choice Dance again this year. Evergreen was the only New State School chosen to be part of the trailer video, which will kick off the new dance. The video will be on their website and on all social media platforms. Mr. Levitan will be practicing the dance during PE classes.

- There are several events scheduled in the last week of school prior to the winter break, including concerts, holiday skits, plays, and holiday shows.

Behavior Management & Safety:

- The Dean of Students, Mr. Brown and Mr. Pena continue to support teachers by addressing student behavior concerns and providing guidance to ensure a safe and positive learning environment.
- Trauma- Informed Drills (Fire Drill and Lock Down) are taking place periodically.

  As per NYSED requirements, families are provided advanced notice.

  - Bus drills took place.

  - First Aid, CPR, and AED training (Pediatric and Adult) was provided to designated staff.

Family Engagement

- Digital Equity surveys continue to be collected. This survey is from the New York State Education Department , and we encourage all families to complete it.
- A few families expressed interest in participating in the Evergreen Parents' Association.
- Parents and families were invited to attend various ceremonies in all four buildings, i.e. Spanish Awards, Honor Roll for the Jr and HS students, Perfect Attendance ceremonies.

School Clubs:

- Various Clubs are hosted in each school.
- The Spanish Club gives students a fun space to practice Spanish, take part in cultural activities, and collaborate with peers who enjoy learning about Hispanic cultures.
- The Math Club at the Jr HS provides students with an engaging environment to deepen their understanding of mathematics. Through a variety of hands-on and interactive activities, students practice problem-solving, critical thinking, and collaborative skills. The club encourages a love for math by making learning enjoyable and stimulating, allowing students to apply mathematical concepts in creative and practical ways. Participation in the Math Club helps students build confidence, enhances their

analytical abilities, and fosters a supportive community of peers who share an interest in mathematics.

McKinney-Vento And Unaccompanied Minors:

- Mr. Skariah continues to support families.
- The social worker also connects the student's family with community resources that provide essential supports, including food and clothing, to promote stability and well-being. Ongoing follow-up with students and their family ensures continued support for academic success and social-emotional growth.

SEL:

- During the month of December staff and students will focus on the importance of GIVING.
- An advisory program will be launched for the HS students at the beginning of January.
- The SSW in all four buildings are providing support to the students, by providing them help to strengthen their social-emotional skills and overall school functioning. The counseling sessions focus on the following areas:
    - Mindfulness: Encouraging students to pay attention to the present moment without judgment and to develop awareness of thoughts and feelings.
    - Distress Tolerance: Teaching strategies to manage crises and cope with difficult emotions without escalating behaviors.
    - Emotion Regulation: Supporting students in understanding, managing, and reducing intense emotions.
    - Interpersonal Effectiveness: Building communication and relationship skills, such as expressing needs, setting boundaries, and maintaining self-respect.
    - Cognitive Restructuring: Helping students identify unhelpful or negative thoughts and reframe them into more balanced, realistic perspectives.
    - Relaxation Techniques: Using deep breathing, grounding exercises, and muscle relaxation to reduce stress and help students self-regulate.
    - Problem-Solving Skills: Guiding students through structured steps to address challenges, including peer conflicts, academic stress, and other school-related concerns.

<u>BENCHMARK 7 UPDATES:</u>

Professional Climate/Professional Development:

- Teachers throughout the district participated in a four-hour classroom management training, enhancing instructional strategies, student engagement, and overall classroom effectiveness.
- HS Program Chairs, Lead Teachers, and the Mentor Teachers continue to support teachers with resources, teaching strategies, procedures, policies, lesson planning and scheduling visits to colleagues' classrooms to observe best practices etc.
- The DCI, Mr. Hillman, applied and obtained a $20,000 grant for Evergreen to implement STEM PLTW programs for the Middle and High School grades.

- The WL Director and three teachers attended a three-day conference hosted by a fully bilingual school in Washington DC.

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:

- 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:

- AP Spanish -Advanced Spanish Courses are offered at HS, including Spanish Cinema.
- Jr HS students enjoy Spanish trivia every Thursday during the Morning Assembly.
- Teatro SEA is coming to the Jr. High School, performing a bilingual play: "Mi Superheroe Roberto Clemente."

- The Director of the WL, Ms. Morera has acquired and distributed Spanish novels for the 3rd-grade team. The plan is to incorporate Spanish reading instruction into the class so that students engage in literacy moments within Spanish instruction with regularity.

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:

- During the morning assemblies there is a key focus on December holidays and celebrations explaining their cultural significance and traditions including decorating trees, exchanging gifts, lighting candles etc. The diversity of celebrations within the school is included to ensure inclusivity

Planning and Using the Workshop Model:

- The Workshop Model is reinforced during weekly Lesson plan checks, in 1:1 meeting with the administrators.

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

Mr. Bernardino asked Administrators to provide additional information about student assessment data.

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 was sent out November 26, 2025. We still have four school districts that have not made any tuition payments for this school year. Those districts are Elmont, Lynbrook, Rockville Centre and West Hempstead. A final notice will be sent in the next billing advising that if we do not receive payment, we will proceed to request an intercept to the state.

- We have submitted claims to The Child Nutrition Administration for meals served in the months of September through November for a total of $284,045 and we received so far a total reimbursement of $115,915.

- 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 $235,384. We are also still pending to receive approval for the applications submitted for Title I through IV for this school year 2025-2026.

- On November 24, 2025, we received a donation of $1,000 from Fly High Initiative, Inc. The use of these funds will be for an activity or program for the students that will be decided or approved by our Board. On the same day we received another check for the same amount of $1,000 from the National School of Choice Awareness Foundation, Inc., for a grant won by our Athletics Director Dan Levitan in our Elementary School.

- To date this fiscal year, we have received a total of $31,500 in reimbursements through the e-Rate program.

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 November's 2025 bank statements for the ECS Parent Association accounts they have a total balance of $2,855.80.

- Copies of November's Home Depot and American Express statements have been provided to our Board of Directors and our School Superintendent. This month we paid in full the amount of $3,930.33 for charges incurred up to November and the statement shows a total number of 345,331 reward points. The Home Depot statement shows a balance of $1,970.15 which we are still working on reconciling to issue full payment next week.

Benchmark 9: Enrollment

- We have students going through the enrollment process and have reached 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 November 2, 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. **<u>Be it therefore resolved</u> that the Board of Trustees approves the following proposals under <u>Student Performance</u> that include proposals to support achievement in these areas:**

Name of Staff	Workshop	Date
Dr. Elena Litescu	Requesting approval for the Data Director, Mr. Matthew Baruch, to attend the School Tool Conference in Saratoga, NY.	03/09/26-03/10/26
Dr. Elena Litescu	Requesting approval for the High School Guidance Counselors to attend a School Tool training on course selection hosted by Nassau BOCES from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	01/08/2026
Dr. Elena Litescu	Requesting approval for the High School science teacher, Ms. Tanya Rupa, to attend Unit 4, Unit 5, and Unit 6 of the New Vision Earth + Space workshops in Wheatley Heights, NY.	12/19/25 01/28/2026 03/17/26
Alicia Morera Tirado	Requesting approval for Estrellita Training for the Elementary School Spanish Teachers	01/2026-03/2026
Alicia Morera Tirado	Requesting approval for Evergreen's NYSSB Implementation Committee to meet once per month	01/2026-06/2026

Motion: Yvonne Mowatt
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:**

a.	Dr. Elena Litescu	Requesting approval to launch the Arbiter platform, a subscription to register participants in the Athletic Program at Evergreen.	2025-2026 S. Y.
b.	Dr. Elena Litescu	Requesting approval to launch the "Say Something Anonymous Reporting System", provided at no cost to Evergreen by Sandy Hook Promise.	2025-2026 S. Y.

Motion: Nancy Iglesias
Second: Sarah Brewster
Vote: 5:0

3. **<u>Be it therefore resolved</u> that the Board of Trustees approves the following staff**

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

Name	Position	Building	Effective
Justin Fishman	Art Teacher	JH 7+8	TDB

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

4. **<u>Be it therefore resolved</u>, the Board of Trustees approves a proposal for Borja Landscaping & Construction.** Snow removal contract for the winter months 2025/2026. For 605 Peninsula Boulevard (Elementary School Building K-1)

SNOW REMOVAL SEASON 2025/2026

Accumulation for asphalt parking lots
-3 inches $350
3.1-6 inches $700
6.1-9 inches$1050
9.1-12inches $1800
12.1 -15 inches $2250
15.1-20 inches 3000
20.1 &Up $3500

Accumulation for sidewalk/walkways

0.5-3 inches $250
3.1-6 inches $500
6.1-9 inches$750
9.1-12inches $1000
12.1-15 inches $1250
15.1-20 inches $1500
20.1 & Up $2400

Rock salt on parking lots
Before & after $600

Calcium Chloride on
Sidewalk/walkways
Before & After of each snow fall $300

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

5. **<u>Be it therefore resolved</u> the Board of Trustees** approves a proposal from Sav Mor Mechanical Services, Inc. for a HVAC Mechanical Maintenance contract for 605 Peninsula Boulevard (Elementary School Building K-1)

   Yearly Amount: **$8,495.00** to be paid annually in advance.

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

6. **<u>Be it therefore resolved</u> the Board of Trustees** votes to approve online bank account access to Elizabeth Joseph, Bookkeeper, so that she can assist, monitor the account and look up outstanding and cleared payments.

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

7. **<u>Be it therefore resolved</u> the Board of Trustees** approves Elizabeth Joseph, bookkeeper, and Yu chin Hseih, Accountant, access on Evergreen's banking platform to initiative ACH payments approved by the Board of trustees.

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

8. **<u>Be it therefore resolved</u> the Board of Trustees** approves Yu chin Hsieh, Accountant, to be able to initiate transfers between accounts with Capital One Bank and to initiate and approve ACH transactions and wire transfers within the bank's online platform for transactions already approved by the Board of Trustees. This will provide compliance with the dual approval process within the online platform.

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

9. **<u>Be it therefore resolved</u> the Board of Trustees** approves a partnership with The Consulate General of Spain Education Office (known as ALCE).

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

XII. Questions

There were none.

<u>XII. Additional Reports By Vice President Dr. Sarah Brewster</u>

Updates:

Dr. Brewster wished everyone a happy and healthy new year.

XV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm

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

Minutes submitted by:

Gladys Rodriguez
Secretary of the Board of Trustees