Evergreen Charter School
Virtual Meeting of the Board of Trustees
605 Peninsula Blvd, Hempstead, NY 11550
September 25, 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
Ms. Emma Collado, Principal HS
Mr. Nicolas Agosti, Principal 2-4
Ms. Carlos Pumar, AP MS
Ms. Nancy Noris AP 2-4
Mr. Shaun Skariah, Director of Special Education
Mr. Joseph Pena, Dean of Students

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 Students' Proficiency:

- Evaluations taking place at the beginning of the year were conducted as scheduled.
- PSAT exams will be administered for HS students at the beginning of October

Graduation/College & Career:

- College tours had started for our HS students; the first one will be taking place at the end of this month to Columbia University.

ESSA Accountability Designation:

- The Data Director will submit an Amendment for 24-25 Title III allocations.

Other:

- I-Ready Diagnostic III data was used to form the RTI, and in addition, the NYS ELA and Math exam scores were used to generate the AIS groups earlier this school year.

Benchmark 2: Teaching and Learning

Shared Accountability/High Expectations:

- The administrative teams in each building continue to instill accountability and high expectations with the student body.
- Weekly administrative meetings are taking place as scheduled.

Research-based Practices/Instructional Strategies:

- Strategies for implementing the curriculum with fidelity were discussed with the lead teachers, consultants, with the main goal of increasing the instructional rigor.

Curriculum:

- Curriculum materials are still in process to be distributed in all buildings.

Assessments:

- I-Ready Diagnostic I is in process to be administered to students in grades K-9;
- Students who passed Checkpoint A and Checkpoint B were identified, and they are enrolled in advanced Spanish classes, such as AP Spanish or Spanish Cinema and Literature

Educational Success/Gap Closing:

- Students who did not pass Checkpoint A, will receive extra support by being enrolled in Spanish prep.
- The Data Director will schedule recurring meetings with all grades to provide teachers with the data analysis that will help them provide highly customized instruction, accelerating the closing of the academic gaps.

- Extra-help cohorts are established for students who need support with foreign languages.

Support for Diverse Learners:

- Teachers were provided supplemental materials and resources to support diverse learners.

Academic Enrichment:

- Students will receive extra support for improving either their English or Spanish language skills.
- After school and Saturday, extra support will start at the end of the month.

Other:

- Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated between 9/15-10/15.

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

Chronic Absenteeism:

- Attendance is monitored closely, and families of the students missing classes, coming in late, or leaving earlier are called promptly.

Out-of-School Suspensions:

- The Dean of Students will report

School Climate, Culture Evaluation:

- The faculty receives surveys periodically and they are asked to provide feedback on School climate and culture

Behavior Management & Safety:

- Fire drills were conducted in all schools during the first week of school.
- For the rest of the school year, families will be notified in advance when fire drills are scheduled.

Family Engagement:

- “Back to School” and “Meet the Teacher” events were scheduled in all four schools.
- Families were notified of the “picture Day” event that took place during the month of September for all students.

School Clubs:

- To be announced shortly

McKinney-Vento and Unaccompanied Minors:

- Mr. Skariah, the McKinney Vento coordinator for the district will report on this information

SEL:

- SEL curriculum is implemented in all grades

Benchmark 7: Organizational Capacity

Professional Climate/Professional Development:

- Various professional learning initiatives are taking place throughout the district, i.e., exploring training options hosted by the Institute of Cervantes, sharing monthly the calendar of webinars provided by EdWeb that carry CTLE credits, etc.

Staff Feedback:

- Solicited by the admin team frequently

Contracted Services:

- ELA and Math consultants are providing guidance to faculty in implementing the curriculum, and pacing.

Other:

- The Hempstead Fire Department will visit Peninsula to educate the students on fire prevention.

Benchmark 8: Mission and Key Design:

Mission:

- Students were notified of an Art contest, and our Art teachers will provide them support in participating in this contest.

Spanish Instruction:

- The Director of World Languages, Ms. Alicia Morera in the process of auditing the Spanish curriculum to promote academic excellence, ensure vertical alignment between grades, and inspire a lifelong passion for language learning.

Integration of Ecology:

- The ecology concepts are introduced early to our students, since Kindergarten.

Fostering Healthy Life Choices:

- During the MA students are reminded of the importance of healthy nutrition

Integration of Hispanic Culture and Respect for All Cultures:

- Celebrating cultures and different languages, including indigenous languages of some Hispanic countries, takes place during the MA.

Planning and Using the Workshop Model:

- Faculty is expected to implement the mini-workshop model and the importance of planning and adhering to the lesson plan has been reiterated.

Benchmark 9: Enrollment, Recruitment and Retention:

- Staffing and Recruitment efforts for the 2025-26 school continue.

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

- Tuition billing 2 of 6 for the new school year 2025-2026 was sent out on September 23, 2025. We have received payments for billing 1 of 6 from 19 out of 28 districts. We still have tuition balances owed to our school for last year. Those districts with outstanding balances for billing 6 of 6 are Hempstead, West Hempstead, and NY City. Funding for school nurse services in the amount of $107,590,67 from Hempstead is still pending to be received for last year.

- We have balances that remain pending to be received from The Child Nutrition Administration for meals served in the month of June. The balance owed to our school for last year is $73,470.00 The first claim for meals served during the month of September will be submitted during the first two weeks of October.

- All expenditure reports for Title claims I through IV were submitted for reimbursement on September 10, 2025. All Titles except for Title III were fully expended out. Title III expenses were short by $30,480. An amendment needs to be submitted by admin for that amount to avoid losing the funding.

  All Title budget applications for the 2025-2026 school year were submitted to NYSED. We await acknowledgement of receipt and approval notification from them. All applications amounted to $370,707.

Benchmark 5: Financial Management

- All financial reports from July through August this year have been submitted to our Board of Directors and School Administrators including all bank reconciliations.
- As per August 2025 bank statements for the ECS Parent Association accounts they have a total balance of $2,854.39.
- We are coming close to the end of our yearly fiscal audit and audited financials will be presented during October's Board Meeting.

Benchmark 9: Enrollment

- Staff are currently supporting students to complete the registration process as we have some openings.

VIII. Approval of Minutes

Resolved the Board of Trustees approves the minutes August 12, 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

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

Benchmark I:

 # 1 Be it therefore resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the following proposals under Student Performance that include proposals to support achievement in this area:

#	Name of Staff	Workshop	Date
a.	Ms. Christine Weigand	Requesting approval to offer the Kindergarten and First Grade Homework Help Program again for the 2025-2026 school year.	2025-2026 SY

Motion: Sarah Brewster
Second: Luis Ras
Vote: 6:0

Benchmark II:

 # 2 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.	Dr. Elena Litescu	Requesting approval to launch the Alludo platform for teachers to complete asynchronous courses and obtain CTLE credits.	N/A
b.	Dr. Elena Litescu	Requesting approval to LAUNCH A Magic School pilot for implementing AI at school district level.	N/A
c.	Dr. Elena Litescu	Requesting approval for the following staff members: Mr. Masood, Mr. Holt, Ms. Markey, Ms. Richards; to attend the "Welcome to Teaching MLLs" virtual training.	10/16/25
d.	Dr. Elena Litescu	Requesting approval for the Director of World Languages Department to attend a workshop hosted by the Institute of Cervantes.	10/11/25
e.	Dr. Elena Litescu	Requesting approval for the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Brian Hillman, to attend the 44th Annual Conference of Long Island Council for social studies.	
f.	Dr. Elena Litescu	Requesting approval for Mr. Brian Hillman and Ms. Brianna Golio to attend a PLTW Showcase.	10/6/25
g.	Mr. Brian Hillman	Requesting approval to launch the Math for All program to help math teachers develop their skills.	N/A
h.	Ms. Christine Weigand	Requesting approval to contract Observe4Success' platform to record and track teacher observations.	N/A

Motion: Yvonne Mowatt
Second: Luis Ras
Vote: 6:0

Benchmark III:

 # 3 Be it therefore resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the following proposals under Culture, Climate and Student and Family Engagement that include activities to meet student/family needs, trips:

#	Name of Staff	Workshop	Date
a.	Ms. Ana Castro	Requesting approval to organize a Kindergarten Fall Festival.	10/28/25
b.	Ms. Christine Weigand	Requesting approval to offer a Parent University again for the 2025-2026 SY.	2025-2026 S.Y.
c.	Ms. Ana Castro	Requesting approval to hold a District Wide Art Show in May or June.	TBD
d.	Ms. Christine Weiagnd	Requesting approval to hold an ENL Night for Parents.	10/29/25
e.	Ms. Christine Weigand	Requesting approval to offer a Kindergarten Social Club.	2025-2026 SY

f.	Ms. Christine Weigand	Requesting approval to offer a First Grade Spanish Club.	2025-2026 SY
g.	Ms. Karla Vasquez	Requesting approval for a Virtual After School Mandarin Club.	2025-2026 SY
h.	Mr. Edwin Mejia	Requesting approval for an After School Test Prep Club for 4th grade.	2025-2026 SY
i.	Ms. Ana Collado	Requesting approval for a Spanish Club at the IS.	2025-2026 SY
j.	Ms. Cindy Serrano	Requesting approval for a 4th grade Test Preparation After School Club at the IS.	2025-2026 SY
k.	Ms. Karla Vasquez	Requesting approval for a 3rd grade Test Preparation After School club at the IS.	2025-2026 SY
l.	Ms. Laurie Volel	Requesting approval for a 3rd grade trip to the Center for Science Teaching and Learning in Rockville Centre.	TBD
m.	Ms. Christine Civitano	Requesting approval for a Math Extra Help Club at the Middle School.	2025-2026 SY
n.	Ms. Christine Civitano	Requesting approval for a ELA Extra Help Club at the Middle School.	2025-2026 SY
o.	Mr. Carlos Pumar	Requesting approval for a Math Extra Help Club at the Junior High School.	2025-2026 SY
p.	Mr. Carlos Pumar	Requesting approval for an ELA Extra Help Club at the Junior High School.	2025-2026 SY
q.	Mr. Carlos Pumar	Requesting approval for a Technology Club at the Junior High School.	2025-2026 SY
r.	Mr. John Holt	Requesting approval for a MATHCOUNTS Enrichment Club at the Junior High School.	2025-2026 SY
s.	Mr. Andrew Villaran	Requesting approval for a Music Club at the High School.	2025-2026 SY
t.	Mr. Pedro Rincon	Requesting approval for a Music Club at the High School.	2025-2026 SY
u.	Ms. Alicia Morera	Requesting approval for a Spanish Drama Club at the High School.	2025-2026 SY
v.	Ms. Alicia Morera	Requesting approval for a Spanish Social Club at the High School.	2025-2026 SY
w.	Ms. Alicia Morera	Requesting approval for a Medical Interpreting Club at the High School.	2025-2026 SY

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

Benchmark VI:

 # 4 Be it therefore resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the following proposals under Board Oversight/Governance that include policies:

#	Name of Staff	Workshop	Date
	Dr. Elena Litescu	Requesting approval for the approval of the revised Complaint to Grievance Policy.	2025-2026 S.Y.

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

 # 5 Be it therefore resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the following proposal:

- Request to proceed with the order of Momentive Software for automated payments for MIP Cloud Accounting Software

  Purpose: To initiate and process ACH payments to vendors withing our existing accounting software MIP to expedite payments and avoid late fees
  Annual cost: $0
  Per transaction cost: $1.10 per ACH transaction and $2.25 per check transaction (plus postage - currently $0.73)—which are invoiced monthly by Corpay.

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

6 **Be it therefore resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the following list of vendors to** be paid pay automatically via ACH or bill payment every month for contracted services and utilities

Vendor	Service Location	Amount	Payment Frequency	Contract Terms/Notes
Pitney Bowes	605 Peninsula	$278.00	Quarterly	Postage Machine Lease
Winters Bros Hauling	605 Peninsula	$1,095.60	Monthly	Trash Removal
Winters Bros Hauling	436 Front	$908.60	Monthly	Trash Removal
Winters Bros Hauling	33 Laurel	$925.00	Monthly	Trash Removal
De Lage Landen Financial Services	All buildings	$4,180.30	Monthly	Copy Machines Lease
Navitas	605 Peninsula	$514.02	Monthly	Folder Inserts
PEAC Solutions	28 Richardson	$414.77	Monthly	Copy Machine Lease
TK Elevator Corp	605 Peninsula	$1,174.39	Monthly	Maintenance
United Security & Fire Alarm	436 Front	$300.00	Quarterly	Monitoring
Control Technologies, Inc.	605 Peninsula	$2,587.00	Quarterly	HVAC Contract -2025
COMPUTER RESOURCES OF AMERICA	All buildings	$9,200.00	Monthly	IT Support & Cyber Security
Bar Harbor Web	All buildings	$85.00	Monthly	All website maintenance
Abila	All buildings	$437.81	Monthly	Accounting Software
NUSO	605, 120 and 33	$690.22	Monthly	Telephone
NUSO	436 Front	$141.17	Monthly	Telephone

Vendor	Account No.	Location	Amount	Payment Frequency	Contract Terms/Notes
PSEG	5176723603	28 Richardson	Varies	Monthly	Electric Service
PSEG	5176723152	436 Front	Varies	Monthly	Electric Service
PSEG	5172868806	495 Peninsula	Varies	Monthly	Electric Service
PSEG	5172931791	29 Laurel	Varies	Monthly	Electric Service
PSEG	5172855821	605 Peninsula	Varies	Monthly	Electric Service
NATIONAL GRID	29094-62015	28 Richardson	Varies	Monthly	Gas Service
NATIONAL	41543-	436 Front	Varies	Monthly	Gas Service

GRID	21010				
NATIONAL GRID	99631-84008	27-33 Laurel Unit 1	Varies	Monthly	Gas Service
NATIONAL GRID	37238-37002	27-33 Laurel Unit 2	Varies	Monthly	Gas Service
NATIONAL GRID	44570-49002	605 Peninsula	Varies	Monthly	Gas Service
VERIZON WIRELESS			Varies	Monthly	Cell Phone Service
VERIZON	156-166-261	605 Peninsula	$135.00	Monthly	Internet Services
VERIZON	156-265-444	605 Peninsula	$299.00	Monthly	Internet Services
VERIZON	156-979-111	605 Peninsula	$185.30	Monthly	Internet Services
VERIZON	851-959-617	605 Peninsula	$79.00	Monthly	Internet Services
VERIZON	151-895-916	605 Peninsula	$480.00	Monthly	Internet Services
VERIZON	355-566-736	605 Peninsula	$320.00	Monthly	Internet Services
VERIZON	U0565859	33 Laurel	$700.00	Monthly	Internet Services

Motion: Gladys Rodriguez
Second: Yvone Mowatt
Motion: 6:0

7 **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
Anika Aylward	3 Grade Teacher	Front St	08/18/2025
Nicholas Calvallo	Physical Education Teacher 9-12	33 Laurel Ave.-HS	08/18/2025
Angelina Damone	ENL Teacher Grade 8	33 Laurel Ave.-HS	08/18/2025
Nicole Carolan	Substitute Teacher	33 Laurel Ave.-HS	08/22/2025
Dimitrios Lowe	Special Education Teacher	33 Laurel Ave.-HS	08/22/2025
Ronald Tillman	ENL Teacher	33 Laurel Ave.-HS	08/22/2025
Chelsea Ehman	1st Grade Teacher	Peninsula	08/26/2025
Chrysa Tinervia	ELA Teacher	33 Laurel Ave.-HS	08/25/2025
Susana Guardado Ayala	Spanish Teacher	Loretto	08/27/2025
Kelly Langan	Math Teacher	Loretto	08/27/2025
Jonathan Corbo	Physical Education Teacher	33 Laurel Ave.-HS	08/28/2025
Karla Lopez	Lunch Aide	Peninsula	08/28/2025
Matthew Baruch	Director of Data and Attendance	28 Richardson Pl	09/02/2025
Santos Zavala	Lunch Aide	Peninsula	09/02/2025
Nelis Alvarenga	Lunch Aide	Peninsula	09/03/2025
Kayla Borozny	Math Teacher	33 Laurel Ave.-HS	09/03/2025
Elaina Gatanas	ELA Teacher	Loretto	09/03/2025
Amber Nicholson		Peninsula	09/04/2025
Christopher Colantuono	Music Teacher	Front Street	09/08/2025
Willy Sanchez	Social Studies 7 Grade	33 Laurel Ave.-HS	09/08/2025
Jeimy Cortez De Alvarenga	Dish Washer	33 Laurel Ave.-HS	09/09/2025
Erik Haughn	Special Education Teacher	Loretto	09/09/2025
Christina Carpenter	Math Teacher	Loretto	09/16/2025
Estefani Majorga-Torres	Admissions Clerk	28 Richardson Pl	09/19/2025
Adriana M. Flores Gonzalez	ELA AIS Teacher 7-8	33 Laurel Ave	09/22/2024
Erika D. Hernandez Molina	Rehire-Lunch Aide	Peninsula	09/04/2025
Pareskevi Evola	Assistant Cheff	Laurel Ave	TBD
Walter Rios	Assistant Cheff	Laurel Ave	TBD
Esmeralda Pimental	Lunch Aide	Peninsula	TBD
Sara Cuca Sequen	Lunch Aide	Peninsula	TBD
Maykin Pimentel	Lunch Aide	Peninsula	TBD
Melissa Castro	Lunch Aide	Peninsula	09/25/2025
Stefania Yance Puyol	Lunch Aide	Peninsula	TBD
Jose Vega	FT Custodian	33 Laurel /Front St	TBD
Rajma Mangal	ELA AIS Teacher	Front St	TBD
Jenard Rosemond	5TH Grade Science Teacher	Loretto	09/25/2025
Evelyn Chavez	Receptionist	Front St	TBD
Alyson Monzon	Social Worker	Front St	TBD
Carla Trivino	Social Worker	Front St	TBD
Rajma Mangal	ASI ELA 2nd Grade	Front St	TBD
Debra Young	Nurse	33 Laurel Ave	TBD
Sonny Saguto	Physical Education & Health JH	33 Laurel Ave	TBD
John Volpe	6TH Grade ELA Teacher	Loretto	TBD

Employee Position and Salary Changes:

Name	Current Position	New Position	Effective
Orlando Rodrigo	Facilities Supervisor	Facilities Supervisor	09/01/2025
Isaac Sahoye	Custodian	Custodian	09/16/2025
Ariel R. Trelles Coronel	Custodian	Custodian	09/16/2025
Sandra A. Torres	Spanish Teacher	Spanish Teacher	10/01/2025
Fatima Coreas Ventura	Lunch Aide	FT Kitchen Cleaner	09/04/2025
Claudia P. Salazar	Lunch Aide	FS Assistant Coordinator	TBD
Martha Rivera	PT Lunch Aide	FT Kitchen Assistant	TBD

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

XII. Questions

There were none.

XII. Additional Reports By Vice President Dr. Sarah Brewster

Updates:

WE are excited to report that we are now in the building and have obtained all permissions to operate. School has been in session and we have held activities and open school nights.

XV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

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

Minutes submitted by:

Gladys Rodriguez
Secretary