Evergreen Charter School
Virtual Meeting of the Board of Trustees
605 Peninsula Blvd, Hempstead, NY 11550
January 29, 2026

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. Lisa Camilli, AP K-1
Ms. Carlos Pumar, AP MS
Ms. Nancy Noris, AP 2-4
Ms. Brianna Golio, 5-6 Curriculum, Coordinator
Mr. Brian Hillman, Director of Curriculum and Instruction 7-12
Mr. Matt Baruch, Director of Data and Attendance
Ms. Alicia Morera, 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:

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Student Assessment:

- The second round of benchmark assessments, such as I-Ready, and Map Reading fluency are in progress for students in grades K-8.
- Last Friday, on 1/23/26, the second grading quarter ended for all grades.
- In advance of the PTC #2, the families will receive the Quarter 2 report cards and the I-Ready report (grades K-8) for their child.
- The January Regents exams were administered the third week of January and completed by 1/22/26.

Graduation/College & Career:

- Visits to four colleges on Long Island for HS students were scheduled and confirmed.
- Students who need to recover credits to graduate will be enrolled in Edgenuity.
- HS Seniors will meet with the Principal weekly to ensure they are on track for graduation.

BENCHMARK 2 UPDATES:

Shared Accountability/HighExpectations:

- Formal and informal classroom observations continue to be conducted in all four schools.
- Teachers receive feedback weekly on the lesson plans they submit.

Research-based Practices/InstructionalStrategies:

- Teachers provide clear objectives, prompt and frequent feedback, and differentiated instruction to maximize student learning outcomes.

Curriculum:

- The Ready Reading Program and the new Magnetic curricula were implemented in grades K-5. Feedback received from the teachers on the new curriculum is mainly positive.
- Preparations for the next school year curriculum had started, and the DCI, Mr. Hillman, had set up meetings to evaluate a Financial Literacy and CTE curriculum.

- Each year, the NYSED honors Dr. King's legacy by inviting schools to submit student art and essays that reflect Dr. King's six principles**.** Evergreen Charter School submitted again this year, the highest number of entries, 257 in total.
- Students and Staff will celebrate the 100th Day of School on Friday, February 6, 2016.

Assessments:

- The Intermediate Assessments were administered for HS students.
- The Practice exams for ELA and Math state exams are scheduled for 3-8 grade students.

Educational Success/Gap Closing:

- The Saturday School program will be launched on 1/31/26 at Front St for students in grades 3-12.
- To customize the instruction and the support provided to students, Child Study Meetings continue to take place.
- Parent University Workshops continue to provide K-1 parents with tools and knowledge to support their children academically, socially, and emotionally.

Support for Diverse Learners:

- Teachers are informing the practices within their classrooms that are in place in support of our diverse learners. These practices are listed in all lesson plans.

Academic Enrichment:

- The AP and College courses are offered at the HS: Human Geography, Spanish, Psychology, Seminar, and Literature and Poetry in America.
- A cohort of 8th graders are enrolled in HS Living Environment with this class culminating with a Regents exam.

BENCHMARK 3 UPDATES:

Chronic Absenteeism:

- Parent meetings are being held to discuss student attendance (excessive absences and tardies).

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:

- Evergreen's 17th Birthday and the Founders' Day were celebrated on 1/13/26 during a Morning Assembly at the HS, which was live-streamed in the other three schools.
- Evergreen staff and students will participate in the National School Choice Dance again

this year on Thursday, January 22, 2026. A school-wide celebration will take place Friday, January 30, 2026, to view the video.

Behavior Management & Safety:

- All teachers continue to review the expectations for positive behavior and compliance to classroom and school's rules. The Behavior Management Clip Chart System colors are recorded daily on student calendars (for grades K-4) and in the Dean's List. Parents receive a weekly report on Friday.
- Trauma- Informed drills (Fire and Lock Down) and the logistics continue to be reviewed with staff and students.
- Bus evacuation drills were conducted, they take place three times a year (fall, winter, and spring).

Family Engagement:

- The Kids Heart Challenge fundraiser will begin the week of February 2, 2026.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place during the first and second week of February.
- Attendance Awards ceremonies are scheduled in all four schools before the winter break.
- The Honor Roll for the HS students will be hosted in the first week of February.
- The MS school is hosting the Scholastic Book Fair during their PTC on 2/4/26.
- Families receive a weekly report from Deans list informing them of their child's behavior, i.e. their compliance with uniform, bathroom breaks frequency, lateness to class, etc.

School Clubs:

- Various clubs are meeting weekly, such as Earth Keepers, Spanish, Math, Social, OSCARS Club, etc.
- After school, test prep, Regents Prep, Saturday ENL, and homework help continue to be provided.

McKinney-Vento and Unaccompanied Minors:

- Mr. Skariah continues to coordinate and provide support to the eligible families.

SEL:

- SEL curriculum and related topics are included in curriculum for K-12 grades.

<u>BENCHMARK 7 UPDATES:</u>

Professional Climate/Professional Development:

- Administrative meetings and check-ins continue to take place weekly.
- Lead Teachers, Mentor Teachers, and HS Department Chairs continue to support teachers with resources, teaching strategies, procedures, policies, lesson planning, and scheduling visits with peers.
- The half-day PD on 2/13/26 will focus on Classroom management best practices and data-driven and differentiated instruction.

Staff Feedback:

- Staff feedback is encouraged during all meetings to enhance and improve systems, curriculum, etc.
- Teacher check-ins are scheduled throughout the month to discuss student progress and curriculum.

Contracted Services:

- The Director of World Languages, the Data Director, and teachers continue to benefit from support provided by consultants.

BENCHMARK 8 UPDATES:

Mission:

- Key design elements are integrated in the curriculum and promoted during the morning assembly in all four schools.

Spanish Instruction:

- Teatro SEA will present "Mi Superheroe Roberto Clemente". The Dignidad program was promoted during the morning assembly and in classrooms.
- Daily engaging Spanish lessons continue to take place.

Integration of Ecology:

- Kindergarten and first grade students will participate in the second hydroponic planting cycle the week of February 9, 2026.

Fostering Healthy Life Choices:

- Nutrition tips continue to be provided during daily morning assemblies.
- Healthy meals are provided to students daily to support their well-being and promote good nutrition habits.
- The Director of Food Services and the HS Chef ensure that the menu is implemented uniformly in all four buildings.

Integration of Hispanic Culture and Respect for All Cultures:

- The February morning assemblies will focus on celebrating Black History Month.
- The celebration will culminate with a concert performed by students.

Planning and Using the Workshop Model:

- Lesson plans and instruction continue to follow the workshop model. Teachers are including differentiation for SWD and ELL, and enrichment for academically advanced students.

Recruitment and Enrollment Efforts:

The administrative team continues its efforts to fill the open position.

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 4 of 6 was sent out January 15, 2026. All districts are up to date with tuition payments except for three districts. Those districts are Elmont, Copiague and Rockville Centre. Elmont is the only district to have not made any tuition payments. If we do not receive payment from them in the next few weeks after the last notice sent, we will inform them that we will start an intercept process. We also received a payment from East Meadow in the amount of $622.08 for a percentage owed to us through the Textbook Central program for Textbooks and Software materials for students from that district attending our school.

- We have submitted all claims to The Child Nutrition Administration for meals served from September through December for a total of $353,661. Full reimbursements have been received. We received two additional reimbursements for lunch totaling $21,245. Total received to date is $374,906.

- We are still pending to receive funding for Title claim I for the previous school year. The amount pending to be received is $196,850. Reports recently received show pending status, but no additional information has been requested. There is a balance not yet claimed to be possibly rolled over from last year to this year in the amount of $30,480.00. Admin is to report if an amendment or rollover request has been submitted to NYSED. We are still pending to receive approval for the applications submitted for Title IIIA for this school year 2025-2026 in the amount of $56,771.

- We have received five Employee Retention Credits Refund checks totaling $2,953,645.50.

Benchmark 5: Financial Management

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

- As per December's 2025 bank statements for the ECS Parent Association accounts they have a total balance of $2,856.05.

- Copies of December's Home Depot and American Express statements have been provided to our Board of Directors and our School Superintendent.

- A $39.00 fee was incurred for a returned ACH payment to American Express, this payment was made while transitioning to a new bank account and that caused the payment to be returned. The payment was submitted again before the deadline, and the fee was returned and it should be reflected in the next statement as per a phone call with a representative on January 16th.

Benchmark 9: Enrollment

- Our Admission's team continues to fill vacancies as they become available. They are simultaneously receiving new applications for new students and re-registration forms from current students to start or return the next school year 2026-2027.

- To date we have received a total of 119 new applications for next school year.

- Our Virtual Lottery Event will be held on April 1, 2026, at 7:00pm.

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 December 15, 2026

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

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
a.	Ms. Christine Weigand Mr. Shaun Skariah Ms. Elizabeth Murcia	Requesting approval to attend the NYSTEACH McKinney Vento 2026 Conference, "Promoting Academic Success: Removing Barriers for Students in Temporary Housing" from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	5/13/2026
b.	Dr. Elena Litescu Ms. Diana Arcia	Requesting approval for Ms. Diana Arcia to attend a training from Master Schedule Editor.	2/24/2026

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.	Sra. Christine Weigand	Requesting approval to organize a fundraiser through Mabel's Labels Fundraising Program.	2025-2026 S. Y.
b.	Mr. Nicholas Agosti Ms. Emily Siebold	Requesting approval to take the 4th grade students on a bowling field trip to expand their skill and participate in a real bowling environment.	3/20/2026
c.	Dr. Elena Litescu Mr. Thomas Moran	Requesting approval for the JHS to have band rehearsals from Monday – Thursday from 3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	2/2/2026
d.	Ms. Emmanuela Collado	Requesting approval for a series of grade-level college visits.	2025-2026 S. Y.
e.	Ms. Emmanuela Collado	Requesting approval for the High School students to have a Valentine's Day school dance.	2/12/2026
f.	Ms. Alicia Morera	Requesting approval to provide 'Spanish at my School' as an After-School Academic Resource.	2025-2026 S. Y.

Motion: Luis Ras
Second: Gladys Rodriguez
Vote: 6:0

3. **<u>Be it therefore resolved</u> that the Board of Trustees approves the following proposals under <u>Board Oversight/Governance</u> that include policies:**

#	Name of Staff	Workshop	Date
a.	Dr. Elena Litescu	Requesting approval of the meal modification policy.	2025-2026 S. Y.

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

4. **<u>Be it therefore resolved</u> that the Board of Trustees approves a student employment program including of stipends, employment and mentoring, as needed, for Evergreen students serving as mentors, and part time support staff for Evergreen's youth enrichment programs**

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

5. **<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
Dezmen L. Jenkins-Sierra	Living Environment	Laurel Ave	01/14/22026
Justin Fishman	Art Teacher	Laurel Ave	01/05/2026
Wanda Manuel	Part time Saturday school Administrator	Front St	01/24/2026
Joshua V. Poveda	School Chef	Laurel Ave	02/02/2026
Manel Farfan De Los Godos	Spanish Teacher	Laurel Ave	TBD
Angelina Castro	Part time Lunch Aide	Peninsula	TBD
Sherlin Najera	Paid Internship	Peninsula	TBD
Michael Vanegas	Paid Internship	Peninsula	TBD

Employee Position and Salary Changes:

Name	Current Position	New Position	Effective
Sandra A. Torres Full time-	Spanish Teacher	Part Time Saturday School	02/07/2026
Karla M. Cruz Diaz	Kitchen Assistant	Dish Washer	01/22/2026
Jeimy Cortez De Alvarenga	Dishwasher	Kitchen Cleaner	01/22/2026
Fatima Coreas Ventura	Kitchen Cleaner	Kitchen Assistant	01/22/2026
Gabriela A. Ramirez	Technology Specialist	Technology Specialist	02/01/2026
Rudelanea De Luna	PT-Lunch Aide	Hourly rate correction	02/01/2026

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

6. **Be it therefore resolved,** the Board of Trustees approves Evergreen Charter School to make ACH payments approved vendors by the Board of Trustees.

See attached list of vendors.

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

7. **Be it therefore resolved,** the Board of Trustees approves the executive committee to engage a firm to provide professional land surveying and civil engineering services for 40 and 44 laurel avenues.

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

8. **Be it therefore resolved,** the Board of Trustees approves Standard Valuation Services to conduct land appraisals on property the school is considering for purchase.

   See attached.

Motion: Luis Ras
Second: Gladys Rodriguez
Vote: 6:0

9. **Be it therefore resolved,** the Board of Trustees approves members of the Executive Committee to engage in negotiations to purchase property and execute contracts of sale for property near Evergreen campus location to support the needs of the school.

   All final contract approvals are subject to NYSED approval.

   See attached.

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

10. **<u>Be it therefore resolved</u>,** the Board of Trustees approves the purchase of school mascot costumes for its buildings to promote school spirit.

Motion: Gladys Rodriguez
Second: Luis Ras
Vote: 6:0

XII. Questions

There were none.

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

Updates:

Dr. Brewster thanked everyone for the Evergreen birthday wishes and celebrations. Evergreen celebrated its 17th year since its founding.

Dr. Brewster also thanked all the schools and students and staff for their participation in school choice week. This year, once again, Evergreen was recognized and featured for National School Choice week. Evergreen's Physical Education Coordinator, Mr. Levitan, modified dance moves for students as part of National School Choice Week celebration. The dance was taught across the elementary schools and was featured nationally as schools around the country celebrated school choice week.

XV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:49

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

Minutes submitted by:

Gil Bernardino
President of the Board of Trustees January