Evergreen Charter School
Virtual Meeting of the Board of Trustees
605 Peninsula Blvd, Hempstead, NY 11550
February 26, 2026

6:00 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, Coordintor
Mr. Brian Hillman, Director of Curriculum and Instruction 7-12
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:

- The Second Diagnostic of i-Ready for Math and Reading was completed.
- ELA and Math practice state exams were administered to 3-8 grade students.

Graduation/College & Career:

- The HS Seniors continue to make group visits to colleges, and the HS Junior students visited SUNY Old Westbury.

BENCHMARK 2 UPDATES

Shared Accountability/HighExpectations:

- Classroom observations continue to be conducted, formal, informal, and walkthroughs. The outcomes are recorded on the Observe4Success platform and the feedback is provided promptly.

Research-based Practices/InstructionalStrategies:

- On 2/13/26 half-day of professional development was hosted for the entire district. The topics presented were:
  - ELA curriculum training for administrators and teachers;
  - Refresher training on some of the platforms used in the K & 1st-grade classrooms;
  - Increasing students' engagement in the classroom and sharing best practices for effective classroom management.
  - High School – Regents' scores analysis and implementation for customizing instruction to close academic gaps.
  - MagicSchools AI training with Andrew Choi;
  - SSW and School Nurses – specialty trainings.

Curriculum:

- A new half-credit class started to be offered at the HS, "Introduction to Gastronomy".
- The "Intro to Band" half-credit class started in January for HS students.
- Elementary and Intermediary Schools (k-4 grades) will celebrate Dr. Seuss ' birthday and "Dress like a Book Character Day", the week of March, 2nd .

Assessments:

- The SpEd teachers generated a schedule to ensure all testing accommodations were provided as per students' IEP and 504 plans.

Educational Success/Gap Closing:

- The groups for the small groups instruction (RTI&AIS) are revised based on the data collected from scoring the intermediate assessments, practice state exams, and i-Ready 2nd diagnostic.

Support for Diverse Learners:

- ENL and SpEd teachers are pushing into classrooms or pulling out small groups to provide extra support.

Academic Enrichment:

- To reduce the academic gaps, the small-group instruction continues as scheduled in all schools.

BENCHMARK 3 UPDATES

Chronic Absenteeism:

- Administrators continue to meet with the families whose children have challenges to arrive to school on time, or attend school every day.

Out Of School Suspensions:

- The reports were submitted separately by the Deans of Students and A/Ps.

School Climate, Culture Evaluation:

- During the month of February, Black History Month was celebrated in all four schools.

School Spirit:

Evergreen hosted a special celebration, the Athletics Banquet, recognizing our athletic students and team coaches who participated in the athletics activities during the fall and winter seasons.

Behavior Management & Safety:

- An expanded Restorative Justice (RJ) committee meets periodically to ensure students' behavior is monitored by implementing these practices.

Family Engagement:

- The Spanish awards for Quarter 2 are scheduled to take place in all four buildings on the following dates, starting at 8:00 am:
  Peninsula: 3/6/26
  Front St: 2/27/26
  Loretto: 3/3/26
  JrHS & HS: 3/10/26

- The school closure during the two snow days had been communicated to all families using multiple channels (text, phone, and email).

Concerns Or Complaints:

- One parent complained about the support provided by one of the SpEd providers from Hempstead SD working with their child. HUFSD conducted an investigation and provided an update to the SpEd Coordinator.

School Clubs:

- Various clubs are meeting weekly.

McKinney-Vento and Unaccompanied Minors:

- The School Social Workers and Mr. Skariah continues to coordinate and provide support to the eligible families.

SEL:

- The Kids Heart Challenge fundraiser began in February.

BENCHMARK 7 UPDATES:

Professional Climate/Professional Development:

- Administrative and faculty meetings took place as scheduled.
- Faculty and supportive staff members are encouraged to complete independently trainings that they consider beneficial.

Staff Feedback:

- Staff were invited to provide their feedback regarding the training sessions provided during the half-day of PD.

Contracted Services:

- Professional development and coaching continue to be provided by the contracted ELA, Math, World Languages, and BOCES professionals.

BENCHMARK 8 UPDATES:

Mission:

- Staff and students are reminded constantly to uphold and promote the mission of ECS.

Spanish Instruction:

- The Director of the World Languages department is focusing on vertically aligning the Spanish curriculum for all grades.

Integration of Ecology:

- Our students commit daily to respect and protect the Earth.

Fostering Healthy Life Choices:

- In all schools, the ECS nutrition policy is promoted constantly.

Integration of Hispanic Culture and Respect for All Cultures:

- Black History Month was celebrated in all four schools throughout the month of February. These celebrations of Black History Month will culminate with a student's performance, which will be hosted at Laurel Ave and will be attended by Hempstead's Mayor, Mr. Hobbs, and ECS Board members.

Planning and Using the Workshop Model:

- All teachers detail when submitting their lesson plans how they'll implement differentiated and enriched instruction, to meet each student at their academic level.

Recruitment and Enrollment Efforts:

- Faculty recruitment had started for the next school year.

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. Billing 5 of 6 will go out by mid- March. 14 out of 27 districts are up to date with tuition payments except for three districts. Elmont is the only district to have not yet paid any tuition for this school year.

- We have submitted all claims to The Child Nutrition Administration for meals served from September through January for a total of $436,999. Full reimbursements have been received to date plus two additional reimbursements arriving at a grand total of $458,244.

- This month we received the pending balance for Title I reimbursement for the previous school year. The total amount received for 2024-2025 was $340,569. We also received approval for the application submitted for Title IIIA for this school year 2025-2026 in the amount of $56,771 and received the preliminary payment in the amount of $11,354.

Benchmark 5: Financial Management

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

- As per January's 2026 bank statements for the ECS Parent Association accounts they have a total balance of $2,856.29.

- Copies of January'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 all balances incurred from December to January. Our American Express December's statement shows a total number of 354,002 reward points.

Benchmark 9: Enrollment

- Our Admission's team continues to fill vacancies as they become available while also 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 239 new applications for next school year. We continue to place registration ads in local papers, display banners and distribute flyers in multiple local agencies including churches and community establishments. Additional signage will be made, and more flyers will be distributed.

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

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 January 29, 2026

Motion: Trustee Sarah Brewster
Second: Trustee Gladys Rodriguez
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:**

a. Ms. Caggiano, Junior High School Special Ed. teacher, is requesting approval to order medals/trophies and to celebrate "Mid Year Excellence Awards" to highlight students with an average of 95% or above on their core subjects and honor 7th and 8th grade students who made the most growth on their 2nd i-Ready diagnostic.
b. Ms. Caggiano, Junior High School Special Ed. teacher, is requesting approval to host a "March to Success" event on March 27th to motivate the students to follow expectations and prepare for state assessments throughout the month of March.

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:**

a. Ms. Civitano, Middle School Principal, is requesting approval for a Scholastic Classroom Magazines Pilot Program.

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

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

a. Ms. Ruiz, Junior High School teacher, is proposing a trip to the Suffolk Vanderbilt Planetarium on May 12, 2026.
b. Ms. Caggiano, Junior High School Special Ed. teacher, is requesting approval to order decorations for the 8th grade graduation.
c. Ms. Civitano, Middle School Principal, is requesting approval for an After-School Detention Program, Monday-Thursday.

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

4. **<u>Be it therefore</u> resolved 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
Nicole Pappalardo	Math AIS	Loretto	02/13/2026
Kenia Flores Ortiz	Lunch Aide	Peninsula	01/26/2026
Michelle Motherway	Fiscal Assistant	Business Office	02/25/2026
Ruth Contreras	Lunch Aide	Peninsula	02/27/2026
Tricia Manno	Math Teacher	33 Laurel Ave	TBD

Employee Position and Salary Changes:

Name	Current Position	New Position	Effective
Abigail Ramos Lopez	Lunch Aide	Lunch Lead	03/01/2026
Cecilia Bauer	Lunch Aide	Admissions Clerk	03/01/2026

Motion: Gladys Rodriguez
Second: Nancy Rodriguez
Vote: 5:0

5. **<u>Be it therefore Resolved</u> the Board of Trustees approves the following vendors to be paid via ACH or bill payment every month for contracted services and utilities.**

Vendor	Service Location	Amount	Payment Frequency	Contract Terms/Notes
INC. VILLAGE OF HEMPSTEAD	28 Richardson	Varies	Quarterly	Water Bills
INC. VILLAGE OF HEMPSTEAD	436 Front	Varies	Quarterly	Water Bills
INC. VILLAGE OF HEMPSTEAD	495 Peninsula	Varies	Quarterly	Water Bills
INC. VILLAGE OF HEMPSTEAD	29 Laurel	Varies	Quarterly	Water Bills
INC. VILLAGE OF HEMPSTEAD	605 Peninsula	Varies	Quarterly	Water Bills

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

6. **<u>Be it therefore Resolved</u> the Board of Trustees approves the Frontline Education Company to provide a Frontline Central Platform-** A system that manages electronic employee records to streamline processes such as new hire onboarding, notice distributions, forms renewals and staff data reporting that is aligned with the state requirements.

   This platform will be used by the Business Office/HR, the Data and IT departments.

frontline education

INVESTMENT SUMMARY

(Proposal pricing expires on 02/28/2026)

End User	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount
Evergreen Charter School (District)	Frontline Central Solution	3/01/2026	6/30/2026	$1,631.12
Evergreen Charter School (District)	Frontline Implementation			$4,400.00
			INITIAL TERM TOTAL	$6,031.12

End User	Description	Start Date	End Date	Amount
Evergreen Charter School (District)	Frontline Central Solution	7/01/2026	6/30/2027	$4,880.00
			RECURRING TOTAL	$4,880.00

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

7. **<u>Be it therefore resolved</u> the Board of Trustees** approves Evergreen representatives to participate in a collaborative efforts with the Spain Department of Education to recruit teachers.

   Evergreen was selected, among many other school districts nationwide, to participate in weeklong job fair to recruit Spanish teachers.

Motion: Nancy Iglesias
Second: Gladys Rodriguez
Vote: 5:0

8. **<u>Be it therefore resolved,</u>** The Board of Trustees approves a change to its parent manual and code of conduct.

   See attached.

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

XII. Questions

There were none.

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

Updates:

Dr. Brewster thanked everyone and welcomed them back from the school vacation.

XV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:55

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

Minutes submitted by:

Gladys Rodriguez
Secretary of the Board of Trustees