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

7:45 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. Christine Civitano, Principal 5-8
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
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 third grading quarter for all grades will end on April 24, 2026.
- Students still have the time to strive to get the high grades they have the potential to achieve.
- Practice state exams were administered, and based on the data gathered, instruction was adjusted.

Graduation/College & Career:

- Visits to colleges on Long Island for HS students continue to be scheduled and confirmed.
- The youngest students, K-1 grades, participated in a Career Day on 3/16/26.

ESSA Accountability Designation:

- Materials and resources for MLLs students were ordered using Title III allocations.

BENCHMARK 2 UPDATES

Shared Accountability/High Expectations:

- Walkthrough, formal, and informal classroom observations continue to be conducted in all four schools.
- Teachers receive feedback weekly on the lesson plans they submit.
- Faculty, administration, grade level, lead teachers, and department chairs meetings take place as scheduled.

Research-based Practices/Instructional Strategies:

- The data analyzed after the practice state exams serve as a rich source for the test preparation efforts.
- A weekly Science test prep period was added for the 5th graders.

Curriculum:

- The curriculum is aligned with the NYS Learning Standards and continues to be refined as needed.
- To enhance the Reading curriculum, students participated in Reading Across America on 3/2/26.

- The 8th-grade students enrolled in the LE Regents class are receiving extra support twice a week.
- Promoting Evergreen's nutrition policy and healthy eating habits, the students and staff celebrated National Breakfast Week during the week of March 2nd.

Assessments:

- The February practice exams served as a comprehensive assessment tool and helped to expand the test preparation strategies.

Educational Success/Gap Closing:

- Targeted interventions and practice stations implemented are designed to address specific areas of student academic gaps.
- 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 listing in all their lesson plans the differentiation and support provided to diverse learners.
- ENL push-in support is provided by the Spanish teachers, within content-area courses, allowing for small-group instruction and targeted support, helping students access grade-level content while developing their English proficiency.

Academic Enrichment:

- Morning, after-school, and Saturday support is provided to students in all grades.

BENCHMARK 3 UPDATES

Chronic Absenteeism:

- Administrators continue to meet with families to address and correct their child's attendance when they have excessive absences or tardiness.

Out Of School Suspensions:

- Most of the OOSS were converted to ISS, and the teachers are providing live instruction daily and assignments.

School Climate, Culture Evaluation:

- Our Morning assemblies continue to build a positive and inclusive school community. We ensure our students know that they are valued and encourage them to broaden their cultural and historical awareness.
- Throughout March, several celebrations took place that enriched our school culture:
    - Pi Day Celebration: students and staff engaged in mathematical exploration on 3/14, fostering enthusiasm for STEM learning.
    - Read Across America day: celebrated literacy and the love of reading;

- Women's History Month: highlighting every morning the contributions and accomplishments of women throughout history across all fields.

School Spirit:

- Evergreen will be represented at several Hempstead establishments to increase awareness on its programs.

Behavior Management & Safety:

- The expanded Restorative Practices Committee meets periodically.
- Trauma- Informed drills (Fire and Lock Down) and the logistics continue to be reviewed with staff and students.

Family Engagement:

- The Honor Roll for the Jr HS students was hosted at Laurel Ave.
- The celebration of Student, Citizen, Artist "of the Month" took place at the Middle School.
- Spanish Awards ceremonies took place in all four schools.
- On Friday, March 27 the HS Spanish Awards and the K-1 I-Ready Awards will take place.

School Clubs:

- Various clubs are meeting weekly.

McKinney-Vento and Unaccompanied Minors:

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

SEL:

- A series of SEL classes, part of the "Overcoming Obstacles" curriculum will be introduced at the HS, to help students gain life skills, i.e. time management, organizational skills, etc.
- Based on the book "The Fruit Salad Friend: Recipe for A True Friend" an SEL K family activity was scheduled on 3/24/ and 3/25.

<u>BENCHMARK 7 UPDATES:</u>

Professional Climate/Professional Development:

- Monthly PDs continue to take place when best practices around teaching and learning are shared.
- The half-day PD on 4/2/26 will focus on "Visible Learning" and "Transforming Teaching", new approaches towards connecting teaching to real-world applications.

Staff Feedback:

- Staff feedback is encouraged during all meetings to provide their feedback.

Contracted Services:

- Support continues to be offered by several 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:

- The Director of the World Languages department has periodic meetings with the entire team and 1-0-1 meetings with each teacher from this department.

Integration of Ecology:

- Peninsula staff participated in the "Grow Your School Challenge," and access to the Green our Planet portal is offered free for the next school year.
- Activities celebrating "Earth Day" and "Earth Week" are in the process of being planned for April, with this year's theme: "Our power, Our Planet – Every Action Counts, Every Voice Matters."

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 March morning assemblies were focused on celebrating Women's History Month.
- The concert, culminating the celebration of BHM, was attended by the Hempstead Mayor.

Planning and Using the Workshop Model:

- Lesson plans and instruction reflect the workshop model, and once they are reviewed by the administrators, feedback is provided to the teachers.

Recruitment and Enrollment Efforts:

The administrative team continues its efforts to fill the open positions. Lead teachers are participating in the recruitment process.

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 5 of 6 has been completed and invoices will go out by tomorrow. 21 out of 27 districts are up to date with tuition payments. There are six districts that are late paying by one billing cycle. Those districts are Copiague, Elmont, Freeport, Valley Stream 30, West Hempstead and Westbury.

- We have submitted all claims to The Child Nutrition Administration for meals served from September through February for a total of $496,858. There are two small payments totaling $931 that are pending to be received for meals served in February. Total reimbursements for meals received to date amount to $517,172.

- A check in the amount of $10,000 has been received and deposited that is related to a grant application submitted by Mr. Brian Hillman that was approved. The funds were received from project Lead the Way, Inc.

Benchmark 5: Financial Management

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

- As per February's 2026 bank statements for the ECS Parent Association accounts they have a total balance of $2,856.47.

- Copies of February'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 January to February. For American Express we paid $4,128.03 and for Home Depot we paid $5,686.45. Our American Express February's statement show a total of 356,859 reward points.

Benchmark 9: Enrollment

- Our Admission's team continues to fill vacancies as they become available and continue to receive applications from new students while also completing the re-registration process for all current students returning the following school year 2026-2027.

- Up to a few days ago we received a total of 442 new student applications for next school year. More applications are received daily. All applications received by 5:00pm on April 1 will be included in the lottery that same day. We are holding our virtual lottery event on April 1, 2026, at 7:00pm.

- We have 14 families that are late submitting re-registration documents.

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 February 26, 2026

Motion: Trustee Yvonne Mowatt
Second: Trustee Sarah Brewster
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) **Resolved,** the Board of Trustees approves the following resolution under Student Performance (including proposals to support achievement in these areas)

    a. Mr. Colantuono and Mr. Agosti are requesting approval for a Winter Concert Showcase to take place on May 21, 2026.

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

2) **Resolved,** the Board of Trustees approves the following resolution under Teaching and Learning (include professional development, curriculum)

   a. Ms. Morera, Director of World Languages, is requesting approval for Evergreen's NYSSB Additional Scoring Panel Teachers and Associated Compensation.
   b. Mr. Shaun Skariah, is requesting to attend a McKinney Vento liaison meeting on March 27 2026.

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

3) Resolved, the Board of Trustees approves the following resolutions under Culture, Climate, Student/Family Engagement (including activities to meet student/family needs, trips)

   a. Mr. Pumar, Junior High School Assistant Principal, is requesting approval to visit Ellis Island on June 5, 2026.
   b. Ms. Collado, High School Principal, is requesting approval for Grade 12, to visit Six Flags on June 12, 2026.
   c. Ms. Piersa, High School Art Teacher, is requesting approval to visit MoMa Museum (One-Part Program) on April 28, 2026.
   d. Ms. Reyes and Ms. Golio are requesting approval for 5th grade to visit Garvies Point Museum and Reserve on May 21, 2026.
   e. Ms. Golio is requesting approval for 6th grade to visit Cradle of Aviation Museum on June 5, 2026.
   f. Mr. Pumar, Junior High School Assistant Principal, is requesting approval for a Dance Club to take place.
   g. Ms. Castro, Junior High Art Teacher, is requesting approval for 16 8th grade students to visit Spirit of Huntington Art Center on May 20, 2026.
   h. Ms. Castro, Junior High Art Teacher, is requesting approval for a fundraiser to collect funds for this trip. (Spirit of Huntington Art Center)
   i. Ms. Markey and Mr. Agosti are requesting approval for a State Test Parent Engagement Night on April 13, 2026.
   j. Mr. Agosti, Intermediate School Principal, is requesting approval to host an event M.O.M. (Mothers, Others, and Mentors) Day Breakfast and Story Reading Celebration on May 8, 2026
   k. Ms. Weigand, Elementary School Principal, is requesting approval to have Vanderbilt's Traveling Planetarium participate in our STEM Night on May 4, 2026.
   l. Ms. Weigand, Elementary School Principal, is requesting approval to establish a Parent Association at the Elementary School.
   m. Ms. Castro and Ms. Weigand are requesting approval to organize a Family Paint Night on April 15, 2026.
   n. Dr. Litescu, Superintendent, is requesting approval to provide High School girls the opportunity to be involved in a sport activity (Volleyball) after school.

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

4) **Resolved** the Board of Trustees approves the following resolution regarding staffing:

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

Name	Position	Building	Effective
Austin Nowak	7th Grade Social Studies Teacher	33 Laurel Ave-HS	04/23/26
Randy Arzu	Receptionist	33 Laurel Ave-HS	03/25/26

Employee Position and Salary Changes:

Name	Current Position	New Position	Effective
Ian S. Hodgson	FT Technology Teacher	PT Technology Teacher	3/1/26

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

5) **Resolved**, the Board of Trustees approves to open an account at Peapack Private Bank.

See attached.

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

6) Resolved, the Board of Trustees approves to hire Martin Hopp Architect firm to provide construction monitoring and consulting for its parking areas.

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

XII. Questions

There were none.

XII. Additional Reports By Vice President Dr. Sarah Brewster

Updates:

Dr. Brewster spoke about student clubs including the gardening efforts at the new Secondary school. She wished everyone a happy holiday and spring break.

XV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:28

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

Minutes submitted by:

Gladys Rodriguez
Secretary of the Board of Trustees