Evergreen Charter School
Virtual Meeting of the Board of Trustees
605 Peninsula Blvd, Hempstead, NY 11550
April 30, 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 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:

Student Assessment:

- The NYSESLAT exams are now being administered to all ELL students.
- Math state exams were administered to students in grades 3-8.
- The Checkpoint B exams started to be administered at the HS.

Graduation/College & Career:

- The HS students continue to make group visits to colleges.
- A group of HS girls attended the STEM conference at Adelphi on 4/24/26, and one of them, Joylin, won the competition with the project she presented.

ESSA Accountability Designation:

Other:

BENCHMARK 2 UPDATES

Shared Accountability/High Expectations:

- During the NYSED CSO visit, six classroom observations took place. The feedback and glows and grows points were shared with the teachers in those classes.

Research-based Practices/Instructional Strategies:

On 4/2/26, a half-day of professional development was held for the entire district. The topics presented were:

- "Visible Learning" was presented by Mr. Baruch, and "Teaching Ideas that Transfer and Transform Learning" was presented by Ms. Weigand and Ms. Civitano.
- MagicSchools AI final training session with Andrew Choi;
- SSW and School Nurses – specialty trainings.

Curriculum:

- The teachers are encouraged to relate their instruction to real world examples.

Assessments:

- The focus this month was to ensure that students are prepared to take the state exams.

Educational Success/Gap Closing:

- The extra support continues to be provided to students in grades K-12 before school, after school, and on Saturdays.

Support for Diverse Learners:

- At the JrHS students continue to receive targeted academic support from 7:10 – 7:40 am.
- Teachers are encouraged to differentiate instruction and to use inclusive practices, so they can meet all learners where they are and customize instruction based on their learning styles.

Academic Enrichment:

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

BENCHMARK 3 UPDATES

Chronic Absenteeism:

- Letters were sent out to families of the students with excessive tardies.

Out Of School Suspensions:

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

School Climate, Culture Evaluation:

- This month Earth Day celebrating activities took place in all four schools.

School Spirit:

- Pep rallies took place for the state exam testing grades.

Behavior Management & Safety:

- Individual Student Safety plans are developed when needed.
- Various students needed temporary accommodations, i.e., access to the elevators, and plans were put in place to provide them.

Family Engagement:

- The former Spanish awards, now World Languages Awards, for Quarter 3 are scheduled to take place in all four buildings during the month of May, starting at 8:00 am.
- The PTCs for Quarter 3 are scheduled to take place in all four buildings on the following dates:
  Peninsula: 5/11/26
  Front St: 4/30/26
  Loretto & JrHS: 5/6/26
  High School: 5/7/26

- A celebration of mothers and women in the role of mothers is planned to take place at Front St on May 8th. A great turn out to this event is anticipated, since there are already 182 RSVPs received.
- A fun event, "Family Paint Night" took place at Peninsula on 4/15/26 and the event was attended by more than 70 families.

School Clubs:

- Various clubs are meeting as scheduled.

McKinney-Vento and Unaccompanied Minors:

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

SEL:

- The 8th grade SEL classes focus on time management and organizational skills, to prepare the students for their transition to the HS.

<u>BENCHMARK 7 UPDATES:</u>

Professional Climate/Professional Development:
School Leadership:

- This month Evergreen received the visit of the NYSED-CSO liaison, Ms. Jennifer Marshall, and the preliminary feedback received demonstrated that the school is making progress on rectifying the areas deemed at the time of renewal below meets expectations.

Staff Feedback:

- Staff were invited to provide their feedback regarding the training sessions

provided during the half-day of PD. This training was received very well by the overwhelming majority of the faculty.

Contracted Services:

- Coaching continues to be provided by the contracted ELA, Math, World Languages, and BOCES professionals.

BENCHMARK 8 UPDATES:

Mission:

- Championing the values and the ECS mission is a daily reminder for staff and students.

Spanish Instruction:

- Checkpoint B State exam started and the Checkpoint A state exam for the MS students will start in May.

Integration of Ecology:

- During the week of April 20th, all staff and students at Evergreen celebrated Earth Day with different showcases of ecological awareness.
- In the older grades, JrHS and HS, the students planted seeds in the suspended garden at the new building.

Fostering Healthy Life Choices:

- Students at the HS participate in the Intro to Gastronomy class, and this gives them the opportunity to get a better understanding of the healthy nutrition promoted daily at Evergreen.

Integration of Hispanic Culture and Respect for All Cultures:

- A multicultural day when students have the opportunity to showcase their heritage is in process of being organized at the MS.

Planning and Using the Workshop Model:

- All faculty receive feedback on their lesson plans before teaching the respective lessons.
- A training was hosted for the HS team on planning and delivering their lesson in the mini-workshop format.

Recruitment and Enrollment Efforts:

- Faculty recruitment had started for the next school year.

BENCHMARK 9 UPDATES:

Enrollment Data:

- Presented by Finance

Retention Data:

- Families of the students whose promotion to the next grade is at risk, will receive a written notification in the mail to set-up an appointment with the Principal to determine if their grade promotional will be conditional.

Updates Recruitment & Enrollment Efforts:

- Faculty recruitment had started for the next school year.

BENCHMARK 10 UPDATES:

Teachers Certifications:

- The data director notified all staff members of any discrepancies between the staff reports for NYSED and their TEACH accounts.

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 was mailed out March 27, 2026. 13 out of 27 districts are up to date with tuition payments and 2 of them have paid in full for the entire year. Compared to last month's report, we now only have two districts behind by one cycle. Those districts are Copiague and Valley Stream 30. Last month we had delayed payments from six districts. This month we gained two students from the Hewlett-Woodmere district now making a list of 28 school districts that we serve.

- All claims to The Child Nutrition Administration for meals served to students from September through March have been submitted. All claims submitted to date amount to $594,023 and we have received the entire amount in reimbursements. The next claim for meals served in April will be sent out the first week in May.

Benchmark 5: Financial Management

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

- A new account was opened for the school with Peapack Private Bank and Trust.

- The ECS Parent Association March's 2026 bank statements show a total balance of $2,856.60.

- Copies of March'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 February to March. For American Express we paid $2,803.97 and for Home Depot we paid $2,708.43. Our American Express March's statement show a total of 361,004 reward points.

Benchmark 9: Enrollment

- Vacancies for students continue to be filled as they become available. We held our Lottery Event on April 1, 2026, and parents of selected students are going through the registration process for the next school year 2026-2027.

- Our Admissions team and our elementary school principals Christine Weigand and Lisa Camilli attended an open house at Red Door Learning Center and at Hempstead Head Start where we were able to present to prospective parents. They also held an open house this past Saturday at 605 Peninsula Boulevard.

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 March 26, 2026

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

a. Ms. Bolanos, social worker at Laurel, is asking for approval for the HS Seniors to celebrate their Senior Prom in the building on June 18, 2026.
b. Ms. Powell, Second Grade Teacher at Front St, is requesting approval for the 2nd grade students to attend a field trip to Old Westbury Gardens on June 4, 2026, and June 5, 2026.
c. Ms. Caggiano, teacher at JHS, is requesting approval for an End of Year Excellence Awards for the 7th and 8th grade students on June 22, 2026.
d. Ms. Martin, teacher at HS, is requesting approval for the 11th grade students to attend a field trip to Washington D.C.
e. Ms. Caggiano, teacher at JHS, is requesting approval for an 8th grade dance on June 12, 2026.
f. Mr. Levitan, Physical Education teacher at Peninsula, is requesting approval to have a "Bring Someone Special to PE Day" for the 1st grade students in May or June of 2026.
g. Ms. Siebold, Physical Education teacher at Front St, is requesting approval to have a "Bring Someone Special to PE Day" for the 4th grade students in May or June of 2026.
h. The Third Grade Team at Front St is requesting approval to attend a trip to The Sky Theater Planetarium at The Cradle of Aviation on June 12, 2026.

All trips and events are conditionally approved pending safety and other relevant reviews.

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

2) **Resolved,** the Board of Trustees approves the following policies

Dr. Litescu, Superintendent, is asking for approval to implement the following policies:

a) Parent/Family engagement policy,
b) Policy for transitioning youth back into school from residential placement,
c) Enrollment policy for unhoused youth,
d) Transportation policy for McKinney Vento and foster care students.

Motion: Gladys Rodriguez
Second: Luis Ras
Motion 5:0

3) **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
Diana P. Romero	Lunch Aide	Peninsula	04/13/2026
Lindsay Siefert	Permanent Substitute Teacher	Laurel Ave	05/21/2026
Dionisio Katehis	Physical Education Teacher	Laurel Ave	TBD
Evedin Y. Zelaya	Lunch Aide	Peninsula	TBD
Ana A. Ventura	Lunch Aide	Peninsula	TBD

Employee Position and Salary Changes:

Ruth A. Contreras Guzman	PT Lunch Aide	FT Kitchen Cleaner	04/27/26

Stipends/Other Services:

Lydia Fraga Cordoba	Assistant Athletic Director	03/01/26

Motion: Yvonne Mowatt
Second: Gladys Rodirguez
Motion 5:0

4) **Resolved**, the Board of Trustees approves the following proposals from the Business office:

a) To approve the list of venders below to be paid automatically via ACH or bill payment every month for contracted services and utilities:

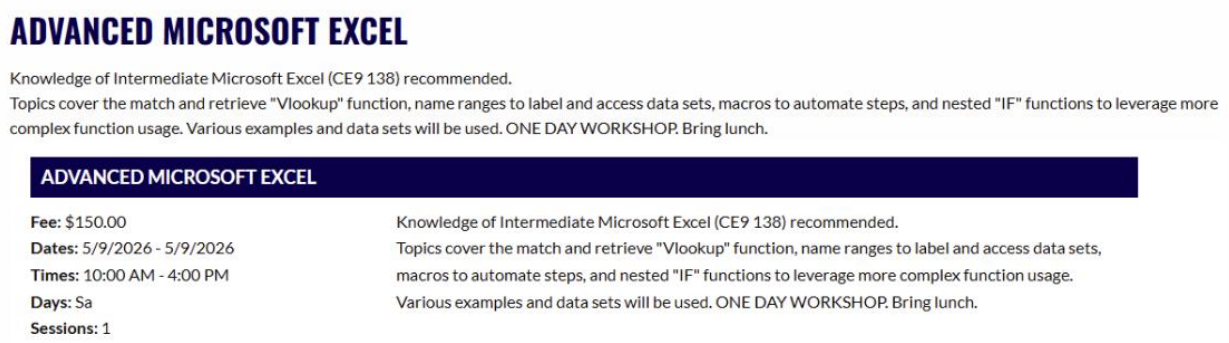
Vendor		Service Location	Amount	Payment Frequency	Contract Terms/Notes
FEDEX		28 Richardson	Varies	By Demand	Shipping Service Fees
WILLSCOT	10448819	436 Front	$5,126.93	Monthly	Mobile Classroom Rent
CANON		120 Greenwich	327.23	Quarterly	Color Copier Contract
CINTAS		33 Laurel	360.00	Weekly	Maintenance Supplies
CINTAS		605 Peninsula	240.00	Weekly	Maintenance Supplies
CINTAS		120 Greenwich	250.00	Weekly	Maintenance Supplies

b) To approve access to online banking to Michell Motherway (Bookkeeper) for the school's Capital One Bank accounts and view reports, and to initiate and process ACH payments for the school.

c) To approve approve an advanced Excel class on 5/9/2026 at Nassau Community College for the following payroll employees:

Krystallee Perez
Tiffany Familia
Lisett M. Knox

The cost is $150 per person for a whole day class from 10:00am to 4:00pm.



ADVANCED MICROSOFT EXCEL

Knowledge of Intermediate Microsoft Excel (CE9 138) recommended.
Topics cover the match and retrieve "Vlookup" function, name ranges to label and access data sets, macros to automate steps, and nested "IF" functions to leverage more complex function usage. Various examples and data sets will be used. ONE DAY WORKSHOP. Bring lunch.

ADVANCED MICROSOFT EXCEL

Fee: $150.00
Dates: 5/9/2026 - 5/9/2026
Times: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Days: Sa
Sessions: 1

Knowledge of Intermediate Microsoft Excel (CE9 138) recommended.
Topics cover the match and retrieve "Vlookup" function, name ranges to label and access data sets, macros to automate steps, and nested "IF" functions to leverage more complex function usage. Various examples and data sets will be used. ONE DAY WORKSHOP. Bring lunch.

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

XII. Questions

There were none.

<u>XII. Additional Reports By President Bernardino</u>

Updates:

Mr. Bernardino wished everyone a happy Mother's Day.

He thanked staff and students for their participation in recent community events including paint night.

He also encouraged youth to get involved in school clubs including the gardening club.

XV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:35

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

Minutes submitted by:

Gladys Rodriguez
Secretary of the Board of Trustees