Evergreen Charter School
Virtual Meeting of the Board of Trustees
605 Peninsula Blvd, Hempstead, NY 11550
July 13, 2026

11:30 am

The meeting was held at 605 Peninsula Boulevard

Members:

Mr. Gil Bernardino	**Present**
Dr. Sarah Brewster	**Present**
Ms. Nancy Iglesias-Gillen	**Excused**
Ms. Yvonne Mowatt	**Present**
Ms. Gladys Rodríguez	**Present**
Mr. Luis Ras	**Present**

Also present:

Dr. Elena Litescu, Superintendent
Ms. Christine Weigand, Principal K-1
Ms. Lisa Camilli, AP K-1
Ms. Lisett Knox, Director of Finance and Operations

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

Student Assessment:

- End-of-year assessments were administered for all grades.

Graduation/College & Career:

- The HS Graduation ceremony was the first commencement hosted in this new building, and it

was livestreamed;
- The MS Graduation ceremony was the first graduation of the class of 75 students.

ESSA Accountability Designation:
- ESSA application for 2026-2027 school year will be compiled this month for submission.

BENCHMARK 2 UPDATES

Shared Accountability/High Expectations:
- Administrators have conducted all formal and informal observations needed as per each teacher's tenure with Evergreen.
- All end-of-year evaluations were discussed with each staff member and the assignments for the new school year were communicated.

Research-based Practices/Instructional Strategies:
- A draft of the 26-27 PD schedule was completed and all the third parties were notified of the dates and times when they'll present to Evergreen's staff.

Curriculum:
- Deliveries of the curriculum began arriving at the schools.

Assessments:
- A thorough analysis of our students' academic progress over the past school year is underway, and the findings will be shared with the Board, staff, and all relevant stakeholders.

Educational Success/Gap Closing:
- The Summer School for 1 to 12 grade students started on July 6th, and it is offered in three buildings, Peninsula, Front St, and Laurel.
- The transition to the Kindergarten Program for incoming kindergarten students took place the first full week of July.

Support for Diverse Learners:
- It is provided by certified ENL teachers during the summer school.

Academic Enrichment:
- Academic support is provided to all students attending summer school.

BENCHMARK 3 UPDATES

Chronic Absenteeism:
- The school district recorded another high attendance rate this year, thanks to the attendance team and school administrators, who hosted numerous meetings throughout the year with families of students who had excessive tardies or absences.

School Climate, Culture Evaluation:

- The Board's President continued to meet this month with non-instructional staff to gather their feedback on their experiences during the past school year.

School Spirit:

- Preparations to welcome staff during PD had begun.

Behavior Management & Safety:

- Fire drills will be conducted this month in the buildings where the summer school is hosted.

Family Engagement:

- A series of documents, such as report cards, summer safety tips, i-Ready reports, medical forms, etc. are in process to be mailed out to all families.

School Clubs:

- There are two music clubs taking place this summer (Orchestra and Band) at Laurel.

BENCHMARK 7 UPDATES:

Professional Climate/Professional Development:

- **Setting-up training sessions during PD is in progress.**

Staff Feedback:

- The teachers teaching during summer school will receive a survey at the end of the month, and they'll be encouraged to provide suggestions/recommendations from their experience during these four weeks on how to improve the program next year.

Contracted Services:

- BOCES will continue their support to our Data, Assessment and Attendance Director to prepare the end of year report.

BENCHMARK 8 UPDATES:

Mission:

- New initiatives are planned to promote the school's mission next school year.

Spanish Instruction:

- Changes in the Spanish curriculum will be implemented next school year.

Integration of Ecology:

- A grant was offered to the Elementary School to start a worm farm.

Fostering Healthy Life Choices:

- Teaching our students healthy life choices and nutrition habits, will remain a priority across all

four of our schools.

Planning and Using the Workshop Model:

- The summer school lessons are designed to ensure implementation of the mini-workshop model.

Recruitment and Enrollment Efforts:

- The administrative team is recruiting and recommending hiring of candidates to ensure all open positions are filled prior to the start of 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 Dr. Sarah Brewster VP of Board of Trustees in the absence of Ms. Knox, Director of Finance and Operations.

Benchmark 4: Financial Condition

- Related to our tuition billing, 16 out of 28 school districts have paid in full the tuition owed to our school for 2025-2026. Since billing 6 of six was sent out there were some enrollment changes in June that caused invoices to be revised for several school districts including Hempstead and Uniondale which leave some pending balances owed for this school year. We have four school districts that are late paying by two billing cycles. Those districts are Bellmore-Merrick, Elmont, Roosevelt and West Hempstead. We are currently finalizing billing 1 of 6 for the 2026-2027 school year and are planning to send it out by July 15, 2026.

Benchmark 5: Financial Management

- All financial reports from July 2025 through June 2026 have been submitted to our Board of Directors and School Administrators including all bank reconciliations.

- Copies of June'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 May to June. For American Express we paid $5,513.06 and for Home Depot we paid $3,823.86. Our American Express June's statement show a total of 375,914 reward points.

- We are finalizing all claims for meals served to students during the month of June and expect to submit the claims to the Child Nutrition Administration by July 15, 2026.

Benchmark 9: Enrollment

- We continued to enroll new students as spaces become available.

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 June 22, 2026

Motion: Trustee Sarah Brewster
Second: Trustee Yvonne Mowatt
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 Lead Teachers for the 2026-2027 school year.

    - Ms. Bridget Venegas- Kindergarten Lead Teacher
    - Ms. Elena Chwat- First Grade Lead Teacher
    - Ms. Ashley Richards- Support Staff Lead Teacher
    - Mr. Daniel Levitan- Special Subject Area Lead Teacher

Motion: Trustee Gladys Rodriguez
Second: Trustee Nancy Iglesias
Vote: 6:0

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

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

3) Resolved, the Board of Trustees approves the following policies:

Dr. Litescu, Superintendent, is requesting approval to revise the following policies/codes of conduct:

- Student Code of Conduct,
- Teacher Manual

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

4) Resoled, the Board of Trustees approves the modification to school uniforms

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

5) **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
Clara Cantador Hornero	Music Teacher	33 Laurel Ave	TBD
Daph Jean Pierre	Summer Intern	Peninsula	TBD
Pablo Tenorio Garcia	Data, Attendance, & Assessment Clerk	Business Office	07/06/26
Madison Parrillo	ELA 7-8th grade Teacher	33 Laurel Ave	TBD
Kathryn Kasarci	4th grade Special Education Teacher	Front St	TBD
Sandra Mosca	2nd grade Math AIS Teacher	Front St	TBD
Ines Romero Huertas	PT-Foreign Spanish Program	TBD	TBD
Elizabeth Diachok	JHS Special Education	33 Laurel Ave	TBD
Thomas Oliveri	HS Computer Science	33 Laurel Ave	TBD
Neelab Sayah	Kindergarden Teacher	TBD	TBD
Gioanna Perna	K-1 Tech & Science	K-1	TBD

Employee Position and Salary Changes:

Name	Current Position	New Position	Building	Effective
Emma Gehrig	Teacher	AIS/Math Teacher	Loretto	08/17/26
JingXuan Zhang	PT-Music Teacher	FT- Music Teacher	Peninsula	08/17/26
Taylor Caggiano	Special Education Teacher	Dean of Students (7-12 grades)	Laurel Ave	08/17/26
Susan L. Neuberger	Special Education Teacher	Substitute Teacher	Front St	08/17/26
Mary LaSpagnoletta	Substitute Teacher	AIS/ELA Teacher	Front St	08/17/26
Manel Farfan De Los Godos Pomar	Spanish Teacher	Choir Spanish Music Teacher	Front St	08/17/26
Debra T. Dearie	ELA Teacher	AIS/ELA Teacher	Loretto	08/17/26
Kristen M. Bischoff	Teacher	Math 6th Grade Teacher	Loretto	08/17/26
Nicole J. Carolan	ELA Teacher	ENL Teacher	Loretto	08/17/26
Pardeep Loey	Math Teacher	Permanent Substitute Teacher	Loretto	08/17/26
Daniel Chavez	Art Teacher	Substitute Teacher	Loretto	08/17/26
Samantha E. Antoine	Teacher	1st Grade Floater	Peninsula	08/17/26
Wajeeha S. Hamidi	Permanent Substitute Teacher	AIS/ELA Teacher	Peninsula	08/17/26
Bettyna Brutus	Nurse	Nurse	33 Laurel Ave	08/17/26
Mariela D. Acosta Matias	Social Worker	Social Worker	Front St	08/17/26
Joseph Pena	Dean of Students	Dean of Students	Front St	08/17/26
Edward Olson	Physical Education	Physical Education	33 Laurel Ave	08/17/26
Lindsay G. Siefert	Permanent Sub Teacher	Permanent Sub Teacher	Loretto	08/17/26
Brian Hillman	Director of Curriculum& Instruction	Assistant Superintendent	Front St	07/01/26

Building Location Changes:

Name	Position	Current Building	New Building	Effective
Bettyna Brutus	Nurse	Front St	33 Laurel Ave	08/17/26
Emma Gehrig	Teacher	33 Laurel Ave	Loretto	08/17/26
Mariela D. Acosta Matias	Social Worker	33 Laurel Ave	Front St	08/17/26

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

6) Resolved, the Board of Trustees approves the following ACH Payments

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

7) Resolved the Board of Trustees approves ROC

Motion: Trustee Yvonne Mowatt
Second: Trustee Sarah Brewster

Vote: 6:0

8) Resolved the Board of Trustees approves insurance policy renewals:

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

9) Resolved the Board of Trustees approves renewal of its 403 b plan

Motion: Trustee Nancy Iglesias
Second: Trustee Sarah Brewster
Vote: 6:0

10) Resolved the Board of Trustees approves H/R PTO

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

11) **Resolved,** the Board of Trustees approves the Board appointments for a three-year term:

Gil Bernardino, President of the Board of Trustees
Nancy Iglesias-Gillen, Treasurer of the Board of Trustees
Luis Ras, Member of the Board of Trustees

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

12) Resolved the board of Trustees approves its annual report.

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

XIII. Questions

There were none.

XIV. Additional Reports By President Bernardino

Updates:

Dr. Brewster wished everyone a healthy and happy summer.

XV. Motion to Go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters leading to the appointment, or dismissal of a particular person or persons, matters concerning proposed, pending or current litigation, and matters involving Civil Service Law, Article 14.

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

XVI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:25

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

Minutes submitted by:

Gladys Rodriguez
Secretary of the Board of Trustee