



# Environmental Charter Schools

## Board of Directors' Meeting

In-Person at ECS Home Office

### Date and Time

Thursday September 21, 2023 at 5:00 PM PDT

### Location

**In-person location:** ECS Home Office - 2625 Manhattan Beach Blvd #100, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

**Two-way teleconference locations:** 1100 Shasta Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126 / 10807 E. 31st S, Independence, MO 64052 / 4161 W 147th St., Lawndale, CA 90260

ECS Board Members	Term	and	End Date
Mr. Anthony Jowid, President.....	3 years		June 30, 2025
Dr. Betsy Hamilton, Vice President.....	3 years		June 30, 2025
Dr. Denise Berger, Secretary.....	3 years		June 30, 2026
Ms. Zena Fong.....	3 years		June 30, 2026
Ms. Jenina Ramirez.....	3 years		June 30, 2024
Dr. Madhu Chatwani.....	3 years		June 30, 2026
Mr. Kennedy Hilario.....	3 years		June 30, 2026
Mr. Herb Sims.....	3 years		June 30, 2025
Mr. Mason Williams.....	3 years		June 30, 2025
Lawndale Elementary School District Representative, Rotating Position			

### ECS Staff

- Ms. Farnaz Golshani-Flechner, Superintendent
- Ms. Danielle Kelsick, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction
- Ms. Tracy Bondi, Director of Finance

Mr. Jeremiah David, Director of Compliance & Operations  
Ms. Sarah Jamieson, Director of Human Resources  
Ms. Jen Fenton, Director of Strategic Initiatives  
Dr. Shalene Wright, Director of Student Services  
Ms. Lucia Bañuelos, Principal at ECHS-Lawndale  
Dr. Geneva Matthews, Principal at ECMS-Inglewood  
Mr. Dave Trejo, Principal at ECMS-Gardena  
Dr. Cindy Guardado, Principal at ECHS-Gardena

**Mission:**

Reimagine public education in low-income communities of color to prepare conscious, critical thinkers who are equipped to graduate from college and create a more equitable and sustainable world.

**Values:**

JUSTICE - We examine bias, racism, and prejudice. We deliver culturally-responsive curricula. We succeed when students' race and class cease to predict their level of achievement.

COMMUNITY - We care. We collaborate. We respect the rights and voices of our stakeholders.

CURIOSITY - We question. We explore. We innovate.

SUSTAINABILITY - We think globally and act locally. We adapt. We encourage systems thinking to create a sustainable future.

LEADERSHIP - We listen. We think critically. We advocate. We shift public discourse. We are our own superheroes.

**THE ORDER OF BUSINESS MAY BE CHANGED WITHOUT NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the order of consideration of matters on this agenda may be changed without prior notice.

**PUBLIC SPEAKERS AT BOARD MEETINGS**

Notice is hereby given that consistent with the requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act, special presentations not mentioned in the agenda may be made at this meeting. However, any such presentation will be for information only. The public should be aware that the Board is unable by law to deliberate or take action on items raised during the Presentations from the Floor section.

Environmental Charter Schools recognizes that it benefits greatly from public input and perspective. Individuals are invited to address the Board on any topic or subject matter that falls within the Environmental Charter

School's purview. Speakers may sign up in person immediately prior to the beginning of the Board meeting by turning in a Speaker Form (available at the check-in table in English and Spanish).

Should a member of the public wish to speak on matters not listed on the agenda, they may speak during the Presentations from the Floor section of the agenda. Speakers will be given a maximum of three (3) minutes each to address the Board (non-English speakers utilizing translators will be given a maximum of six (6) minutes each). Please note that the Board allows a maximum of 10 minutes to each subject as determined by the Board's presiding officer.

Should a member of the public wish to speak on matters listed on the agenda, they may speak during the Presentations from the Floor section of the agenda. Speakers will be given a maximum of five (5) minutes each to address the Board (non-English speakers utilizing translators will be given a maximum of ten (10) minutes each).

The public should be aware that the Board is unable by law to deliberate or take action on items raised during the Presentations from the Floor section.

**REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY**

Pursuant to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting of the Governing Board may request assistance by contacting ECS at (310) 214-3408, option 5.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For more information concerning this agenda or for materials relating to this meeting, please contact ECS at (310) 214-3408, option 5. Previous board meeting minutes may be viewed on the Board On Track public portal website at <https://app2.boardontrack.com/public/3tHo3u/home>.

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**Agenda**

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<b>I. Opening Items</b>			<b>5:00 PM</b>
Opening Items			
<b>A. Record attendance and guests</b>		Anthony Jowid	1 m
	• Thelma Gonzalez, Lawndale Elementary School District, Director of Student Support Services ( <a href="https://www.lawndalesd.net/sss">https://www.lawndalesd.net/sss</a> )		
<b>B. Call the Meeting to Order</b>		Anthony Jowid	1 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<b>C.</b> Approve the agenda	Vote	Anthony Jowid	1 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Versión en español</a></li> </ul>			
<b>D.</b> Opener	Discuss	Farnaz Golshani-Flechner	15 m
<b>II. Presentations from the Floor</b>			<b>5:18 PM</b>
<b>A.</b> Presentations from the floor on non-agenda Items	FYI		6 m
<p>Should a member of the public wish to speak on matters not listed on the agenda, they may speak during the Presentations from the Floor section of the agenda. Speakers will be given a maximum of three (3) minutes each to address the Board (non-English speakers utilizing translators will be given a maximum of six (6) minutes each).</p>			
<b>B.</b> Presentations from the floor on agenda items	FYI		6 m
<p>Should a member of the public wish to speak on matters listed on the agenda, they may speak during the Presentations from the Floor section of the agenda. Speakers will be given a maximum of five (5) minutes each to address the Board (non-English speakers utilizing translators will be given a maximum of ten (10) minutes each).</p>			
<b>III. Discussion Items / Updates</b>			<b>5:30 PM</b>
<b>A.</b> ECHS-Lawndale College Presentation and Alumni Tracking Update	FYI	ECHS-L Counselors	20 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECHS-Lawndale College Presentation and Alumni Tracking Update</li> </ul>			
<b>B.</b> A-G Improvement Grant Plan Presentation	FYI	Danielle Kelsick	5 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">A-G Improvement Grant Plan Presentation</a></li> </ul>			
<b>C.</b> 23/24 EdTec Financial Update and Revised Budgets Presentation	FYI	Dorothy Lee & Farnaz Golshani-Flechner	15 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">22/23 financial review and 23/24 forecast</a></li> </ul>			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <a href="#">ECHS-L 22/23 Unaudited Actuals vs Forecast</a></li> <li>◦ <a href="#">ECMS-G 22/23 Unaudited Actuals vs Forecast</a></li> <li>◦ <a href="#">ECMS-I 22/23 Unaudited Actuals vs Forecast</a></li> <li>◦ <a href="#">ECHS-G 22/23 Unaudited Actuals vs Forecast</a></li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23/24 revised budgets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <a href="#">ECHS-Lawndale</a></li> <li>◦ <a href="#">ECMS-Gardena</a></li> <li>◦ <a href="#">ECMS-Inglewood</a></li> <li>◦ <a href="#">ECHS-Gardena</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Student Outreach and Retention Efforts Update</a></li> </ul>		
<b>D.</b>	EEU and ECS Sunshine Proposals (informational items)	FYI	2 m
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">EEU Sunshine Proposal</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ECS Sunshine Proposal</a></li> </ul>		
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Action Item</b>		<b>6:12 PM</b>
<b>A.</b>	Designate Labor Representative (Gov't Code § 54957.6.)  Representative: Robert Escalante	Vote	2 m
		Farnaz Golshani-Flechner	
<b>V.</b>	<b>Consent Items A-I</b>		<b>6:14 PM</b>
<b>A.</b>	Approve 8/3/2023 board meeting minutes	Approve Minutes	3 m
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">8/3/2023 board meeting minutes</a></li> </ul>		
<b>B.</b>	Approve 9/15/2023 Finance Committee meeting minutes	Vote	
		Jeremiah David	

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">9/15/2023 Finance Committee meeting minutes</a></li> </ul>
<b>C.</b>	Approve private donations over \$1,000 as recommended by Finance Committee	Vote	Farnaz Golshani-Flechner
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">List of private donations over \$1,000</a></li> </ul>
<b>D.</b>	Approve check registers and credit card statements as recommended by Finance Committee	Vote	Tracy Bondi & Sarahai Garibay

**ECS management certification:** ECS management attests to having reviewed and approved the individual line items on the attached check registers and credit card statements in accordance with current ECS Financial Policies.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check registers: <a href="#">May 2023</a>, <a href="#">June 2023</a>, <a href="#">July 2023</a></li> <li>Credit card statements: <a href="#">May 2023</a>, <a href="#">June 2023</a>, <a href="#">July 2023</a></li> </ul>
<b>E.</b>	Approve Unaudited Actuals for ECHS-L, ECMS-I, ECMS-G, ECHS-G as recommended by Finance Committee	Vote	Tracy Bondi
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">ECHS-Lawndale</a></li> <li><a href="#">ECMS-Gardena</a></li> <li><a href="#">ECMS-Inglewood</a></li> <li><a href="#">ECHS-Gardena</a></li> </ul>
<b>F.</b>	Approve contracts	Vote	Jeremiah David
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">ECMSG - Pali Institute 6th Grade Outdoor Education Trip - Fall 2023</a> - Staff analysis: contract cost within school outdoor education budget.</li> <li><a href="#">ECMSG - Pali Institute 7th Grade Outdoor Education Trip - Fall 2023</a> - Staff analysis: contract cost within school outdoor education budget.</li> </ol>		

**As recommended by Finance Committee**

- [ECMSG - Pali Institute 8th Grade Outdoor Education Trip - Spring 2024](#)

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
	- Staff analysis: contract cost within school outdoor education budget.		
4.	<a href="#">ECS - PowerSchool Contract Renewal 2023-2024</a>		
	- Staff analysis: student information system software contract renewal increase of ~6% from previous year to account for inflationary pressures.		
5.	<a href="#">ECS - SchoolZilla Contract Renewal 2023-2024</a>		
	- Staff analysis: student data visualization software contract renewal per-student cost is flat from previous year.		
6.	<a href="#">ECHSL - NatureBridge 12th Grade Outdoor Education Trip Contract - Fall 2023</a>		
	- Staff analysis: contract cost within school outdoor education budget.		
<b>G.</b>	Approve Parent-Student Handbooks	Vote	ECS Principals
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">ECHS-Lawndale</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ECMS-Gardena</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ECMS-Inglewood</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ECHS-Gardena</a></li> </ul>		
<b>H.</b>	Approve LACOE Certification of Signatures 2023-2024	Vote	Jeremiah David
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">LACOE Certification of Signatures 2023-2024</a></li> </ul>		
<b>I.</b>	Approve revised ECMS-G Academic Calendar 2023-2024	Vote	Danielle Kelsick
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Revised ECMS-G Academic Calendar 2023-2024</a> (including Year to Year Comparison) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The team revised the bell schedule to better address stakeholder feedback about the need for 2 additional minimum days to support teacher wellness (10/6 and 4/26)</li> <li>◦ The result is a reduction in the total number of instructional minutes from 62,775 to 62,525.</li> <li>◦ The school's total number of instructional minutes still exceeds the CDE's minimum requirement by 8,525 minutes.</li> <li>◦ The adjusted total instructional minutes exceeds the figure for last year</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<b>VI. Action Item</b>			<b>6:17 PM</b>
<b>A.</b> Approve revised budgets for all sites as recommended by Finance Committee	Vote	Tracy Bondi & Farnaz Golshani-Flechner	3 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attached in Discussion Items / Updates Item III.C</li> </ul>			
<b>VII. Upcoming Dates/Announcements</b>			<b>6:20 PM</b>
<b>A.</b> Next ECS Board Meeting	FYI	Farnaz Golshani-Flechner	1 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November 30, 2023 at 5pm (in-person board meeting)</li> </ul>			
<b>B.</b> Next ECS Committee Meetings	FYI	Farnaz Golshani-Flechner	1 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance Committee - October 10, 2023 at 10:30am</li> <li>• Audit Committee - December 6, 2023 at 1:00pm</li> <li>• Finance Committee - January 19, 2024 at 8:30am</li> <li>• Facilities Committee - April 24, 2024 at 4:30pm</li> </ul>			
<b>C.</b> Appreciations	Discuss	All Attendees	2 m
<b>VIII. Transition to Closed Session</b>			<b>6:24 PM</b>
<b>A.</b> Adjourn to Closed Session	Vote	Anthony Jowid	1 m
<b>IX. Closed Session</b>			<b>6:25 PM</b>
<b>A.</b> CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL— ANTICIPATED LITIGATION	Discuss		10 m
Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: 1			
<b>B.</b> CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Gov't Code §54957.6)	Discuss		10 m
Agency Designated Representative: Robert Escalante			



Purpose

Presenter

Time

Employee Organization: Environmental Educators United

**X. Report Out of Closed Session**

**6:45 PM**

**A.** Report Out

FYI

Anthony Jowid

1 m

**XI. Closing Items**

**6:46 PM**

**A.** Adjourn Meeting

Vote

Anthony Jowid

1 m