



Environmental Charter Schools

Board of Directors' Meeting

In-Person at ECS Home Office

Date and Time

Thursday February 27, 2025 at 5:00 PM PST

Location

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

Two-way teleconference locations: 723 Main Street Houston, TX 77002 | 13885 Dogleg Lane, Broomfield, CO 80023

ECS Board Members	Term	and	End Date
Dr. Betsy Hamilton, President.....	3 years		June 30, 2025
Dr. Denise Berger,	3 years		June 30, 2026
Mr. Anthony Jowid.....	3 years		June 30, 2025
Ms. Zena Fong.....	3 years		June 30, 2026
Ms. Jenina Ramirez.....	3 years		June 30, 2027
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
Mr. Andrew Ellenbogen.....	3 years		June 30, 2026
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 SpEd & English Language Development
Mr. Cesar Delgado, Director of Student Wellness
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>.

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			5:00 PM
Opening Items			
A. Record attendance and guests		Dr. Betsy Hamilton	1 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Howard Ho, Asst. Superintendent of Business Services (https://www.lawndalesd.net/departments/business-services) 			
B. Call the Meeting to Order		Dr. Betsy Hamilton	1 m
C. Approve the agenda	Vote	Dr. Betsy Hamilton	1 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Versión en español 			
D. Opener	Discuss	Farnaz Golshani-Flechner	5 m
II. Presentations from the Floor			5:08 PM
A. Presentations from the floor on non-agenda Items	FYI		10 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. Presentations from the floor on agenda items	FYI		10 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>			
III. Discussion Items / Updates			5:28 PM
A. EdTec financial update	FYI	Dorothy Lee & Jair Ventura	20 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EdTec financial update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECHS-L financial statements ECMS-G financial statements ECMS-I financial statements ECHS-G financial statements 			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
B. LCAP midyear update report	Discuss	Jen Fenton	20 m

- LCAP midyear update report
 - [All available outcome and implementation data](#)
 - [All available expenditure data](#)

IV. Consent Items A-H 6:08 PM

A. Approve 12/12/2024 board meeting minutes	Approve Minutes	Jeremiah David	3 m
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- [12/12/2024 board meeting minutes](#)

B. Approve check registers and credit card statements	Vote	Tracy Bondi / Sarahai Garibay	
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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 ECS Financial Policies.

- Check registers: [November 2024](#), [December 2024](#), [January 2025](#)
- Credit card statements: [November 2024](#), [December 2024](#), [January 2025](#)

C. Approve private donations over \$1,000	Vote	Jen Fenton	
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- [Private donations over \\$1,000](#)

D. Approve contracts	Vote	Jeremiah David	
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1. [ECMSG](#) and [ECHSG](#) - Upward Bound School SELPA Master Contracts 2024-25

1. Staff analysis: SELPA Master Contracts for Nonpublic School (NPS) vetted by Dr. Shalene Wright, Director of SpEd and English Language Development.

2. [ECMSG](#) - Switzer Learning Center SELPA Master Contract 2024-25

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
	1. Staff analysis: SELPA Master Contract for Nonpublic School (NPS) vetted by Dr. Shalene Wright, Director of SpEd and English Language Development.		
	3. ECMSG and ECMSI Pali Institute 6th Grade Outdoor Education Trip Contracts - Fall 2025		
	1. Staff analysis: contract costs are in line with previous Pali Institute contracts and within school outdoor education budgets.		
E.	Accept ECHS-Gardena LACOE Instructional Program Review	Vote	Dr. Cindy Guardado & Danielle Kelsick
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECHS-Gardena LACOE Instructional Program Review 		
F.	Approve Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation MOA Amendment #1 to extend for an additional four years	Vote	Jeremiah David
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment No. 1 to Memorandum of Agreement with ECS for school-sponsored recreation at county facilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Purpose: to renew ECS school use of LA County parks and facilities as Community Program Partner per updated Exhibit B for additional four years. 		
G.	Approve updated Comprehensive School Safety Plans for ECHS-L, ECMS-I, ECMS-G, ECHS-G	Vote	Jeremiah David
	<p>Updates include: 1) emergency plan staffing details and contact phone numbers, 2) Instructional Continuity Plans (Section 4.8) in compliance with California Education Code 32282 (effective July 1, 2025).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECHS-Lawndale • ECMS-Gardena • ECMS-Inglewood • ECHS-Gardena 		
H.	Approve revised ECS Academic Calendars 2024-25	Vote	Danielle Kelsick

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
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- [Comparison chart and summary of updates](#)
- [ECHS-Lawndale](#)
- [ECMS-Gardena](#)
- [ECMS-Inglewood](#)
- [ECHS-Gardena](#)

V.	Action Items		6:11 PM
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A.	Approve Second Interim Financial Reports for ECHS-L, ECMS-I, ECMS-G, ECHS-G	Vote	Dorothy Lee & Tracy Bondi	10 m
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- Second Interim Financial Reports
 - [ECHS-Lawndale](#)
 - [ECMS-Gardena](#)
 - [ECMS-Inglewood](#)
 - [ECHS-Gardena](#)

B.	Approve contracts for ECS Environmental Leaders Pathway Program	Vote	Alison Diaz	15 m
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1. [El Camino College - College and Career Access Pathways Partnership \(CCAP\) Agreement](#)
2. [Climate Action Pathways for Schools \(CAPS\) Agreement](#)
3. [South Bay Workforce Investment Board - Services Proposal for ECHS](#)
4. [South Bay Workforce Investment Board - Youth @ Work Worksite Agreement](#)

VI.	Upcoming Dates/Announcements		6:36 PM
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A.	Next ECS Board Meeting	FYI	Farnaz Golshani-Flechner	1 m
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- Thursday, May 15, 2025 @ 5pm

B.	Next ECS Committee Meetings	FYI	Farnaz Golshani-Flechner	1 m
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- Finance Committee - June 13, 2025 @ 8:30am

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
C. Appreciations	Discuss	All Attendees	1 m
VII. Transition to Closed Session			6:39 PM
A. Adjourn to Closed Session	Vote	Dr. Betsy Hamilton	1 m
VIII. Closed Session			6:40 PM
A. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT (Gov't Code § 54957)	Discuss	Superintendent Search Committee of ECS Board	20 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title of position to be filled: Superintendent of Environmental Charter Schools. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Discussion topics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of candidate qualifications. ▪ Consideration of internal and external candidates. ▪ Determination of finalist(s) for the position. ▪ Discussion of effective appointment date and transition planning. ▪ Preliminary review of proposed compensation and terms of employment. 			
B. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Gov't Code §54957.6)	FYI		5 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency Negotiator: Dr. Betsy Hamilton • Unrepresented Employee: Superintendent 			
C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Gov't Code § 54956.9)	Discuss		5 m
Name of Case: Environmental Educators United, CTA/NEA v. Environmental Charter Schools. Case No. LA-CE-6934-E.			
D. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Gov't Code §54957.6)	Discuss		5 m
Agency Designated Representative: Robert Escalante			
Employee Organization: Environmental Educators United			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
IX. Report Out of Closed Session			7:15 PM
A. Report Out	FYI	Dr. Betsy Hamilton	1 m
B. Appoint the selected candidate as Superintendent, effective on June 1, 2025.	Vote	Dr. Betsy Hamilton	2 m
C. Ratification of Superintendent's Employment Agreement, effective June 1, 2025	Vote	Dr. Betsy Hamilton	2 m
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent/CEO comparison compensation analysis (ECS is School B) • Oral Recommendation Regarding CEO's/ED's Salary and/or Fringe Benefits 	
X. Closing Items			7:20 PM
A. Adjourn Meeting	Vote	Dr. Betsy Hamilton	1 m