Environmental Charter Schools

Board of Directors' Meeting

In-Person at ECS Home Office

Date and Time

Monday November 30, 2026 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: ECMS-Gardena (812 W. 165th Place, Gardena, CA 90247) | ECMS-Inglewood (3600 W Imperial Hwy, Inglewood, CA 90303) | ECHS-Lawndale (16315 Grevillea Ave. Lawndale, CA 90260) | ECHS-Gardena (2818 Manhattan Beach Blvd, Gardena, CA 90249) | 1100 Shasta Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126 | 13885 Dogleg Lane, Broomfield, CO 80023

ECS Board Members Term and End Date
Dr. Denise Berger, President.....3 years June 30, 2029
Mr. Anthony Jowid, Vice President.....3 years June 30, 2028
Ms. Zena Fong.....3 years June 30, 2029
Mr. Kennedy Hilario.....3 years June 30, 2029
Mr. Herb Sims.....3 years June 30, 2028
Mr. Mason Williams.....3 years June 30, 2028
Mr. Andrew Ellenbogen.....3 years June 30, 2029
Mr. Remco Waller.....3 years June 30, 2028
Lawndale Elementary School District Representative, Rotating Position

ECS Staff
Ms. Danielle Kelsick, Superintendent
Ms. Lucia Bañuelos, Deputy Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Jeremiah Rosario David, Director of Compliance & Operations
Ms. Sarah Jamieson, Director of Human Resources
Ms. Jen Fenton, Director of Development & Communications
Dr. Shalene Wright, Director of Student Services
Mr. Cesar Delgado, Director of Student Wellness
Ms. Sarahai Garibay, Senior Manager of Finance
Dr. Geneva Matthews, Principal at ECMS-Inglewood
Mr. Dave Trejo, Principal at ECMS-Gardena
Dr. Beth Bernstein-Yamashiro, Principal at ECHS-Gardena
Ms. Jennifer Larsen, Principal at ECHS-Lawndale

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 regular meetings. 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 up to 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the Board meeting by turning in a Speaker Form (available at the check-in table in English and Spanish). Speaker Forms must be turned in by the time of the published start of the board meeting (e.g. 5:00 pm) in order to be added to the public comment section for that meeting.

Should a member of the public wish to speak on matters not listed on the agenda at regular meetings, they may speak during the Presentations from the Floor section of the agenda. Speakers will be given a maximum of two (2) minutes each to address the Board (non-English speakers utilizing translators will be given a maximum of four (4) minutes each). Please note that the Board allows a maximum of 16 minutes for this section, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Should a member of the public wish to speak on matters listed on the agenda, they may speak at the beginning of the specific agenda item. Speakers will be given a maximum of two (2) minutes each to address the Board (non-English speakers utilizing translators will be given a maximum of four (4) minutes each). Please note that the Board allows a maximum of 6 minutes to each agenda item on a first-come, first-served basis.

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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.

AGENDA POSTING
This agenda is posted in the exterior public display case adjacent to the side entrance of the ECS Home Office, 2625 Manhattan Beach Blvd, Suite 100, Redondo Beach, CA 90278, which is freely accessible to the public 24 hours a day, at each teleconference location listed above, and on the ECS public meeting portal.

ACCESO AL IDIOMA
Para solicitar una traducción de esta agenda o servicios de interpretación para esta reunión, comuníquese con ECS al (310) 214-3408, opción 5, con al menos 48 horas de anticipación o lo antes posible a partir de entonces.

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF AGENDA MATERIALS
Writings that are public records and are distributed to a majority of the Board in connection with an open session agenda item are available for public inspection at the ECS Home Office, 2625 Manhattan Beach Blvd, Suite 100, Redondo Beach, CA 90278, during regular business hours, and on the ECS public meeting portal. Writings distributed less than 72 hours before the meeting will be made available for public inspection at the same time

they are distributed to members of the Board. For more information concerning this agenda or for materials relating to this meeting, please contact ECS at (310) 214-3408, option 5.

Agenda

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
I.	**Opening Items**			**5:00 PM**
	Opening Items			
	A. Call the Meeting to Order		Anthony Jowid	1 m
	B. Board member roll call		Anthony Jowid	1 m
	C. Approve the agenda *Note any agenda items to be tabled or reordered.*	Vote	Anthony Jowid	1 m
	D. Opener	Discuss	Danielle Kelsick	5 m
II.	**Presentations from the Floor**			**5:08 PM**
	A. Presentations from the floor on non-agenda items	FYI		6 m
	Should a member of the public wish to speak on matters not listed on the agenda, they may speak during this section of the agenda. Speakers will be given a maximum of two (2) minutes each to address the Board (non-English speakers utilizing translators will be given a maximum of four (4) minutes each). Please note that the Board allows a maximum of 16 minutes for this section, on a first-come, first-served basis.			
	B. Presentations from the floor on agenda items	FYI		6 m
	Should a member of the public wish to speak on matters listed on the agenda, they may speak **at the beginning of the specific agenda item**. Speakers will be given a maximum of two (2) minutes each to address the Board (non-English speakers utilizing translators will be given a maximum of four (4) minutes each). Please note that the Board allows a maximum of 6 minutes to each agenda item on a first-come, first-served basis.			

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
III.	**Discussion Items/Updates**			**5:20 PM**
A.	Recognition of Dr. Betsy Hamilton's service on the ECS Board of Directors	FYI	Dr. Denise Berger	5 m

The Board will recognize Dr. Betsy Hamilton for her service on the ECS Board of Directors. Dr. Hamilton's resignation from the Board was effective September 25, 2026.

B.	Superintendent Update	FYI	Danielle Kelsick	5 m

Superintendent Danielle Kelsick will provide an update on ECS schools and operations.

C.	Committee Chairs update	FYI	Anthony Jowid, Kennedy Hilario & Andrew Ellenbogen	9 m

- Governance Committee (Chair: Anthony Jowid)
- Labor & Compensation Committee (Chair: Kennedy Hilario)
- Finance Committee (Chair: Andrew Ellenbogen)

D.	2026-27 First Interim financial presentation	Discuss	Vertex Education & Sarahai Garibay	25 m

Vertex Education and ECS staff will present the 2026-27 First Interim financial results for ECMS-Gardena, ECMS-Inglewood, ECHS-Gardena and ECHS-Lawndale. The presentation was revised after the Finance Committee's review on November 18, 2026. The Board will vote on the First Interim Reports under Action Item VI.D.

- FY 2026-27 First Interim Financial Presentation (revised 11/23/2026)
- FY27 First Interim Board Memo

IV.	**EEU Comments to the Board**			**6:04 PM**
A.	EEU Comments to the Board	FYI	EEU	5 m

EEU will be given a maximum of five (5) minutes to address the Board.

V.	**Consent Items**			**6:09 PM**

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
A.	Approve 10/26/2026 special board meeting minutes	Approve Minutes	Jeremiah Rosario David	3 m

- 10/26/2026 special board meeting minutes

B.	Approve 11/20/2026 Special Governance Committee Meeting Minutes	Approve Minutes	Jeremiah Rosario David	

- 11/20/2026 Special Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

C.	Approve 11/18/2026 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes	Approve Minutes	Jeremiah Rosario David	

- 11/18/2026 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

D.	Approve 11/4/2026 Labor & Compensation Committee Meeting Minutes	Approve Minutes	Jeremiah Rosario David	

- 11/4/2026 Labor & Compensation Committee Meeting Minutes

E.	Approve 10/28/2026 Special Governance Committee Meeting Minutes	Approve Minutes	Jeremiah Rosario David	

- 10/28/2026 Special Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

F.	Approve or ratify each FY 2026-27 contractor and payee projected over $100,000 (Ed. Code § 47605(e)(6))	Vote	Jeremiah Rosario David	

Education Code § 47605(e)(6) requires the governing board to approve, at a board meeting, any contract that would cause a charter school to compensate a contractor more than $100,000 in a fiscal year. The Staff Report and Attachment A (FY 2026-27

Contractor and Payee Schedule) list 25 payees that are over, or projected to exceed, $100,000 in FY 2026-27, totaled across all four schools.

- 13 payees are already over $100,000 ($4,992,675.10 paid to date) and are presented for ratification.
- 12 payees are projected to cross $100,000 later in the year ($721,227.43 paid to date) and are presented for approval up to each cap.
- Caps total $11,616,192.95. Each cap is a fiscal-year ceiling, not a budget appropriation. All payments remain subject to the adopted budget, the ECS Financial Policies, and the terms of each agreement.

Proposed: Ratify FY 2026-27 payments made to date to the 13 payees marked "Ratify" on Attachment A, and approve FY 2026-27 payments to all 25 payees on Attachment A up to the cap shown for each, pursuant to Education Code section 47605(e)(6).

G. Approve in arrears the Dynamic Education Services, Inc. Non-Public Agency Master Contract 2026-27 — Vote — Jeremiah Rosario David

Dynamic Education Services, Inc.: Non-Public Agency Master Contract 2026-27 (approval in arrears)

- Staff Analysis: Special education services provided by a certified non-public agency as required. Executed October 22, 2026. Not to exceed $21,000 through October 15, 2028.

Proposed: Approve in arrears the Dynamic Education Services, Inc. Non-Public Agency Master Contract 2026-27 (executed October 22, 2026) for special education services, not to exceed $21,000 through October 15, 2028.

H. Approve Teachers on Special Assignment for 2026-27 School Year (Board Policy 32188; Ed. Code § 44258.3) — Vote — Jeremiah Rosario David

Education Code § 44258.3 allows the governing board to authorize a credentialed teacher to teach departmentalized classes in grades 9 and below in a subject in which the teacher has the required coursework, with the teacher's consent. Board Policy 32188 implements this authority for ECS.

		Purpose	Presenter	Time

1. R. Gress, ECMS-Gardena, Social Science
2. E. Lopez, ECMS-Inglewood, Social Science

Proposed: Approve the Teachers on Special Assignment for the 2026-27 school year as presented.

I.	Accept the LACOE 2025-26 End-of-Year Governance Review and End-of-Year Instructional Program Reviews for ECHS-Gardena, ECMS-Gardena and ECMS-Inglewood	Vote	Jeremiah Rosario David	

The Los Angeles County Office of Education, as authorizer, completed its 2025-26 End-of-Year oversight reviews (Ed. Code § 47604.32):

1. End-of-Year Governance Review 2025-26
2. End-of-Year Instructional Program Review: ECHS-Gardena
3. End-of-Year Instructional Program Review: ECMS-Gardena
4. End-of-Year Instructional Program Review: ECMS-Inglewood

Proposed: Accept the LACOE 2025-26 End-of-Year Governance Review and End-of-Year Instructional Program Reviews for ECHS-Gardena, ECMS-Gardena and ECMS-Inglewood.

J.	Approve revised 2026-27 Board & Committee Calendar	Vote	Jeremiah Rosario David	

Revisions:

1. Added: Monday, January 25, 2027 regular Board meeting;
2. Designated: the June 21, 2027 regular Board meeting as the Annual Meeting.

Proposed: Approve the revised 2026-27 ECS Board & Committee Calendar as presented.

K.	Approve revision to ECS Financial Policies Sections I.A and I.B: Board approval threshold for contract renewals raised to more than	Vote	Jeremiah Rosario David	

	Purpose	Presenter	Time

$25,000 per year, as recommended by the Finance Committee

Financial Policies Sections I.A and I.B.2 require Board approval of professional consulting services and other goods and services contracts exceeding $15,000 annually. On November 18, 2026, the Finance Committee recommended raising the threshold for renewals of existing contracts to more than $25,000 per year. New contracts remain at more than $15,000 per year.

Contracts that would cause ECS to pay a contractor more than $100,000 in a fiscal year still require Board approval under Ed. Code § 47605(e)(6).

Attachment: ECS Financial Policies (rev. 9/15/2025)

Proposed: Amend ECS Financial Policies Sections I.A and I.B to require Board approval of renewals of existing contracts exceeding $25,000 per year, and keep the Board approval threshold for new contracts at more than $15,000 per year.

VI. Action Items — 6:12 PM

A.	Adopt the Sixth Amended Bylaws, contingent and effective upon authorizer written consent under Bylaws Art. XII, as recommended by the Governance Committee	Vote	Jeremiah Rosario David	5 m

The proposed Sixth Amended Bylaws are presented as a redline against the current Bylaws, with a Reader's Guide summarizing each change. Under Bylaws Article XII, amendments to the Bylaws require the written consent of the authorizer. Adoption is contingent upon, and effective with, that written consent.

Attachments: Sixth Amended Bylaws (redline) and Bylaws Reader's Guide.

Proposed: Adopt the Sixth Amended Bylaws as presented, contingent upon and effective with authorizer written consent under Bylaws Article XII.

B.	Elect Dr. Rosa Isiah to the ECS Board (Hamilton seat) for a term ending June 30, 2028, as recommended by the Governance Committee	Vote	Anthony Jowid	3 m

The Governance Committee recommends electing Dr. Rosa Isiah to the seat vacated by Dr. Betsy Hamilton, whose resignation was effective September 25, 2026, for a term ending June 30, 2028.

		Purpose	Presenter	Time

This item replaces the October 26, 2026 election, which was void because Dr. Isiah was an interested person under Bylaws Art. II.C.3 on that date. The election is effective when the Art. II.C.3 amendment adopted under Item VI.A takes effect with authorizer written consent (Bylaws Art. XII).

Dr. Isiah attends as a member of the public. Quorum is 5 of 9.

Proposed: Find that the October 26, 2026 election of Dr. Rosa Isiah was void under Bylaws Art. II.C.3, and elect Dr. Rosa Isiah to the ECS Board of Directors for a term ending June 30, 2028, effective when the Art. II.C.3 amendment adopted under Item VI.A takes effect with authorizer written consent under Bylaws Art. XII.

C.	Approve 2026-27 Compensation Adjustments for Non-Unit Employees, as recommended by the Labor & Compensation Committee	Vote	Danielle Kelsick	3 m

On November 4, 2026, the Labor & Compensation Committee voted 5-0 to recommend the following 2026-27 compensation adjustments for non-unit employees, effective July 1, 2026:

1. Campus Engineer salary scale;
2. Non-Represented Staff Stipend List;
3. Behavior and Climate Differential;
4. Climate and Culture Assistants placed on the Paraeducator salary scale.

Attachments: Labor & Compensation Committee presentation (11/4/2026) and revised ECS Salary Scales/Schedules Compensation (redlined).

Proposed: Approve the 2026-27 compensation adjustments for non-unit employees as recommended by the Labor & Compensation Committee, effective July 1, 2026.

D.	Approve 2026-27 First Interim Reports for ECMS-Gardena, ECMS-Inglewood, ECHS-Gardena and ECHS-Lawndale (Ed. Code § 47604.33(a)(3)), as recommended by the Finance Committee	Vote	Sarahai Garibay	5 m

Education Code § 47604.33(a)(3) requires each charter school to submit a First Interim financial report, reflecting changes through October 31, to its chartering

authority and the county superintendent of schools by December 15. On November 18, 2026, the Finance Committee reviewed the First Interim Reports and recommended Board approval. Vertex Education presents them under Item III.D, with a one-page Board memo summarizing the results.

1. ECMS-Gardena: First Interim Report (Form 62); First Interim vs. FY 2026-27 Budget
2. ECMS-Inglewood: First Interim Report (Form 62); First Interim vs. FY 2026-27 Budget
3. ECHS-Gardena: First Interim Report (Form 62); First Interim vs. FY 2026-27 Budget
4. ECHS-Lawndale: First Interim Report (Form 62); First Interim vs. FY 2026-27 Budget

Proposed: Approve the 2026-27 First Interim Reports for ECMS-Gardena, ECMS-Inglewood, ECHS-Gardena and ECHS-Lawndale as presented.

E. Public Hearing and Adoption of the Amended ECS Conflict of Interest Code (Gov. Code §§ 87306, 87311) — Vote — Jeremiah Rosario David — 5 m

Government Code § 87306.5 requires ECS to review its Conflict of Interest Code every two years. Following the 2026 biennial review, staff proposes amendments to the Code. The Board will hold a public hearing, then consider adoption of the amended Code (Gov. Code §§ 87306, 87311). The adopted Code will be submitted to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the code reviewing body, for approval.

Attachments: Proposed Amended Conflict of Interest Code (clean) and Proposed Amended Conflict of Interest Code (redline).

Proposed: Following the public hearing, adopt the amended ECS Conflict of Interest Code as presented and direct staff to submit it to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors as the code reviewing body.

VII. Upcoming Dates/Announcements — 6:33 PM

A. Upcoming board and committee meetings and events — FYI — Danielle Kelsick — 2 m

Board meeting:

		Purpose	Presenter	Time

• Monday, January 25, 2027 @ 5pm

Committee meetings:

• Special Finance (Audit) Committee: mid-January 2027, date to be announced
• Governance Committee: Wednesday, January 20, 2027 @ 3pm
• Labor & Compensation Committee: Wednesday, February 3, 2027 @ 3pm
• Finance Committee: Wednesday, February 17, 2027 @ 1pm

B.	Appreciations	Discuss	All attendees	1 m
C.	Adjourn to Closed Session	FYI	Anthony Jowid	1 m

Before recessing, the chair announces each closed session item (Gov. Code § 54957.7(a)) and identifies the agency designated representatives for Item VIII.B (Gov. Code § 54957.6(a)).

VIII. Closed Session — 6:37 PM

A.	CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Government Code § 54956.9(d)(1))	Discuss	5 m

Name of Case: JOHN DOE 7148 v. Environmental Charter Middle School. Case No. 25TRCV02819.

Name of Case: OAH Case No. 2026090128.

B.	CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Gov. Code § 54957.6)	Discuss	45 m

Agency designated representatives: Danielle Kelsick, Superintendent; Lucia Bañuelos, Deputy Superintendent of Schools; Robert Escalante, ACLIENT PC

Employee organization: Environmental Educators United/CTA/NEA

IX. Closing Items — 7:27 PM

A.	Report out of any action taken in Closed Session	FYI	Anthony Jowid	1 m

The chair reports any action taken in closed session and the vote or abstention of members present.

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
B.	Adjourn Meeting	Vote	Anthony Jowid	1 m