Environmental Charter Schools

Special Finance Committee Meeting

By Teleconference/Zoom

Date and Time

Wednesday August 19, 2026 at 1:00 PM PDT

Location

Zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84651586517?pwd=Nq7a9fgZkv9yUo1N4hMhcSeyN9favH.1&jst=2

Alternative access:

- Dial-In: 669-900-6833, Meeting ID: 84651586517, Passcode: 245035
- Two-way Teleconference Locations: 2625 Manhattan Beach Blvd, Suite 100, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 | 1656 Vorhees Ave, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 | 1341 Comstock Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90024 | 2917 P alm Ave, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
- Each teleconference location listed above is open and accessible to the public. Members of the public ma y attend and address the Committee from any listed location.

Finance Committee Members

- Andrew Ellenbogen (Chair)
- Remco Waller
- Bruce Greenspon
- Danielle Kelsick
- Sarahai Garibay

Finance Committee Charter

Financial Oversight

- Review and recommend the annual operating budget to the Board.
- Monitor organizational financial performance against budget throughout the year.
- Review long-range financial forecasts, cash flow, reserves, and financial sustainability.
- Review significant financial risks and recommend strategies to mitigate those risks.
- Monitor compliance with financial policies, loan covenants, and other fiscal obligations.
- Promote Board financial literacy through orientation and periodic financial training.

Audit Responsibilities

Acting as the Audit Committee, the Committee shall:

- Recommend the appointment, retention, or replacement of the independent auditor.
- Oversee the annual audit process.
- Review audited financial statements, management letters, and auditor recommendations.
- Monitor management's implementation of audit findings and internal control improvements.
- Review the adequacy of financial reporting systems and internal controls.
- Oversee auditor independence, including review of audit and non-audit services.
- Recommend acceptance of the annual audit to the Board.

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 STANDING COMMITTEE 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 Committee 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 Committee on any topic or subject matter that falls within the Committee's purview. Speakers may sign up immediately prior to the beginning of the Committee meeting by speaking with the Committee Chair.

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 Committee (non-English speakers utilizing translators will be given a maximum of four (4) minutes each). Please note that the Committee 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 Committee (non-English speakers utilizing translators will be given a maximum of four (4) minutes each). Please note that the Committee allows a maximum of 6 minutes to each agenda item on a first-come, first-served basis.

The public should be aware that the Committee 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 Committee meeting 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.

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF AGENDA MATERIALS
Writings that are public records and are distributed to a majority of the Committee 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 Committee. 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**			**1:00 PM**
	Opening Items			
	A. Record attendance and guests		Andrew Ellenbogen	1 m
	B. Call the Meeting to Order		Andrew Ellenbogen	1 m

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
C.	Approve agenda	Vote	Andrew Ellenbogen	1 m
D.	Committee structure and operation	Discuss	Andrew Ellenbogen	5 m

- Andrew Ellenbogen will run the meeting as Chair
- Chair will solicit input from Committee members to achieve committee's goals as set in Committee Charter
- Chair will work with Jeremiah Rosario David or designee for agenda creation
- Brown Act rules for this Committee:
  - **This meeting is public.** Meetings are open to the public, and Open Session is recorded and publicly posted.
  - **Do not build agreement between meetings.** In between meetings, do not send emails, texts, calls, or otherwise speak with other Committee or Board members to line up a position on Committee business. Bring it to a committee or board meeting instead.
  - **Closed Session is available only where the Brown Act expressly authorizes it**, such as anticipated/existing litigation or real property negotiations, and will be agendized when it applies**.**
- Committee will create recommendations to report out at each ECS board meeting

II. Presentations from the Floor — 1:08 PM

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
A.	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 Committee (non-English speakers utilizing translators will be given a maximum of four (4) minutes each). Please note that the Committee allows a maximum of 6 minutes to each agenda item on a first-come, first-served basis.

III. Discussion Items / Updates — 1:14 PM

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
A.	Committee Charter review	Discuss	Andrew Ellenbogen	5 m

- ECS Finance Committee Charter
  - Purpose, "shall" responsibilities, "may" authorities, and "shall not" limits.
  - Discuss any proposed revisions.

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
B.	2026-27 Committee Meeting Calendar	Discuss	Andrew Ellenbogen	5 m

- Committee Meetings before ECS Board meetings on 8/24/26, 12/1/26, 2/22/27, 4/19/27, 6/21/27.
    - Proposed:
        - Finance meets the week before each regular board meeting to clear statutory reporting deadlines (except for when holidays/breaks occur in the week before the board meeting)
        - Recurring meeting day and time: TBD

C.	Timeline and deliverables to the Board	Discuss	Andrew Ellenbogen	5 m

- Near term through 8/24: 2025-26 unaudited actuals for all four LEAs
- Medium term through 12/1: First Interim reports for all four LEAs, FY26 audit report acceptance, FY27 auditor engagement
- February 2027: Second Interim reports for all four LEAs
- March 2027: ECS Board of Directors oversees selection of the independent auditor. By March 13, annual submission to LACOE of the audit firm cover letter, Board minutes approving the audit firm, and the fully executed contract.
- April 2027: 2027-28 budget development assumptions, multi-year projections, enrollment and ADA
- June 2027: 2027-28 budgets and preliminary budget adoption, LCAP fiscal alignment
- Annual: Board financial literacy training

D.	2025-26 Unaudited Actuals and FY26 Financial Update	Discuss	Anita Amoh (Vertex Education)	25 m

- Vertex Education ECS FY26 UA Financial Update presentation
    - ECHS-L 2025-26 Unaudited Actuals vs Forecast
    - ECMS-G 2025-26 Unaudited Actuals vs Forecast
    - ECMS-I 2025-26 Unaudited Actuals vs Forecast
    - ECHS-G 2025-26 Unaudited Actuals vs Forecast
    - 2025-26 consolidated balance sheet
- 2025-26 unaudited actuals
    - ECHS-Lawndale
    - ECMS-Gardena
    - ECMS-Inglewood
    - ECHS-Gardena

	Purpose	Presenter	Time

- Private donations over $1,000 received since last acceptance, for recommendation of Board acceptance
    - List of private donations over $1,000

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
E.	Audit Committee function	Discuss	Jeremiah Rosario David	10 m

- **Independent auditor:** Christy White, Inc., San Diego. Engagement partner Marcy Kearney, CPA. Engagement letter executed 3/24/2024 covering fiscal years ending June 30, 2024, June 30, 2025, and June 30, 2026.
- **Audit report due December 15, 2026.** Christy White files directly with the Office of the State Controller, the California Department of Education, each charter authorizer, and the applicable County Superintendent of Schools. Board acceptance follows at the next meeting and is not a precondition to filing. Extensions for charter school audits are not granted by the State Controller and must be obtained through the chartering entity, in increments of up to 45 days and no more than 90 days total.
- **FY2025-26 contracted fees, not to exceed:** audit services $39,750; Federal Single Audit $6,740 if applicable; tax preparation $2,000; tax preparation for Menlo Charter Properties $2,000. Total $50,490. Prior years were $47,860 for FY2024-25 and $45,375 for FY2023-24.
- **Non-audit services and auditor independence.** Christy White prepares Form 990, California Form 199, and Form RRF-1, and assists in preparing the financial statements, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes. ECS Senior Manager of Finance oversees these services, evaluates the results, and accepts responsibility for them.
- **FY2026-27 auditor engagement.** The current term ends with FY2025-26. Any extension is year by year and requires agreement of both parties. Either party may cancel by February 15. Committee recommendation on retention or replacement should reach the Board by 2/22/27.
- **Prior year audit findings and internal control improvements:** no prior year audit findings. Per the charter petitions, any exceptions or deficiencies will require a Committee review and a Board report to LACOE describing resolution and timeline.

IV. Recommendation Items **2:04 PM**

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
A.	Recommendation items	Vote	Andrew Ellenbogen	10 m

- Recommend board approval of the 2026-27 Committee meeting calendar

	Purpose	Presenter	Time

- Recommend board approval of Committee Charter revisions (if any)
- Recommend board approval of 2025-26 unaudited actuals for ECHS-Lawndale, ECMS-Gardena, ECMS-Inglewood, and ECHS-Gardena (attached in Discussion Items / Updates III.D)
- Recommend board approval of private donations over $1,000 (attached in Discussion Items / Updates III.D)
- Confirm what to report out on the 8/24/26 Board agenda

V. Closing Items — 2:14 PM

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
A. Adjourn Meeting	Vote	Andrew Ellenbogen	1 m