Environmental Charter Schools

Finance Committee Meeting

By Teleconference/Zoom

Date and Time

Wednesday November 18, 2026 at 1:00 PM PST

Location

Zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82833457586?pwd=WZGM0KnuavDfP1GYo7qWagLkKf4gTQ.1

Alternative access:

- Dial-In: 669-900-6833, Meeting ID: 828 3345 7586, Passcode: 799618
- 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.

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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 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.	Call the Meeting to Order		Andrew Ellenbogen	1 m

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
B.	Committee member roll call		Andrew Ellenbogen	1 m
C.	Approve agenda	Vote	Andrew Ellenbogen	1 m

II. Presentations from the Floor — 1:03 PM

A.	Presentations from the floor on agenda items	FYI		6 m

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B.	Presentations from the floor on non-agenda items	FYI		6 m

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III. Discussion Items / Updates — 1:15 PM

A.	2026-27 First Interim Reports and Financial Update	Discuss	Vertex Education / ECS	30 m

Vertex Education 2026-27 First Interim Financial Update presentation

2026-27 First Interim reports: ECHS-Lawndale, ECMS-Gardena, ECMS-Inglewood, ECHS-Gardena

B.	Superintendent settlement authority	Discuss	Jeremiah Rosario David & Danielle Kelsick	5 m

Proposed revision to the ECS Financial Policies (rev. 9/15/2025), which do not currently address settlements. The revision would authorize the Superintendent, on

		Purpose	Presenter	Time

the advice of legal counsel, to settle claims and litigation for up to $50,000 per matter, with each settlement brought to the Board for approval in arrears at its next regular meeting.

Proposed: Recommend that the Board amend the ECS Financial Policies to authorize the Superintendent, on the advice of legal counsel, to settle claims and litigation for up to $50,000 per matter, with each settlement reported to the Board for approval in arrears at its next regular meeting.

C.	Contract approval thresholds	Discuss	Jeremiah Rosario David	5 m

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. The proposed revision would raise the threshold for renewals of existing contracts to more than $25,000 per year. New contracts would remain at more than $15,000 per year.

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

D.	Ramp deposit accounts for check issuance	Discuss	Sarahai Garibay	5 m

Proposal to open one Ramp deposit account for each ECS school and issue checks through Ramp Bill Pay in place of the current check printing system. Financial Policies Section II.A requires Board authorization to establish commercial bank accounts. Each school's funds would remain in a separate account (Addendum I.B).

Proposed: Recommend that the Board authorize, under Financial Policies Section II.A, the opening of one Ramp deposit account for each ECS school for the purpose of issuing checks through Ramp Bill Pay, and approve conforming revisions to Section II.A.1.

E.	Board financial reporting: content, format, and presenter	Discuss	Sarahai Garibay	15 m

Committee input on the financial updates presented at regular Board meetings: which charts and indicators are shown, which details are highlighted and which remain in the packet, who presents, and how long the update runs.

		Purpose	Presenter	Time

Potential dashboard indicators: days cash on hand, debt service coverage ratio, reserve level, operating margin, and multi-year outlook.

F.	Audit update and upcoming agenda topics	FYI	Jeremiah Rosario David & Danielle Kelsick	5 m

FY 2025-26 audit reports for all four schools are now due January 31, 2027 pursuant to AB 126. The Committee plans a special meeting in mid-January to review the draft audit report from Christy White, Inc. The Board will accept or reject the final audit report within 45 days of issuance, expected at its 2/22/2027 meeting.

Upcoming: Bargaining starts 12/15/26. The closed session (Conference with Labor Negotiators) will be held by the full Board on 11/30/26.

IV. Recommendation Items — 2:20 PM

A.	Recommendation items	Vote	Andrew Ellenbogen	4 m

1. Recommend board approval of the 2026-27 First Interim Financial Reports for ECHS-Lawndale, ECMS-Gardena, ECMS-Inglewood, and ECHS-Gardena (attached in Discussion Items / Updates III.A)
2. Recommend board approval of Financial Policies revision: Superintendent settlement authority up to $50,000 per matter, with Board approval in arrears (III.B)
3. Recommend board approval of Financial Policies revision: contract renewal approval threshold of $25,000 per year; new contracts remain at $15,000 per year (III.C)
4. Recommend board approval to open one Ramp account per school for issuing checks, with conforming Financial Policies revisions (III.D)

V. Closing Items — 2:24 PM

A.	Adjourn Meeting	Vote	Andrew Ellenbogen	1 m