Environmental Charter Schools

Special Board of Directors' Meeting

In-Person at ECMS-Gardena

Date and Time

Monday October 26, 2026 at 5:00 PM PDT

Location

In-person location: ECMS-Gardena - 812 W 165th Place, Gardena, CA 90247

Two-way teleconference locations:

- 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)
- 3513 Walnut Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 | 1100 Shasta Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126 | 795 Po plar Street, Denver, CO 80220 | 4161 W 147th St. Lawndale CA 90260

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

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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.

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.

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 agenda items 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.	FYI		
III.	**Discussion Items/Updates**			**5:08 PM**
A.	ECMS-Gardena renewal charter petition study session	Discuss	Danielle Kelsick	35 m

		Purpose	Presenter	Time

Staff will present the ECMS-Gardena renewal charter petition for the term July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2032. The Board will take no action on this item. The Board will vote on the petition under Action Item VII.A, Resolution No. 2026-02.

The following documents are attached for Board and public review:

1. ECMS-Gardena Renewal Charter Petition 2027-2032, with Appendices A-E
2. Charter Renewal Criteria: Renewal Eligibility and Verified Data
3. Reporting on Measurable Pupil Outcomes in the Current Charter Term
4. Proposed Budget: Budget Narrative and Assumptions, Multi-Year Projection, Cash Flow, Staffing, and LCFF Calculator

B.	Committee Chairs update	FYI	Anthony Jowid & Kennedy Hilario	6 m

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

C.	Elect Dr. Rosa Isiah to the ECS Board of Directors, as recommended by the Governance Committee	Vote	Anthony Jowid	4 m

The Board has two vacancies: the seat held by Dr. Madhu Chatwani, whose resignation was effective June 30, 2026, and the seat held by Dr. Betsy Hamilton, whose resignation was effective September 25, 2026.

On October 12, 2026, the Governance Committee voted 4-0 to advance Dr. Isiah in the board recruitment process, and she has since been interviewed by a Governance Committee member under the ECS board onboarding process.

Dr. Rosa Isiah is Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services at Torrance Unified School District and a former teacher and principal, including prior service at Lawndale Elementary School District.

A director elected to fill a vacancy serves the unexpired term of that seat (ECS Bylaws Article II, Section C.5.c).

Proposed: Elect Dr. Rosa Isiah to the ECS Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Betsy Hamilton, beginning October 26, 2026 and ending June 30, 2028.

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
IV.	**Informational Item**			**5:53 PM**
A.	Public Presentation and Comment: Initial Collective Bargaining Proposals of Environmental Educators United/CTA/NEA and ECS for a Successor Agreement (Gov. Code § 3547)	FYI	Danielle Kelsick	3 m

Under the Educational Employment Relations Act, made applicable to charter schools by Education Code § 47611.5, all initial proposals of the exclusive representative and the public school employer that relate to matters within the scope of representation must be presented at a public meeting of the employer and thereafter are public records (Gov. Code § 3547(a)). Negotiations may not begin until the public has had the opportunity to become informed and to express itself at a public meeting (Gov. Code § 3547(b)).

Environmental Educators United/CTA/NEA submitted its initial proposals for a successor agreement to ECS on October 14, 2026, under Article 2.4 of the collective bargaining agreement. ECS's initial proposals were presented at the October 1, 2026 special Board meeting and are presented again for public review before adoption under Action Item XII.A. Both proposals are posted at ecsonline.org/about-us/board/#sunshine-proposals.

This is an information item. The public may comment on these proposals. The Board will take no action on EEU's proposals.

- ECS Initial Proposals to Environmental Educators United/CTA/NEA
- Environmental Educators United/CTA/NEA Initial Proposals to ECS

V.	**EEU Comments to the Board**			**5:56 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. This is an information item; the Board will not deliberate or take action on this item.

VI.	**Consent Items**	**6:01 PM**

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
A.	Approve 8/24/2026 board meeting minutes	Approve Minutes	Jeremiah Rosario David	3 m

- 8/24/2026 board meeting minutes

B.	Approve 10/1/2026 special board meeting minutes	Approve Minutes	Jeremiah Rosario David	

- 10/1/2026 special board meeting minutes

C.	Approve 10/12/2026 Special Governance Committee Meeting Minutes	Approve Minutes	Jeremiah Rosario David	

- 10/12/2026 Special Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

D.	Approve 10/21/2026 Special Labor & Compensation Committee Meeting Minutes	Approve Minutes	Jeremiah Rosario David	

- 10/21/2026 Special Labor & Compensation Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Revisions since the August 24, 2026 approval:

1. Added: October 1, 2026 special Board meeting and the October 26, 2026 special Board meeting at ECMS-Gardena (812 W 165th Place, Gardena, CA 90247), the October 12, 2026 special Governance Committee meeting, and the October 21, 2026 special Labor & Compensation Committee meeting;
2. Moved: December 1, 2026 regular Board meeting to Monday, November 30, 2026 at 5:00 PM.

		Purpose	Presenter	Time

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

F.	Approve Proposition 28 Arts and Music in Schools Annual Reports for Fiscal Year 2026-27 for ECHS-L, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, and ECHS-G	Vote	Sarahai Garibay	

As a condition of receiving Proposition 28 Arts and Music in Schools (AMS) funds, each LEA must have an annual report approved by its governing board, submit it to the California Department of Education, and post it on its website (Ed. Code § 8820(g)(4)). Each report describes the arts education programs funded and states the number of full-time equivalent teachers, classified personnel, and teaching aides, the number of pupils served, and the number of school sites providing arts education with AMS funds.

Proposed: Approve the Proposition 28 AMS Annual Reports for Fiscal Year 2026-27 for ECHS-L, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, and ECHS-G as presented.

G.	Appoint Kennedy Hilario and Remco Waller to the Menlo Charter Properties Board of Directors and confirm Anthony Jowid's MCP term	Vote	Jeremiah Rosario David	

Menlo Charter Properties (MCP) is the ECS-affiliated supporting organization for ECS school facilities. Staff recommends appointing ECS directors Kennedy Hilario and Remco Waller to the MCP Board and confirming that Anthony Jowid's MCP term ends June 30, 2028, aligned with his ECS Board term.

Proposed: Appoint Kennedy Hilario for term ending June 30, 2029 and Remco Waller for term ending June 30, 2028 to the Menlo Charter Properties Board of Directors, and confirm Anthony Jowid's MCP Board term end date of June 30, 2028.

H.	Approve contracts	Vote	Jeremiah Rosario David	

A. South Bay Workforce Investment Board, Inc.: 2026-27 Workforce and Work-Based Learning Services Agreement (approval)

- Staff Analysis: Career readiness, work-based learning coordination, employer engagement, and student stipend administration for ECS career pathway students, September 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Not to exceed $44,000, including up to $25,000 in student stipends.

		Purpose	Presenter	Time

B. GoTo Communications, Inc.: GoTo Connect VoIP 2-Year Renewal under TIPS Contract No. 251003 (ratification)

- Staff Analysis: Phone service for all sites, October 1, 2026 through October 1, 2028. $2,179.98 per month; $52,319.52 over 24 months. Executed September 17, 2026.

C. Raptor Technologies, LLC: VisitorSafe Visitor Management Subscription Agreement (ratification)

- Staff Analysis: Visitor management, ID screening, and PowerSchool tardy sync at four sites, 36-month initial term beginning September 1, 2026. Year 1: $6,722 ($1,630 one-time implementation and training; $5,092 annual subscription). Annual fees may increase by the greater of CPI or 6%. Executed September 11, 2026.

D. California Charter Schools Association: 2-Year Standard Membership Agreement, 2026-27 and 2027-28 (ratification)

- Staff Analysis: CMO-wide Standard Membership for all four schools at $24 per student for 2026-27, based on prior-year CBEDS enrollment (estimated 2026-27 fee: $38,600). Executed May 22, 2026.

E. Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor: ECMS-Gardena Space Usage MOU 2026-27 (ratification)

- Staff Analysis: Use of outdoor recreation space and limited indoor space at the Harbor Gateway Club for ECMS-Gardena physical education and recreation, August 24, 2026 through June 10, 2027. $28,000, payable in four installments of $7,000. Executed September 4, 2026.

Proposed: Approve the South Bay Workforce Investment Board agreement, and ratify the GoTo Communications, Raptor Technologies, California Charter Schools Association, and Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor agreements, as presented.

I.	Approve College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) Partnership Agreement 2026-2029	Vote	Jeremiah Rosario David	

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
	between El Camino Community College District and ECHS-Lawndale/ECHS-Gardena			

A CCAP partnership allows high school students to enroll in community college courses for dual credit. Before adopting a CCAP partnership agreement, the governing board of each district must present the agreement at an open public meeting, take public comment, and approve or disapprove it (Ed. Code § 76004(b)). The El Camino Community College District Board of Trustees considered the agreement on August 19, 2026. Once both boards approve, the agreement will be filed with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and the California Department of Education before the partnership begins (Ed. Code § 76004(c)(3)).

Proposed: Approve the 2026-2029 CCAP Partnership Agreement between El Camino Community College District and ECHS-Lawndale and ECHS-Gardena as presented.

J.	Approve Change in Authorized Signers for ECS Accounts at Beneficial State Bank	Vote	Jeremiah Rosario David	

Following Dr. Betsy Hamilton's departure from the Board, ECS must update the authorized signers on its accounts at Beneficial State Bank. ECS Financial Policies Section II.A.1 and Bylaws Section XI.C name the Board President as an authorized signatory on ECS bank accounts.

Staff recommends removing Dr. Elizabeth (Betsy) Hamilton and adding Board President Dr. Denise Berger as an authorized signer on all ECS accounts at Beneficial State Bank. Superintendent Danielle Kelsick remains a current authorized signer. No other signer changes are proposed.

Proposed: Approve removing Dr. Elizabeth (Betsy) Hamilton and adding Dr. Denise Berger, Board President, as an authorized signer on all Environmental Charter Schools accounts at Beneficial State Bank, and authorize the ECS Superintendent and Secretary to execute all documents necessary to implement this change.

VII. Action Items — 6:04 PM

A.	Approve Submission of the ECMS-Gardena Renewal Charter Petition for the Term July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2032	Vote	Danielle Kelsick	3 m

The current ECMS-Gardena charter expires June 30, 2027. Under Education Code § 47607, a charter may be renewed for a period of five years. The authorizer evaluates the renewal under Education Code §§ 47607 and 47607.2 and 5 C.C.R. § 11966.4.

	Purpose	Presenter	Time

The renewal petition describes the school's educational program, its measurable pupil outcomes and progress toward meeting them in the current charter term, its governance, and the other required elements under Education Code § 47605. Upon Board approval, staff will submit the petition to the Los Angeles County Office of Education. The renewal petition, Charter Renewal Criteria, report on measurable pupil outcomes, and proposed budget are attached to Discussion Item III.A. The Affirmations and Assurances, required documents, and supporting documents are attached below.

1. Resolution No. 2026-02
2. Affirmations and Assurances
3. Required Documents: Notice of Submission, Countywide Charter Rationale (Not Applicable), and Board Roster and Resumes
4. Supporting Documents, Sections II-IV: (a) Fiscal, (b) Contracts, (c) Governance and Facilities

Proposed: Adopt Resolution No. 2026-02 approving the ECMS-Gardena renewal charter petition for the term July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2032, including the proposed budget and supporting documents, and authorizing submission of the petition to the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

VIII. Upcoming Dates/Announcements — 6:07 PM

A. Next ECS board meeting — FYI — Danielle Kelsick — 1 m

- Monday, November 30, 2026 @ 5pm (moved from December 1, pending approval of Consent Item E)

B. Next ECS committee meetings and events — FYI — Danielle Kelsick — 1 m

Committee meetings:

- Governance Committee: Wednesday, October 28, 2026 @ 3pm
- Labor & Compensation Committee: Wednesday, November 4, 2026 @ 3pm
- Finance Committee: Wednesday, November 18, 2026 @ 1pm

Events:

		Purpose	Presenter	Time

- ECHS-Lawndale Day of the Dead Celebration: Friday, November 6, 2026 @ 5pm (doors close 7:15pm), 16315 Grevillea Ave, Lawndale. Free entry; food for purchase, free desserts and aguas frescas while supplies last.
- ECMS-Inglewood Harvest Festival / Festival de Otoño: Saturday, November 7, 2026 @ 9am-1pm, 3600 W. Imperial Hwy, Inglewood. Games, lunch, vendors, and campus beautification volunteering; prospective parent campus tour @ 9:30am.

C.	Appreciations	Discuss		1 m
IX.	**Transition to Closed Session**			**6:10 PM**
A.	Adjourn to Closed Session	FYI		5 m
X.	**Closed Session**			**6:15 PM**
A.	CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Gov. Code § 54957.6)	Discuss		30 m

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

Employee organization: Environmental Educators United/CTA/NEA

XI.	**Reconvene to Open Session**			**6:45 PM**
A.	Report out	FYI	Anthony Jowid	1 m
XII.	**Action Item**			**6:46 PM**
A.	Adopt ECS Initial Proposals for a Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement with EEU/CTA/NEA (Gov. Code § 3547(c)) as recommended by Labor & Compensation Committee	Vote	Danielle Kelsick	3 m

ECS submitted its initial proposals to Environmental Educators United/CTA/NEA on October 1, 2026 under Article 2.4 of the collective bargaining agreement. The proposals were presented at the October 1, 2026 special Board meeting with an opportunity for public comment, were posted on the ECS website, and were presented again under Informational Item IV.A. After the public has had the opportunity to

		Purpose	Presenter	Time

express itself, the employer must adopt its initial proposals at a meeting open to the public (Gov. Code § 3547(c)).

Proposed: Adopt the ECS initial proposals for a successor collective bargaining agreement with Environmental Educators United/CTA/NEA (attached in Informational Item IV.A) as recommended by Labor & Compensation Committee.

XIII. Closing Items — 6:49 PM

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