



# Environmental Charter Schools

## Minutes

### Special Board of Directors' Meeting

**Date and Time**

Monday July 1, 2019 at 11:30 AM

**Location**

Zoom info: <https://zoom.us/j/147466498> Or Telephone: (669) 900-6833 (Meeting ID: 147 466 498) // Two-way Teleconference Locations: ECHS Auxiliary Office, 2625 Manhattan Beach Blvd, Suite 100, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 / ECMS-Gardena (812 W. 165th Place, Gardena, CA 90247) / ECMS-Inglewood (3600 W Imperial Hwy, Inglewood, CA 90303) / ECHS (16315 Grevillea Ave. Lawndale, CA 90260) / 409 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite E, Santa Monica, CA 90401 / 2401 Pine Ave., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 / 3011 Elm St., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 / 1150 S. Olive Street, Suite 2123, Los Angeles, CA 90015 / 3513 Walnut Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 / 1324 Agate Street #12, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 / 417 W. Foothill Blvd., Glendora, CA 91741 / 4161 W. 147th Street, Lawndale, CA 90260

**ECS Board Members**

**Term and End Date**

Mr. Anthony Jowid, President.....	3 years June 30, 2022
Mr. Ken Deemer, Vice President.....	3 years June 30, 2022
Ms. Denise Berger, Secretary.....	3 years June 30, 2020
Ms. Cathy Creasia.....	3 years June 30, 2020
Ms. Zena Fong.....	2 year June 30, 2020
Mr. Ernie Levronney.....	3 years June 30, 2022
Ms. Jenina Ramirez.....	3 years June 30, 2021
Lawndale Elementary School District Representative.....	Rotating Position

**ECS Staff**

Ms. Farnaz Golshani-Flechner, Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director  
Ms. Danielle Kelsick, Chief Academic Officer/Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Ms. Alison Diaz, Director of Growth and Sustainability (Facilities)  
Ms. Kami Cotler, Director of Strategic Initiatives  
Ms. Beth Bernstein-Yamashiro, Director of Principal Development/Principal Coach  
Ms. Geneva Matthews, Principal at ECMS-Inglewood  
Ms. KC Fabiero, Principal at ECHS  
Dr. Qiana O'Leary, Principal at ECMS-Gardena  
Mr. Dave Trejo, Principal-in-Residence

**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. (footnote Noguera).

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.

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#### **Directors Present**

Anthony Jowid (remote), Dr. Denise Berger (remote), Jenina Ramirez (remote), Ken Deemer (remote), LESD Representative (remote)

#### **Directors Absent**

Cathy Creasia, Ernie Levroney, Zena Fong

#### **Guests Present**

Farnaz Golshani-Flechner, Jeremiah David, Kami Cotler, Tracy Bondi

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## **I. Opening Items**

### **A. Record Attendance and Guests**

### **B.**

### **Call the Meeting to Order**

Anthony Jowid called a meeting of the board of directors of Environmental Charter Schools to order on Monday Jul 1, 2019 at 11:36 AM.

### **C. Approve the Agenda**

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve the agenda.  
Jenina Ramirez seconded the motion.  
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

#### **Roll Call**

Anthony Jowid	Aye
Ernie Levroney	Absent
Cathy Creasia	Absent
Jenina Ramirez	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Ken Deemer	Aye
Zena Fong	Absent

## **II. Presentations from the Floor**

### **A. Presentations from the Floor on Non Agenda Items**

None.

### **B. Presentations from the Floor on Agenda Items**

None.

## **III. Study Sessions**

### **A. ECMS-Inglewood Charter Petition Material Revision Discussion**

*The following comments were made in the ECMS-Inglewood Charter Petition Material Revision Discussion Study Session:*

Director of Strategic Initiatives Kami Cotler: This is a material revision of the existing ECMS-I charter petition to be submitted to the Los Angeles County Office of Education. In addition to original content, it integrates components from the recently LACOE-approved ECMS-Gardena 2019-2024 charter petition and the recently LESD-approved ECHS 2019-2024 charter petition.

Executive Director/CEO Farnaz Flechner: This material revision of the 2018-2023 ECMS-I charter petition includes grades 9-12 to support the opening of ECHS #2. For ECHS #2, if the school site location ultimately procured is located in another chartering district, ECS may have to resubmit a charter petition to a different body.

#### IV. Consent Items A-G

##### A. Approve ECMS-Inglewood to purchase one (1) school van up to \$20,000

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve ECMS-Inglewood to purchase one (1) school van up to \$20,000.

Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

##### Roll Call

LESD Representative	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Cathy Creasia	Absent
Zena Fong	Absent
Jenina Ramirez	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Ernie Levroney	Absent
Ken Deemer	Aye

##### B. Approve ECMS-Gardena NatureBridge Yosemite 8th Grade Outdoor Education Contract

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve ECMS-Gardena NatureBridge Yosemite 8th Grade Outdoor Education Contract.

Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

##### Roll Call

LESD Representative	Aye
Ken Deemer	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Cathy Creasia	Absent
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	Aye
Ernie Levroney	Absent
Zena Fong	Absent

##### C. Approve WestEd Reading Apprenticeship Contract

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve WestEd Reading Apprenticeship Contract.

Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

##### Roll Call

LESD Representative	Aye
Ken Deemer	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye

**Roll Call**

Cathy Creasia	Absent
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Zena Fong	Absent
Ernie Levroney	Absent

**D. Approve Hansberger & Klein 1st Addendum to Retainer Agreement**

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve Hansberger & Klein 1st Addendum to Retainer Agreement.

Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Ken Deemer	Aye
Ernie Levroney	Absent
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Cathy Creasia	Absent
Zena Fong	Absent
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	Aye

**E. Accept resignation of board member Ernie Levroney**

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to accept resignation of board member Ernie Levroney.

Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Ernie Levroney	Absent
Jenina Ramirez	Aye
Cathy Creasia	Absent
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Ken Deemer	Aye
Zena Fong	Absent

**F. Approve ECMS-Inglewood Student Bathrooms Remodeling/Construction Contract**

Board President Anthony Jowid requested that research be completed to determine if an Asbestos Material Survey will be needed for the ECMS-Inglewood bathroom project.

Also, he strongly recommended that the contractor be informed that all paintable surfaces in the bathrooms be re-painted and not only the new bathroom material.

Board Member Jenina Ramirez recommended that thorough due diligence take place to ensure that the proper permitting procedures are implemented. Farnaz Flechner assured Jenina that this has been and will be done.

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve ECMS-Inglewood Student Bathrooms Remodeling/Construction Contract.

Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Cathy Creasia	Absent
Jenina Ramirez	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Zena Fong	Absent
Ken Deemer	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Ernie Levroney	Absent

**G. Approve ECMS-Inglewood, ECMS-Gardena Woodcraft Rangers After-School Program Contracts**

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve ECMS-Inglewood, ECMS-Gardena Woodcraft Rangers After-School Program Contracts.

Jenina Ramirez seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Zena Fong	Absent
Ernie Levroney	Absent
Cathy Creasia	Absent
Ken Deemer	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye

**V. Action Items**

**A. Approve ECMS-Inglewood Charter Petition Material Revision**

Board Vice President Ken Deemer inquired about what conversations have been had with LACOE regarding the material revision and how receptive are they.

Farnaz Flechner responded that in their conversations, LACOE has been very receptive. ECS is submitting this material revision on July 1, 2019 in order to qualify for a grant. ECS is requesting to LACOE an extension of the legally required timeline, which would

result in an August public hearing and September board action and provide the LACOE CSO with more time to review.

Kami Cotler added that LACOE is very mindful about setting and communicating a clear material revision process and treating all charter petition and material revision applicants equitably and fairly. For this high school expansion, ECS is in a very good position because it has more time and resources to develop ECHS 2 than it had for any other ECS schools.

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve ECMS-Inglewood Charter Petition Material Revision.

Jenina Ramirez seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Ken Deemer	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Cathy Creasia	Absent
Zena Fong	Absent
Jenina Ramirez	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Ernie Levroney	Absent

**B. Approve revised ECMS-Inglewood Budget**

Farnaz Flechner commented that the budget for the ECMS-I lower grades is the same as the ECMS-I budget approved on June 3, 2019. The second component, for the upper grades, is designed to grow one grade level each school year, consistent with how existing ECS schools were grown.

Ken Deemer made a motion to approve revised ECMS-Inglewood Budget.

Jenina Ramirez seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Cathy Creasia	Absent
Ken Deemer	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Ernie Levroney	Absent
Zena Fong	Absent
Jenina Ramirez	Aye

**VI. Closing Items**

**A. Adjourn Meeting**



Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ken Deemer seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	Aye
Ken Deemer	Aye
Ernie Levroney	Absent
Cathy Creasia	Absent
Zena Fong	Absent
LESD Representative	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Anthony Jowid