



# Environmental Charter Schools

## Minutes

### Special Board of Directors' Meeting

By Teleconference/Zoom

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#### Date and Time

Monday May 3, 2021 at 4:30 PM

#### Location

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/147466498?pwd=MnB5Vkc4aG41OEZ1dDdtcWoxQjV0dz09>

OR

Dial-In: (669) 900-6833, Meeting ID: 147 466 498, Passcode: 133043

Two-way Teleconference Location: 2625 Manhattan Beach Blvd, Suite 100, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.

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| <u>ECS Board Members</u>  | <u>Term and End Date</u> |
|---|--------------------------|
| Mr. Anthony Jowid, President.....                                     | 3 years June 30, 2022    |
| Mr. Ken Deemer, Vice President.....                                   | 3 years June 30, 2022    |
| Dr. Denise Berger, Secretary.....                                     | 3 years June 30, 2023    |
| Ms. Zena Fong.....  | 2 year June 30, 2023     |
| Ms. Jenina Ramirez.....   | 3 years June 30, 2021    |
| Dr. Hughie Barnes.....  | 3 years June 30, 2023    |
| Dr. Madhu Chatwani.....   | 3 years June 30, 2023    |
| Mr. Kennedy Hilario.....  | 3 years June 30, 2023    |
| Lawndale Elementary School District Representative, Rotating Position |                          |

#### ECS Staff

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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  
Dr. Beth Bernstein-Yamashiro, Director of Principal Development/Principal Coach  
Ms. KC Fabiero, Principal at ECHS-Lawndale  
Dr. Geneva Matthews, Principal at ECMS-Inglewood  
Mr. Dave Trejo, Principal at ECMS-Gardena

**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 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), Dr. Hughie Barnes (remote), Dr. Madhu Chatwani (remote), Jenina Ramirez (remote), Ken Deemer (remote), Kennedy Hilario (remote), LESD Representative (remote), Zena Fong (remote)

#### **Directors Absent**

*None*

#### **Guests Present**

Alison Diaz (remote), Danielle Kelsick (remote), Dr. Beth Bernstein-Yamashiro (remote), Farnaz Golshani-Flechner (remote), Jeremiah David (remote)

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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 May 3, 2021 at 4:33 PM.

### **C. Approve the agenda**

Zena Fong made a motion to approve the agenda.

Kennedy Hilario seconded the motion.

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

#### **Roll Call**

|                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| LESD Representative | Aye    |
| Zena Fong           | Aye    |
| Dr. Madhu Chatwani  | Aye    |
| Ken Deemer          | Aye    |
| Dr. Denise Berger   | Aye    |
| Jenina Ramirez      | Aye    |
| Kennedy Hilario     | Aye    |
| Dr. Hughie Barnes   | Aye    |
| Anthony Jowid       | 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. Reports/Presentations**

### **A. Review recommended Salary Schedule for Principals + Assistant Principals**

CEO Farnaz Golshani-Flechner presented the Salary Schedule slides.

## **IV. Consent Items A-D**

### **A. Approve previous meeting minutes for April 9, 2021 board meeting**

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Board of Directors' Meeting on 04-09-21.

Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Zena Fong           | Aye     |
| Dr. Denise Berger   | Aye     |
| LESD Representative | Aye     |
| Jenina Ramirez      | Aye     |
| Dr. Madhu Chatwani  | Aye     |
| Ken Deemer          | Aye     |
| Kennedy Hilario     | Aye     |
| Anthony Jowid       | Aye     |
| Dr. Hughie Barnes   | Abstain |

**B. Approve previous committee meeting minutes**

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve previous committee meeting minutes.

Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Dr. Madhu Chatwani  | Aye |
| Anthony Jowid       | Aye |
| Jenina Ramirez      | Aye |
| Kennedy Hilario     | Aye |
| Ken Deemer          | Aye |
| LESD Representative | Aye |
| Dr. Denise Berger   | Aye |
| Zena Fong           | Aye |
| Dr. Hughie Barnes   | Aye |

**C. Approve Charter School Revolving Loan Fund application/award for ECHS-Gardena for \$250,000 as recommended by Finance Committee**

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve Charter School Revolving Loan Fund application/award for ECHS-Gardena for \$250,000 as recommended by Finance Committee.

Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Dr. Hughie Barnes   | Aye |
| Ken Deemer          | Aye |
| Anthony Jowid       | Aye |
| Jenina Ramirez      | Aye |
| Zena Fong           | Aye |
| Kennedy Hilario     | Aye |
| Dr. Denise Berger   | Aye |
| LESD Representative | Aye |
| Dr. Madhu Chatwani  | Aye |

#### **D. Approve following contracts as recommended by Finance Committee**

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve contracts listed on the agenda as recommended by Finance Committee.

Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.

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

##### **Roll Call**

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Zena Fong           | Aye     |
| Anthony Jowid       | Aye     |
| Dr. Madhu Chatwani  | Aye     |
| Ken Deemer          | Aye     |
| LESD Representative | Aye     |
| Jenina Ramirez      | Aye     |
| Dr. Denise Berger   | Aye     |
| Kennedy Hilario     | Aye     |
| Dr. Hughie Barnes   | Abstain |

#### **V. Action Items**

##### **A. Approve Salary Schedule for Principals + Assistant Principals as recommended by Finance Committee**

Ken Deemer made a motion to approve Salary Schedule for Principals + Assistant Principals as recommended by Finance Committee.

Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.

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

##### **Roll Call**

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Dr. Hughie Barnes   | Aye |
| Kennedy Hilario     | Aye |
| Dr. Madhu Chatwani  | Aye |
| Ken Deemer          | Aye |
| LESD Representative | Aye |
| Dr. Denise Berger   | Aye |
| Zena Fong           | Aye |
| Jenina Ramirez      | Aye |
| Anthony Jowid       | Aye |

##### **B. Approve ECS Spring 2021 summative testing plan**

Kennedy Hilario made a motion to approve ECS Spring 2021 summative testing plan.

Dr. Hughie Barnes seconded the motion.

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

##### **Roll Call**

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Kennedy Hilario | Aye |
| Anthony Jowid   | Aye |

**Roll Call**

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Zena Fong           | Aye |
| Dr. Hughie Barnes   | Aye |
| Ken Deemer          | Aye |
| Jenina Ramirez      | Aye |
| LESD Representative | Aye |
| Dr. Denise Berger   | Aye |
| Dr. Madhu Chatwani  | Aye |

**C. Approve Development, Support, and Project Agreement by and among ECHS-Gardena, Menlo Charter Properties, and MBB & Gardena LLC**

Ken Deemer made a motion to approve Development, Support, and Project Agreement by and among ECHS-Gardena, Menlo Charter Properties, and MBB & Gardena LLC.

Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Dr. Denise Berger   | Aye     |
| Ken Deemer          | Aye     |
| Kennedy Hilario     | Aye     |
| Jenina Ramirez      | Aye     |
| LESD Representative | Aye     |
| Anthony Jowid       | Aye     |
| Dr. Hughie Barnes   | Abstain |
| Dr. Madhu Chatwani  | Aye     |
| Zena Fong           | Aye     |

**D. Approve sublease agreement between Menlo Charter Properties and ECHS-Gardena**

Kennedy Hilario made a motion to approve sublease agreement between Menlo Charter Properties and ECHS-Gardena.

Jenina Ramirez seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Dr. Denise Berger   | Aye     |
| Zena Fong           | Aye     |
| Ken Deemer          | Aye     |
| Kennedy Hilario     | Aye     |
| Jenina Ramirez      | Aye     |
| Dr. Hughie Barnes   | Abstain |
| Anthony Jowid       | Aye     |
| Dr. Madhu Chatwani  | Aye     |
| LESD Representative | Aye     |

**VI. Transition to Closed Session**

#### **A. Adjourn to Closed Session**

Zena Fong made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session.

Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.

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

##### **Roll Call**

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Dr. Madhu Chatwani  | Aye |
| Ken Deemer          | Aye |
| Dr. Denise Berger   | Aye |
| LESD Representative | Aye |
| Jenina Ramirez      | Aye |
| Zena Fong           | Aye |
| Dr. Hughie Barnes   | Aye |
| Anthony Jowid       | Aye |
| Kennedy Hilario     | Aye |

#### **VII. Report Out of Closed Session**

##### **A. Report Out**

Returning from closed session, Board President Anthony Jowid reported out that the board completed a highly satisfactory CEO evaluation and intends to approve a 5% raise in CEO compensation.

#### **VIII. Closing Items**

##### **A. Appreciations**

The board commended CEO Farnaz Golshani's excellent performance in the 20/21 school year, including her efforts in coordinating and facilitating the Confronting Anti-Blackness and Racism discussion, her leadership response to the COVID-19 public health crisis, providing steadfastness and humility as a leadership role model to the organization.

##### **B. Adjourn Meeting**

Ken Deemer made a motion to adjourn meeting.

Jenina Ramirez seconded the motion.

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

##### **Roll Call**

|                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| Dr. Madhu Chatwani  | Absent |
| Zena Fong           | Aye    |
| Ken Deemer          | Aye    |
| Dr. Denise Berger   | Aye    |
| Anthony Jowid       | Aye    |
| LESD Representative | Aye    |



**Roll Call**

Kennedy Hilario      Aye

Jenina Ramirez      Aye

Dr. Hughie Barnes      Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Anthony Jowid