APPROVED

Environmental Charter Schools

Minutes

Board of Directors' Meeting

By Teleconference/Zoom

Date and Time
Thursday June 24, 2021 at 5:00 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.

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
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
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
Dr. Cindy Guardado, Principal at ECHS-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.

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), Zena Fong (remote)

Directors Absent
LESD Representative

Guests Present
Alison Diaz (remote), Danielle Kelsick (remote), Dorothy Lee (remote), Dr. Cindy Guardado (remote), Jeremiah Rosario David (remote), Julie Vo (remote), Michael Martucci (remote), Tracy Bondi (remote)

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 Thursday Jun 24, 2021 at 5:05 PM.

C. Approve the agenda

Zena Fong made a motion to approve the agenda.
Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

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. ECS leadership updates

Director of Student Services Michael Martucci presented the special education update slides.

Triennial assessment progress was reported. At the beginning of the school year, there were many assessments due and progress was slow due to the pandemic. The Special Education and English Language Development teams worked closely with teachers

across ECS to complete the necessary assessments, such that virtually all had been completed by early June.

Director of Principal Development Dr. Beth Bernstein-Yamashiro presented the Leadership Development slides:

The leadership development series built on a previous series called CADRE and was conducted by Dr. Bernstein-Yamashiro in partnership with HR Generalist Emily Atmore. At each virtual seminar, between 20-25 team members across all sites and functions at ECS attended and developed their leadership skills.

B. Principals Updates

Principal Dr. Cindy Guardado presented the ECHS-Gardena update slides:

Currently, over 105 students have fully enrolled to 9th grade, with 10 new potential enrollments obtained today.

A team of leaders at ECS have been working on the pre-launch work for ECHS-Gardena, with a weekly scrum meeting facilitated by CEO Farnaz Golshani Flechner.

Founders' Day will be held on July 24 from 9am to 12pm at ECHS-Gardena - 2818 Manhattan Beach Blvd, Gardena, CA 90249.

Dr. Geneva Matthews, Assistant Principal Lauren Medlin, Counselor Rayhaneh Tabatabai presented the ECMS-I update slides:

In English Language Arts, students' scores in most grade levels grew this school year, however, the rate of growth was slower this year than normal. In math, the student score growth rates were comparable to past years.

Students that received Tier 2 academic support had ELA scores that grew more than other students who did not, as was shown in the slide charts. This pattern was even more evident in ELA and Math scores for students who received Tier 3 academic support.

Counselor Rayhaneh Tabatabai and a team of teachers prepared social-emotional modules for students to help them deal with relieving stress and anxiety with particular focus on coping through the pandemic.

Attendance throughout the year was high and steady most of the year at around 98%, with only a small reduction in the 4th quarter to 95%. Regular campus visits were conducted in the Spring, with a particular focus on community building and re-adjustment to school activities.

Principal Dave Trejo presented the ECMS-Gardena update slides:

Partnership with Woodcraft Rangers solidified over the year to provide more and more after-school programming for students. School events such as Unity Fest and Leaders Like Me were engaging events for students and were supported by board members and ECS staff. NWEA reading and IAB ELA charts were shown with analyses of outcomes.

NWEA math charts were shown and analyzed, along with an update on English Learners. ECMS-G students achieved a 100% completion rate on the ELPAC test along with a 95% average attendance rate throughout the year.

Finally, four COVID-safe in-person culmination events were held over two days to provide a memorable end to a long and challenging school year.

C. ECHS-Gardena Update

Director of Growth & Sustainability Alison Diaz presented the ECHS-Gardena Update:

A contingency period for the purchase is ending soon along with due diligence activities, with no surprises about the site and facilities discovered thus far. Will continue to work with LACOE and other partners to prepare the site for students.

D. EdTec financial review and budgets for 21/22

EdTec Consultant Dorothy Lee presented the Financial Update slides:

Revenues are higher than normal at each site due to the state and federal pandemic-related funding that came in during FY20/21 and will come in during FY21/22. ECS has a multi-year plan to expend this funding, particularly to support the short- and long-term impacts that students are facing and will face due to the pandemic.

E. Development Update

Director of Development Julie Vo presented the Development Update:

ECS fundraising goal for 20/21 is just over $3 million dollars.

IV. Study Session

A. 2021-2022 Budgets & LCAPs

CEO Farnaz Golshani-Flechner and Director of Strategic Initiatives Kami Cotler conducted the 2021-2022 Budgets & LCAPs study session. Attendees went into breakout rooms afterwards a group session ensued.

V. Consent Items A-K

A. Approve previous meeting minutes for May 25, 2021 special board meeting

Zena Fong made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Directors' Meeting on 05-25-21.
Kennedy Hilario seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approve previous committee meeting minutes

Zena Fong made a motion to approve previous committee meeting minutes.
Kennedy Hilario seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

C. Approve check registers as recommended by Finance Committee

Zena Fong made a motion to approve check registers as recommended by Finance Committee.
Kennedy Hilario seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Anthony Jowid	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Aye
Dr. Hughie Barnes	Aye

Roll Call

Jenina Ramirez	Aye
LESD Representative	Absent
Zena Fong	Aye
Ken Deemer	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye

D. Approve private donations over $1,000 as recommended by Finance Committee

Zena Fong made a motion to approve private donations over $1,000 as recommended by Finance Committee.
Kennedy Hilario seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

E. Approve 2021-2022 Education Protection Act Spending Plan and Resolution as recommended by Finance Committee

Zena Fong made a motion to approve 2021-2022 Education Protection Act Spending Plan and Resolution as recommended by Finance Committee.
Kennedy Hilario seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

F. Approve FY 2021-2022 contracts

Zena Fong made a motion to approve FY 2021-2022 contracts listed in agenda.

Kennedy Hilario seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

G. Accept ECS Tax Return Forms 990 and 199 as recommended by Finance Committee

Zena Fong made a motion to accept ECS Tax Return Forms 990 and 199 as recommended by Finance Committee.
Kennedy Hilario seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

H. Approve items related to $600k ECS line of credit as recommended by Finance Committee

Zena Fong made a motion to approve items related to $600k ECS line of credit as recommended by Finance Committee.
Kennedy Hilario seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

LESD Representative	Absent
Dr. Hughie Barnes	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Aye

Roll Call

Jenina Ramirez	Aye
Ken Deemer	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye

I. Approve Resolution to Provide Authorization for Los Angeles County Office of Education to Issue Funds for ECHS-Gardena as recommended by Finance Committee

Zena Fong made a motion to approve Resolution to Provide Authorization for Los Angeles County Office of Education to Issue Funds for ECHS-Gardena as recommended by Finance Committee.
Kennedy Hilario seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

J. Approve Candidates' Participation on the Following Board Committees

Zena Fong made a motion to approve Candidates' Participation on the Board Committees listed in agenda.
Kennedy Hilario seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

K. Approve 2021-2022 Board Terms and Officers

Zena Fong made a motion to approve 2021-2022 Board Terms and Officers.
Kennedy Hilario seconded the motion.

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

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

VI. Action Items

A. Approve 2021-2022 LCAPs for ECHS, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G

Dr. Hughie Barnes made a motion to approve 2021-2022 LCAPs for ECHS, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G.
Ken Deemer seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Ken Deemer	Aye
Dr. Hughie Barnes	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
LESD Representative	Absent
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye

B. Approve 2021-2022 Budgets for ECHS, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G as recommended by Finance Committee

Ken Deemer made a motion to approve 2021-2022 Budgets for ECHS, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G as recommended by Finance Committee.
Zena Fong seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Ken Deemer	Aye
LESD Representative	Absent
Jenina Ramirez	Aye
Dr. Hughie Barnes	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye

Roll Call	
Anthony Jowid	Aye

C. Approve 2021-2022 Local Indicators Report for all sites

Zena Fong made a motion to approve 2021-2022 Local Indicators Report for all sites.
Kennedy Hilario seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

D. Approve 2021-2022 Board and Committee Calendar

Dr. Hughie Barnes made a motion to approve 2021-2022 Board and Committee Calendar.
Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

VII. Closing Items

A. Appreciations

Chief Executive Officer Farnaz Golshani-Flechner appreciated Director of Compliance & Operations Jeremiah David for his partnership and for the tremendous amount of daily work he does to keep ECS in compliance as well as for leading his team in the outreach efforts to host on-site vaccination clinics. Also, Chief Academic Officer Danielle Kelsick for her tireless work in planning a leadership retreat, inspiring Farnaz with her strategic thinking and ability to bring other leaders along.

Board member Jenina Ramirez appreciated Director of Growth & Sustainability Alison Diaz for all her hard work to launch the new high school at ECHS-Gardena.

Board member Kennedy Hilario appreciated the operations and administrative staff for the hard work, the bravery, and the meaningful connections maintained throughout the pandemic with the students and the community.

ECMS-I Principal Geneva Matthews appreciated the directors and the board for trusting in the school administrators, allowing principals to advocate for and execute on actions to meet student needs.

ECMS-G Principal Dave Trejo appreciated Farnaz Golshani-Flechner for being able to read rooms in virtual spaces, and for knowing when to add and remove work from leaders' plates, making work more sustainable for everyone.

B. Adjourn Meeting

Zena Fong made a motion to adjourn meeting.
Jenina Ramirez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Zena Fong	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
LESD Representative	Absent
Ken Deemer	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Dr. Hughie Barnes	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:49 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anthony Jowid