



# Environmental Charter Schools

## Minutes

### Special Board of Directors' Meeting

By Teleconference/Zoom

---

#### Date and Time

Thursday August 19, 2021 at 4:45 PM

#### Location

Zoom: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/147466498?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/147466498?pwd=MnB5Vkc4aG41OEZ1dDdtcWoxQjV0dz09)  
[pwd=MnB5Vkc4aG41OEZ1dDdtcWoxQjV0dz09](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, 2024
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), LESD Representative, Zena Fong (remote)

#### **Directors Absent**

Ken Deemer, Kennedy Hilario

#### **Guests Present**

Farnaz Golshani-Flechner (remote), Jeremiah David (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 Aug 19, 2021 at 4:50 PM.

## **C. Approve the agenda**

Zena Fong made a motion to approve the agenda.

Jenina Ramirez seconded the motion.

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

### **Roll Call**

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

ECS CEO Farnaz Golshani-Flechner provided a brief update on the challenges and successes related to preparing for full in-person instruction that is starting in the following week.

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

### **A. Approve Contracts**

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve Contracts.

Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**B. Approve revised Board & Committee Calendar 2021-2022**

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve revised Board & Committee Calendar 2021-2022.

Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**C. Approve Charter School Revolving Loan Fund resolution and loan agreement for ECHS-Gardena for \$250,000**

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve Charter School Revolving Loan Fund resolution and loan agreement for ECHS-Gardena for \$250,000.

Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

#### **D. Approve CalSTRS resolutions for ECHS-Gardena**

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve CalSTRS resolutions for ECHS-Gardena, electing CalSTRS.

Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.

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

##### **Roll Call**

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

#### **E. Approve Beneficial State Bank Corporate Resolution to Borrow - Credit Cards**

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve Beneficial State Bank Corporate Resolution to Borrow - Credit Cards.

Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.

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

##### **Roll Call**

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

### **V. Action Items**

#### **A. Approve ECS Independent Study Policy**

Dr. Hughie Barnes made a motion to approve ECS Independent Study Policy.

Zena Fong seconded the motion.

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

##### **Roll Call**

Dr. Hughie Barnes	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Aye

**Roll Call**

Ken Deemer	Absent
Jenina Ramirez	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Absent
LESD Representative	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye

**B. Approve revised ECS Academic Calendars**

Dr. Madhu Chatwani made a motion to approve revised ECS Academic Calendars.

LESD Representative seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**VI. Closing Items**

**A. Appreciations**

**B. Adjourn Meeting**

Dr. Hughie Barnes made a motion to adjourn meeting.

Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 5:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Anthony Jowid