



# Environmental Charter Schools

## Minutes

### Board of Directors' Meeting

By Teleconference/Zoom

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#### Date and Time

Thursday September 23, 2021 at 5:00 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.

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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	

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## 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.

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#### **Directors Present**

Dr. Denise Berger (remote), Jenina Ramirez (remote), Ken Deemer (remote), Kennedy Hilario (remote), LESD Representative (remote), Zena Fong (remote)

#### **Directors Absent**

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

#### **Guests Present**

Alison Diaz (remote), Dave Trejo (remote), Dorothy Lee (remote), Dr. Beth Bernstein-Yamashiro (remote), Dr. Cindy Guardado (remote), Dr. Geneva Matthews (remote), Farnaz Golshani-Flechner (remote), Gretchen Janson (remote), Jen Fenton (remote), Jeremiah David (remote), Jose Hernandez (remote), KC Fabiero (remote), Sarah Jamieson (remote), Tracy Bondi (remote)

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## I. Opening Items

### A. Record Attendance and Guests

### B. Call the Meeting to Order

Ken Deemer called a meeting of the board of directors of Environmental Charter Schools to order on Thursday Sep 23, 2021 at 5:06 PM.

### C. Approve the agenda

Kennedy Hilario made a motion to approve the agenda.

Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

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

Chief Executive Officer Farnaz Golshani-Flechner presented the ECS leadership updates slides in tandem with Dr. Beth Bernstein-Yamashiro, Director of Principal Development/Principal Coach.

### B. Principals updates

*Principal KC Fabiero presented the ECHS-L update:*

Summer bridge activities, and fall semester student connectedness and high levels of COVID safety mitigation measure compliance were highlighted.

*Principal Dr. Cindy Guardado presented the ECHS-G update:*

Among the glows (positives) that were shared: positive culture amongst students, attendance averaging at 95.5% despite students who have had to quarantine, consistent systems to support advisory as the driver for “Every Child as a blessing”, and student-centered coaching has begun.

Among the grows (areas for improvement) that were shared: supporting MTSS Tier 1-- checks for understanding and student interactions, improving use of instructional time in the classroom , opportunities for after school student participation, and in class interventions.

#### **C. EdTec financial review and revised budgets for 21/22**

EdTec consultant Dorothy Lee presented the slides for the EdTec financial review and revised budgets for 21/22.

### **IV. Study Session**

#### **A. Vaccine mandate for students and staff**

*Farnaz Golshani-Flechner presented the Leadership Update slides regarding vaccine mandates for students and staff.*

Zoom breakout room discussions, followed by a general freeform discussion ensued between board members and all other meeting attendees.

### **V. Consent Items A-L**

#### **A. Approve previous meeting minutes for July 14, 2021 board meeting**

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Directors' Meeting on 07-14-21.

Ken Deemer seconded the motion.

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

#### **Roll Call**

Ken Deemer	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Absent
Dr. Hughie Barnes	Absent
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye

**Roll Call**

Dr. Madhu Chatwani Absent  
Jenina Ramirez Aye  
LESD Representative Aye

**B. Approve previous meeting minutes for August 19, 2021 board meeting**

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Board of Directors' Meeting on 08-19-21.

Ken Deemer seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**C. Approve previous 9/17/21 Finance Committee meeting minutes**

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve previous 9/17/21 Finance Committee meeting minutes.

Ken Deemer seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

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

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve private donations over \$1,000 as recommended by Finance Committee.

Ken Deemer seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**E. Approve unaudited actuals as recommended by Finance Committee**

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve unaudited actuals as recommended by Finance Committee.

Ken Deemer seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**F. Approve contracts**

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve contracts.

Ken Deemer seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**G. Approve revised ECS Board & Committee Calendar 2021-2022**

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

Ken Deemer seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**H. Approve revised ECS Board Committees & Terms 2021-2022**

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve revised ECS Board Committees & Terms 2021-2022.

Ken Deemer seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**I. Approve ECMS-I Parent-Student Handbook**

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve ECMS-I Parent-Student Handbook.

Ken Deemer seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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



**Roll Call**

Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Dr. Hughie Barnes	Absent

**J. Approve sale or disposition of ECS technology equipment**

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve sale or disposition of ECS technology equipment.

Ken Deemer seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**K. Approve resignation of board member Dr. Hughie Barnes, effective 9/10/2021**

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve resignation of board member Dr. Hughie Barnes, effective 9/10/2021.

Ken Deemer seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**L. Approve revised ECS Independent Study Policy**

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve revised ECS Independent Study Policy.

Ken Deemer seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

Anthony Jowid	Absent
LESD Representative	Aye

**Roll Call**

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

**VI. Action Item**

**A. Approve revised 2021-2022 Budgets for ECHS-L, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G as recommended by Finance Committee**

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve revised 2021-2022 Budgets for ECHS-L, 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. Madhu Chatwani	Absent
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	Aye
Ken Deemer	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Dr. Hughie Barnes	Absent
Anthony Jowid	Absent
Zena Fong	Aye

**VII. Closing Items**

**A. Appreciations**

Board members shared appreciations for the hard work undertaken by staff to start the school year in-person. Staff shared appreciations for each others' efforts.

**B. Adjourn Meeting**

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to adjourn Meeting.

Zena Fong seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

Jenina Ramirez	Aye
Dr. Hughie Barnes	Absent
Anthony Jowid	Absent
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Absent

**Roll Call**

LESD Representative Aye

Dr. Denise Berger Aye

Ken Deemer Aye

Zena Fong Aye

Kennedy Hilario Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ken Deemer