

APPROVED



# Environmental Charter Schools

## Minutes

### Board of Directors' Meeting

By Teleconference/Zoom

---

#### Date and Time

Thursday January 27, 2022 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.

---

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. 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. Madhu Chatwani (remote), Jenina Ramirez (remote), Kennedy Hilario (remote), LESD Representative (remote), Zena Fong (remote)

#### **Directors Absent**

Ken Deemer

#### **Guests Present**

Alison Diaz (remote), Farnaz Golshani-Flechner (remote), Jennifer Fenton (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 Jan 27, 2022 at 5:04 PM.

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

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve the agenda.

Zena Fong seconded the motion.

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

#### **Roll Call**

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

### **D. Opener**

Tabled.

## **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/Discussions**

### **A. 21/22 Strategic Priorities Benchmark Chart Review**

Tabled.

### **B. Health and Safety Update**

Director of Health & Safety Jen Fenton presented the ECS COVID Safety Measures slides.

### **C. ECMS-Gardena Proposed Park Expansion**

Director of Growth & Sustainability Alison Diaz presented the ECMS-G Proposed Park Expansion slides along with Facilities Committee members Anthony Jowid and Jenina Ramirez.

#### IV. Consent Items A-I

##### A. Approve minutes for 12/9/2021 ECS Board Meeting

Kennedy Hilario made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Directors' Meeting on 12-09-21.

Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.

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

##### Roll Call

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

##### B. Approve minutes for 1/21/2022 ECS Special Facilities Committee meeting

Kennedy Hilario made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Facilities Committee Meeting on 01-21-22.

Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.

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

##### Roll Call

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

##### C. Approve Board Resolution 2021-2022 #2 - Authorizing Remote Board Meetings

Kennedy Hilario made a motion to approve Board Resolution 2021-2022 #2 - Authorizing Remote Board Meetings.

Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.

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

##### Roll Call

Ken Deemer	Absent
------------	--------

**Roll Call**

LESD Representative	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye

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

Kennedy Hilario made a motion to approve revised ECS Board & Committee Calendar 2021-2022.

Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**E. Approve revised ECMS-G & ECHS-L Parent Student Handbooks 2021-2022**

Kennedy Hilario made a motion to approve ONLY revised ECMS-G Parent-Student Handbook 2021-2022.

Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**F. Approve School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs) for all sites**

Kennedy Hilario made a motion to approve School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs) for all sites.

Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**G. Approve FY20/21 Audit Report as Recommended by Audit Committee**

Kennedy Hilario made a motion to approve FY20/21 Audit Report as Recommended by Audit Committee.

Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**H. Approve Menlo Charter Properties to enter into an agreement to purchase the property at 809-813 W 165th Pl, Gardena, CA 90247 with the understanding that ECMS-Gardena will lease this additional space to support its outdoor learning program as recommended by Facilities Committee**

Kennedy Hilario made a motion to approve Menlo Charter Properties to enter into an agreement to purchase the property at 809-813 W 165th Pl, Gardena, CA 90247 with the understanding that ECMS-Gardena will lease this additional space to support its outdoor learning program as recommended by Facilities Committee.

Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

Ken Deemer	Absent
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	Aye

**Roll Call**

Zena Fong Aye  
Dr. Madhu Chatwani Aye

**I. Approve ECMS-Gardena to work with Menlo 165th LLC to renegotiate its current lease agreement to include the property at 809-813 W 165th PI, Gardena, CA 90247 without increasing its projected yearly rents as recommended by Facilities Committee**

Kennedy Hilario made a motion to approve ECMS-Gardena to work with Menlo 165th LLC to renegotiate its current lease agreement to include the property at 809-813 W 165th PI, Gardena, CA 90247 without increasing its projected yearly rents as recommended by Facilities Committee.

Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**V. Action Item**

**A. Approve N-3-22 Written Finding allowing temporary staffing flexibility**

Dr. Madhu Chatwani made a motion to approve N-3-22 Written Finding allowing temporary staffing flexibility.

Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**VI. Upcoming Dates/Announcements**

**A.**



## Next ECS Board Meeting

### B. Next ECS Committee Meetings

### C. Appreciations

CEO Farnaz Golshani-Flechner appreciated Director of Growth & Sustainability Alison Diaz and Director of Finance Tracy Bondi for their work on the Equitable Facilities Fund refinancing and ECMS-G park expansion projects. Farnaz also appreciated Director of Compliance & Operations Jeremiah David for his work in continuing ECS's successful track record with another clean annual audit. In addition, Dr. Beth Bernstein for her hard work stepping in to serve as ECMS-G's Interim Principal.

Board member Kennedy Hilario appreciated all of ECS, reflecting on how proud he is to serve as a board member for an organization that is so equity-driven and progressive thinking.

## VII. Closing Items

### A. 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

Jenina Ramirez	Aye
Ken Deemer	Absent
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	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 5:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Anthony Jowid