

APPROVED



# Environmental Charter Schools

## Minutes

### Special Board of Directors' Meeting

In-Person at ECS Home Office

#### Date and Time

Friday May 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM

#### Location

**In-person location:** ECS Home Office - 2625 Manhattan Beach Blvd #100, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

**Two-way teleconference locations:** 409 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite E, Santa Monica, CA 90401 / 402 Alpine Street, Pasadena, CA 91106 / 14407 Larch Ave, Lawndale, CA 90260 / 1100 Shasta Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126 / 4161 W 147th St., Lawndale, CA 90260

ECS Board Members	Term	and	End Date
Mr. Anthony Jowid, President.....	3 years		June 30, 2025
Dr. Betsy Hamilton, Vice President.....	3 years		June 30, 2025
Dr. Denise Berger, Secretary.....	3 years		June 30, 2023
Ms. Zena Fong.....	3 years		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
Mr. Herb Sims.....	3 years		June 30, 2025
Mr. Mason Williams.....	3 years		June 30, 2025
Lawndale Elementary School District Representative, Rotating Position			

#### ECS Staff

Ms. Farnaz Golshani-Flechner, Superintendent

Ms. Danielle Kelsick, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction  
Ms. Alison Diaz, Director of Growth and Sustainability (Facilities)  
Ms. Tracy Bondi, Director of Finance  
Mr. Jeremiah David, Director of Compliance and Operations  
Ms. Sarah Jamieson, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. Michael Martucci, Director of Student Services  
Ms. Jen Fenton, Director of Health and Safety  
Ms. Lucia Bañuelos, 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. Previous board meeting minutes may be viewed on the Board On Track public portal website at <https://app2.boardontrack.com/public/3tHo3u/home>.

---

#### **Directors Present**

Anthony Jowid (remote), Dr. Betsy Hamilton, Dr. Denise Berger, Herb Sims (remote), Kennedy Hilario (remote), LESD Representative (remote), Mason Williams (remote), Zena Fong

#### **Directors Absent**

Dr. Madhu Chatwani, Jenina Ramirez

#### **Guests Present**

Alison Diaz, Danielle Kelsick, Farnaz Golshani-Flechner, Jen Fenton, Jeremiah David, Sarah Jamieson, Thelma Gonzalez - LESD board representative (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 Friday May 12, 2023 at 10:05 AM.

### C. Approve the agenda

Dr. Betsy Hamilton made a motion to shift the agenda and go to Closed Session first before Discussion Items / Updates.

Zena Fong seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

Anthony Jowid	Aye
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Herb Sims	Aye
Mason Williams	Absent
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
LESD Representative	Absent
Dr. Denise Berger	Absent
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Absent
Zena Fong	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	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. Transition to Closed Session

### A. Adjourn to Closed Session

Dr. Betsy Hamilton made a motion to adjourn to closed session.

Herb Sims seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

Zena Fong	Aye
-----------	-----

**Roll Call**

Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Absent
Mason Williams	Absent
Dr. Denise Berger	Absent
LESD Representative	Absent
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Herb Sims	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	Absent

**IV. Closed Session**

**A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**

The board met in closed session.

**V. Report Out of Closed Session**

**A. Report Out**

Board President Anthony Jowid stated there was nothing to report.

**VI. Discussion Items / Updates**

**A. Budget and Compensation Presentation 23/24**

Superintendent Farnaz Golshani-Flechner and Director of Finance Tracy Bondi presented salary schedules and benefit changes to retain and recruit staff.

**VII. Upcoming Dates/Announcements**

**A. Next ECS Board Meeting**

**B. Next ECS Committee Meetings**

**VIII. Action Items**

**A. Approve proposed 23/24 Teacher, Coordinator, Counselor Salary Schedule**

Kennedy Hilario made a motion to approve proposed 23/24 Teacher, Coordinator, Counselor Salary Schedule.

Mason Williams seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
-------------------	-----

**Roll Call**

Mason Williams	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Absent
Zena Fong	Aye
Herb Sims	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	Absent

**B. Approve proposed 23/24 Paraeducator Salary Schedule**

Kennedy Hilario made a motion to approve proposed 23/24 Paraeducator Salary Schedule.

Anthony Jowid seconded the motion.

Approve proposed 23/24 paraeducator salary schedule

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

**Roll Call**

LESD Representative	Aye
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Absent
Jenina Ramirez	Absent
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
Herb Sims	Aye
Mason Williams	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye

**IX. Closing Items**

**A. Appreciations**

Anthony Jowid appreciated Farnaz Golshani-Flechner and the ECS staff for all the work that has been put in for the process that was discussed today.

Farnaz Golshani-Flechner appreciated the board for being able to attend and making time for the time-sensitive meeting.

**B. Adjourn Meeting**

Zena Fong made a motion to adjourn meeting.

Herb Sims seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

Herb Sims	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Mason Williams	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	Absent
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Absent
Zena Fong	Aye
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Anthony Jowid