



# Environmental Charter Schools

## Minutes

### Board of Directors' Meeting

In-Person at ECS Home Office

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#### Date and Time

Thursday November 30, 2023 at 5:00 PM

#### Location

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

**Two-way teleconference locations:** 1100 Shasta Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126 / 3011 Elm Ave, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

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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, 2026
Ms. Zena Fong.....	3 years June 30, 2026
Ms. Jenina Ramirez.....	3 years June 30, 2024
Dr. Madhu Chatwani.....	3 years June 30, 2026
Mr. Kennedy Hilario.....	3 years June 30, 2026
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

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Ms. Tracy Bondi, Director of Finance  
Mr. Jeremiah David, Director of Compliance & Operations  
Ms. Sarah Jamieson, Director of Human Resources  
Ms. Jen Fenton, Director of Strategic Initiatives  
Dr. Shalene Wright, Director of SpEd and English Language Development  
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>.

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### **Directors Present**

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

### **Directors Absent**

Jenina Ramirez

### **Guests Present**

Danielle Kelsick, Dave Trejo, Farnaz Golshani-Flechner, Jeremiah David, Tracy Bondi, Tracy Pumilia, LESD (ECS board representative)

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## **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 Nov 30, 2023 at 5:06 PM.

**C. Approve the agenda**

Mason Williams made a motion to approve the agenda.

Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**D. Opener**

All meeting attendees engaged in a brief meet and greet in-person opener.

**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. Action Items**

**A. Action item: elect prospective board member Andrew Ellenbogen to ECS Board**

Mason Williams made a motion to elect prospective board member Andrew Ellenbogen to ECS Board.

Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**B. Action Item: Sunshine Proposals (Gov't Code § 3547(c))**

Tabled at this time, for discussion and vote in closed session later in the meeting.

**IV. Consent Items A-F**

**A. Approve 9/21/2023 board meeting minutes**

Dr. Madhu Chatwani made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Directors' Meeting on 09-21-23.

Dr. Betsy Hamilton seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**B. Approve 10/20/2023 Governance Committee meeting minutes**

Zena Fong made a motion to approve the minutes from Governance Committee Meeting on 10-20-23.

Dr. Betsy Hamilton seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye

**Roll Call**

Zena Fong	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	Absent
Herb Sims	Aye
Mason Williams	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Andrew Ellenbogen	Aye

**C. Approve contracts**

Zena Fong made a motion to approve contracts.

Dr. Betsy Hamilton seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**D. Approve A-G Improvement Grant Plan**

Zena Fong made a motion to approve A-G Improvement Grant Plan.

Dr. Betsy Hamilton seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

#### **E. Approve LACOE Instructional Program Reviews & Governance Review**

Zena Fong made a motion to approve LACOE Instructional Program Reviews & Governance Review.

Dr. Betsy Hamilton seconded the motion.

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

##### **Roll Call**

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

#### **F. Approve revised Board & Committee Calendar**

Zena Fong made a motion to approve revised Board & Committee Calendar.

Dr. Betsy Hamilton seconded the motion.

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

##### **Roll Call**

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

#### **V. Action Item**

##### **A. Approve FY23 Audit Report (draft)**

Tabled due to audit report draft not being released yet by auditor. Release is expected in next several working days.

#### **VI. Upcoming Dates/Announcements**

**A. Next ECS Board Meeting**

**B. Next ECS Committee Meetings**

**C. Appreciations**

Tabled.

**VII. Transition to Closed Session**

**A. Adjourn to Closed Session**

Dr. Betsy Hamilton made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session.

Mason Williams seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**VIII. Report Out of Closed Session**

**A. Report Out**

Board President Anthony Jowid reported out that in closed session the board unanimously voted to approve the ECS Sunshine Proposal.

**IX. Closing Items**

**A. Adjourn Meeting**

Zena Fong made a motion to adjourn meeting.

Dr. Betsy Hamilton seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Andrew Ellenbogen	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Aye



**Roll Call**

Zena Fong	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	Absent
Herb Sims	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Mason Williams	Aye
LESD Representative	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 6:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jeremiah David