APPROVED

Environmental Charter Schools

Minutes

Board of Directors' Meeting

In-Person at ECS Home Office

Date and Time
Thursday June 20, 2024 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 / 1 World Way, Los Angeles, CA 90045

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
Mr. Andrew Ellenbogen.....3 years June 30, 2026
Lawndale Elementary School District Representative, Rotating Position

ECS Staff
Ms. Farnaz Golshani-Flechner, Superintendent

Ms. Danielle Kelsick, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction
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.

Directors Present
Anthony Jowid (remote), Dr. Betsy Hamilton, Dr. Denise Berger, Dr. Madhu Chatwani, LESD Representative, Mason Williams, Zena Fong

Directors Absent
Andrew Ellenbogen, Herb Sims, Jenina Ramirez, Kennedy Hilario

Directors who arrived after the meeting opened
Dr. Madhu Chatwani

Guests Present

Danielle Kelsick, Dr. Cindy Guardado, Dr. Howard Ho, Farnaz Golshani-Flechner, Isabell Bañuelos, Jen Fenton, Jeremiah Rosario David, Tracy Bondi

---

I. Opening Items

A. Record attendance and guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Dr. Betsy Hamilton called a meeting of the board of directors of Environmental Charter Schools to order on Thursday Jun 20, 2024 at 5:02 PM.

C. Approve the agenda

The board voted to approve the agenda with the change to table the closed session items--sections VIII, IX, and X on the agenda.
Mason Williams made a motion to approve the agenda.
Zena Fong seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

D. Opener

The meeting attendees engaged in an opener dedicated to saying words of appreciation for outgoing board president Anthony Jowid.

II. Presentations from the Floor

A. Presentations from the floor on non-agenda Items

None.

B. Presentations from the floor on agenda items

None.

Dr. Madhu Chatwani arrived.

III. Discussion Items / Updates

A. 23/24 EdTec Financial Update and 24/25 Budgets Presentation

EdTec consultant Dorothy Lee presented the 23/24 EdTec Financial Update and 24/25 Budgets Presentation:

23/24 Forecast Changes

- ECHSL: Operating income increased by $51k
- ECMSG: Operating income increased by $21k
- ECMSI: Operating income increased by $24k
- ECHSG: Operating income decreased by $49k

24/25 May Revise Highlights

- 1.07% COLA (up from 0.76%)
- COLA extends to SpEd, Nutrition, MBG, Equity Multiplier, and more
- Increased COLA adds ~$50/ADA
- No deferrals, no new programs or funds

24/25 Budgets

- For each school, Budget Summary, Funding Driver Assumptions, Distribution of Budget - Revenues & Expenses, Cash Outlook in the EdTec slides were thoroughly reviewed by the Committee and guests

B. ECHS-G school update

ECHS-Gardena Principal Dr. Cindy Guardado presented the ECHS-G school update slides.

C. 2024-25 Local Control and Accountability Plans Presentation for all ECS Schools

Director of Strategic Initiatives Jen Fenton and Superintendent Farnaz Golshani-Flechner presented the 2024-25 Local Control and Accountability Plans for all ECS schools. The presentation included the following sections: LCAP overview, ECS shared goals, overall themes and needs, site-specific needs including ECMS-Gardena Differentiated Assistance, budget versus actual expenditures, and engaging partners.

IV. Public Hearing

A. Public Hearing regarding the actions and expenditures proposed in each ECS schools' 24/25 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)

There were no public speakers present to provide public comment at this hearing.

V. Consent Items A-M

A. Approve 5/2/2024 board minutes

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Directors' Meeting on 05-02-24.
Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approve 6/14/2024 Finance Committee meeting minutes

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve the minutes from Finance Committee Meeting on 06-14-24.
Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

Roll Call	
Anthony Jowid	Aye

C. Approve private donations over $1,000 as recommended by Finance Committee

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve private donations over $1,000 as recommended by Finance Committee.
Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

D. Approve check registers and credit card statements as recommended by Finance Committee

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve check registers and credit card statements as recommended by Finance Committee.
Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

E. Approve 2024-25 Education Protection Act Plan and Resolution as recommended by Finance Committee

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve 2024-25 Education Protection Act Plan and Resolution as recommended by Finance Committee.
Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

F. Approve Prop 28 Arts and Music in Schools Funding Annual Report as recommended by Finance Committee

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve Prop 28 Arts and Music in Schools Funding Annual Report as recommended by Finance Committee.
Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

G. Approve contracts

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve contracts.
Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

LESD Representative	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye

Roll Call

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

H. Approve 2023-24 revised Board & Committee Calendar

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve 2023-24 revised Board & Committee Calendar.
Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

I. Elect Dr. Betsy Hamilton as board president

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to elect Dr. Betsy Hamilton as board president.
Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

Roll Call	
Zena Fong	Aye

J. Approve 3-year board term renewal (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2027) for Jenina Ramirez

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve 3-year board term renewal (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2027) for Jenina Ramirez.
Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

K. Approve 2024-25 ECS Board Committees & Terms

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve 2024-25 ECS Board Committees & Terms.
Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

L. Approve 2024-25 ECS Board & Committee Calendar

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve 2024-25 ECS Board & Committee Calendar.
Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.

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

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

M. Approve revised ECHS-L 2023-24 Academic Calendar

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve revised ECHS-L 2023-24 Academic Calendar.
Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

VI. Action Items

A. Approve 2024-25 Local Accountability and Control Plans for ECHS-L, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G

Mason Williams made a motion to approve 2024-25 Local Accountability and Control Plans for ECHS-L, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G.
Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Jenina Ramirez	Absent
Zena Fong	Aye

Roll Call

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

B. Approve 2024-25 budgets for ECHS-L, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G as recommended by Finance Committee

Zena Fong made a motion to approve 2024-25 budgets for ECHS-L, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G as recommended by Finance Committee.
Dr. Madhu Chatwani seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

C. Approve 2024 California School Dashboard Local Indicators for ECHS-L, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G

Mason Williams made a motion to approve 2024 California School Dashboard Local Indicators for ECHS-L, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G.
Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Jenina Ramirez	Absent
Andrew Ellenbogen	Absent
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Absent
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye

Roll Call	
Mason Williams	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Herb Sims	Absent
Zena Fong	Aye

D. Approve 2024-25 Academic Calendars for ECHS-L, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G

Dr. Madhu Chatwani made a motion to approve 2024-25 Academic Calendars for ECHS-L, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G.
Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

VII. Transition to Closed Session

A. Adjourn to Closed Session

Tabled.

VIII. Closed Session

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Tabled.

B. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Gov’t Code §54957.6)

Tabled.

IX. Report Out of Closed Session

A. Report Out

Tabled.

X. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Dr. Madhu Chatwani made a motion to adjourn meeting.
Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Betsy Hamilton