

APPROVED



# Environmental Charter Schools

## Minutes

### Board of Directors' Meeting

In-Person at ECS Home Office

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#### 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

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ECS Board Members	Term	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

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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>.

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#### **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**

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

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## 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

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

### 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

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

##### 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

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

**Roll Call**

Zena Fong                      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**

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

**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**

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

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

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

Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Aye
Herb Sims	Absent

**Roll Call**

LESD Representative	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	Absent
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Andrew Ellenbogen	Absent
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Absent
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**

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

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

**Roll Call**

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

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

**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**

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

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

**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**

Herb Sims	Absent
Kennedy Hilario	Absent

**Roll Call**

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

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

**Roll Call**

Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	Absent

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

Andrew Ellenbogen Absent

Dr. Madhu Chatwani Aye

Jenina Ramirez Absent

Dr. Denise Berger Aye

Anthony Jowid Aye

LESD Representative Aye

Kennedy Hilario Absent

Dr. Betsy Hamilton Aye

Herb Sims Absent

Zena Fong Aye

Mason Williams Aye

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