



# Environmental Charter Schools

## Minutes

### Board of Directors' Meeting

In-Person at ECS Home Office

---

#### Date and Time

Thursday September 19, 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, 13885 Dogleg Lane, Broomfield, CO 80023

---

#### ECS Board Members

#### Term and End Date

Dr. Betsy Hamilton, President.....	3 years June 30, 2025
Dr. Denise Berger, Secretary.....	3 years June 30, 2026
Mr. Anthony Jowid.....	3 years June 30, 2025
Ms. Zena Fong.....	3 years June 30, 2026
Ms. Jenina Ramirez.....	3 years June 30, 2027
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**

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

#### **Directors Absent**

Dr. Madhu Chatwani

#### **Directors who arrived after the meeting opened**

Anthony Jowid, Jenina Ramirez, Mason Williams

#### **Guests Present**

---

Alberto Paredes (LESD Representative), Danielle Kelsick, Dorothy Lee (remote), Dr. Geneva Matthews, Farnaz Golshani-Flechner, Isabell Bañuelos, Jeremiah David, Jeremiah David

---

## 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 Sep 19, 2024 at 5:07 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

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

### 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. Discussion Items / Updates

### A.

## 2023-24 financial review and 2024-25 revised budgets

*EdTec consultant Dorothy Lee presented the ECS Financial Update slides:*

- 2023-24 forecast changes to unaudited actuals
  - ECHS-Lawndale: Operating Income decreased by \$43k
  - ECMS-Gardena: Operating Income decreased by \$35k
  - ECMS-Inglewood: Operating Income decreased by \$9k
  - ECHS-Gardena: Operating Income increased by \$434k
- 2024-25 budget forecast changes
  - ECHS-Lawndale: Operating income decreased by \$167k
  - ECMS-Gardena: Operating income increased by \$32k
  - ECMS-Inglewood: Operating income increased by \$310k
  - ECHS-Gardena: Operating income increased by \$11k

Jenina Ramirez arrived.

Mason Williams arrived.

### B. ECMS-Inglewood school update

ECMS-Inglewood Principal Dr. Geneva Matthews presented the ECMSI Board Meeting 2024 Fall Presentation slides.

Anthony Jowid arrived.

## IV. Consent Items A-L

### A. Approve 8/1/2024 board minutes

Herb Sims made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Directors' Meeting on 08-01-24.

LESD Representative seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

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

### B.

### **Approve 9/13/2024 Finance Committee meeting minutes**

Herb Sims made a motion to approve the minutes from Finance Committee Meeting on 09-13-24.

LESD Representative seconded the motion.

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

#### **Roll Call**

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

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

Herb Sims made a motion to approve private donations over \$1,000 as recommended by Finance Committee.

LESD Representative seconded the motion.

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

#### **Roll Call**

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

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

Herb Sims made a motion to approve check registers and credit card statements as recommended by Finance Committee.

LESD Representative seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**E. Approve Unaudited Actuals for ECHS-L, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G as recommended by Finance Committee**

Herb Sims made a motion to approve Unaudited Actuals for ECHS-L, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G as recommended by Finance Committee.

LESD Representative seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**F. Approve ECS Resolutions for 2024 Financing as recommended by Finance Committee**

Herb Sims made a motion to approve ECS Resolutions for 2024 Financing as recommended by Finance Committee.

LESD Representative seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

Anthony Jowid	Aye
Andrew Ellenbogen	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Absent
Mason Williams	Aye

**Roll Call**

Herb Sims	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	Absent
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye

**G. Approve 2024-25 Finance Committee Goals as recommended by Finance Committee**

Herb Sims made a motion to approve 2024-25 Finance Committee Goals as recommended by Finance Committee.

LESD Representative seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**H. Approve contracts**

Herb Sims made a motion to approve contracts.

LESD Representative seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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



**I. Approve revised 2024-25 Board & Committee Calendar**

Herb Sims made a motion to approve revised 2024-25 Board & Committee Calendar.

LESD Representative seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**J. Approve LACOE Certification of Signatures 2024-25**

Herb Sims made a motion to approve LACOE Certification of Signatures 2024-25.

LESD Representative seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**K. Approve Parent-Student Handbooks**

Herb Sims made a motion to approve Parent-Student Handbooks.

LESD Representative seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

Zena Fong	Aye
Herb Sims	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	Absent

**Roll Call**

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

**L. Approve School Plans for Student Achievement**

Herb Sims made a motion to approve School Plans for Student Achievement.

LESD Representative seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**V. Action Item**

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

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve 2024-25 budgets for ECHS-L, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G as recommended by Finance Committee.

Zena Fong seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**Roll Call**

Herb Sims	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Absent

**VI. Upcoming Dates/Announcements**

**A. Next ECS Board Meeting**

The next regular board meeting, per the revised board calendar in the adopted consent agenda, is on Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 5pm.

**B. Next ECS Committee Meetings**

**C. Appreciations**

Tabled.

**VII. Transition to Closed Session**

**A. Adjourn to Closed Session**

Herb Sims made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session.

Zena Fong seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**VIII. Report Out of Closed Session**

**A. Report Out**

Board President Dr. Betsy Hamilton stated that the board met in closed session with nothing to report out.

**IX. Closing Items**

**A.**

### **Adjourn Meeting**

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to adjourn meeting.

Herb Sims seconded the motion.

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

### **Roll Call**

LESD Representative Absent

Dr. Betsy Hamilton Aye

Mason Williams Aye

Kennedy Hilario Aye

Jenina Ramirez Absent

Andrew Ellenbogen Aye

Dr. Denise Berger Aye

Zena Fong Aye

Dr. Madhu Chatwani Absent

Herb Sims 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 7:21 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Betsy Hamilton