



Environmental Charter Schools

Minutes

Board of Directors' Meeting

In-Person at ECS Home Office

Date and Time

Thursday December 12, 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 | 157 W. 111th St, New York | Malecon De La Reserva 615, Lima, Peru

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 checkin 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 (remote), Kennedy Hilario (remote), Mason Williams, Zena Fong

Directors Absent

Andrew Ellenbogen, Herb Sims, Jenina Ramirez, LESD Representative

Directors who arrived after the meeting opened

Zena Fong

Directors who left before the meeting adjourned

Dr. Madhu Chatwani

Guests Present

Danielle Kelsick, Dorothy Lee, Dr. Shalene Wright, Jeremiah David, Monse Garcia, Remco Waller, Tracy Bondi (remote)

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 Dec 12, 2024 at 5:05 PM.

C. Approve the agenda

Zena Fong arrived at 5:06 PM.

Mason Williams made a motion to Approve the agenda.

Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

D. Opener

Deputy Superintendent of Instruction Danielle Kelsick shared with the board an opener with the following prompt: "What advice would you give to the first graduating class of Environmental Charter High School - Gardena?"

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. EdTec financial update

EdTec Consultant Dorothy Lee shared a presentation with financial updates for each schoolsite. Operational costs was shared alongside enrollment and ADA information.

B. California School Dashboard Comparison

Deputy Superintendent of Instruction Danielle Kelsick shared with the board a presentation of the California School Dashboard comparing our schoolsites with schools across the state of CA.

The board was given 5 minutes to review information on English Language Arts, Math, and Science and compare how Environmental Charter schoolsites performed compared to state averages.

The board was given 5 minutes to share their thoughts about the information they were given.

Dr. Madhu Chatwani left at 6:32 PM.

IV. Consent Items A-J

A. Approve 11/21/2024 special board meeting minutes

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Board of Directors' Meeting on 11-21-24.

Mason Williams seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

B. Approve 9/19/2024 board meeting minutes

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Directors' Meeting on 09-19-24.

Mason Williams seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

C. Approve check registers and credit card statements

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve check registers and credit card statements. Mason Williams seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

D. Approve contracts

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve contracts.

Mason Williams seconded the motion.

Director of Compliance and Operations Jeremiah David clarified a correction to page 6 on the agenda regarding the TadHealth Education EHR Software 3-Year Contract. The program referenced should be the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative program, not the SMAA Medi-Cal Fee program as stated in the agenda.

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

Roll Call

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

E. Approve revised 2024-25 Board & Committee Calendar

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve revised 2024-25 Board & Committee Calendar.

Mason Williams seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

F. Approve School Accountability Report Cards of School Year 2023-24

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve School Accountability Report Cards of School Year 2023-24.

Mason Williams seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Dr. Denise Berger Aye
Zena Fong Aye
Herb Sims Absent
Kennedy Hilario Aye
Dr. Betsy Hamilton Aye

Anthony Jowid Aye

Mason Williams Aye

Dr. Madhu Chatwani Absent

Jenina Ramirez Absent

Andrew Ellenbogen Absent

LESD Representative Absent

G. Accept LACOE Governance & Instructional Program Reviews

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to accept LACOE Governance & Instructional Program Reviews.

Mason Williams seconded the motion.

Director of Compliance and Operations Jeremiah David clarified a minor update regarding the Instructional Program Review for ECHSG. This instructional review was not available at the time of the meeting for review and discussion and therefore will be included at the following board meeting.

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

Roll Call

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

H. Approve Special Education Individual Educational Evaluation (IEE) Policy

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve Special Education Individual Educational Evaluation (IEE) Policy.

Mason Williams seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

Anthony Jowid Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani Absent
Herb Sims Absent

I. Approve Alternate Diploma Pathway Policy

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve Alternate Diploma Pathway Policy.

Mason Williams seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

J. Approve 12/9/2024 audit committee meeting minutes

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve the minutes from Audit Committee Meeting on 12-09-24.

Mason Williams seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

V. Action Items

A. Approve First Interim Financial Reports for ECHS-L, ECMS-I, ECMS-G, ECHS-G

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve First Interim Financial Reports for ECHS-L, ECMS-I, ECMS-G, ECHS-G.

Zena Fong seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

B. Approve ECS Fifth Amended Bylaws

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve ECS Fifth Amended Bylaws.

Mason Williams seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

C. Approve FY 2023-24 Audit Report as Recommended by Audit Committee

Zena Fong made a motion to approve FY 2023-24 Audit Report as Recommended by Audit Committee.

Mason Williams seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Andrew Ellenbogen Absent
Jenina Ramirez Absent
Herb Sims Absent

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

VI. Upcoming Dates/Announcements

A. Next ECS Board Meeting

Then next ECS regular board meeting will be on Thursday, February 27, 2024 at 5pm.

B. Next ECS Committee Meetings

The next ECS committee meeting will be the Finance Committee on June 14, 2025, at 8:30 am through Zoom.

C. Appreciations

The board opened the floor for appreciations:

- Board Member Denise Berger expressed gratitude to Board President Betsy Hamilton for her leadership in guiding the meeting.
- Board Member Kennedy Hilario shared appreciation for Deputy Superintendent of Instruction Danielle Kelsick, commending her for her enthusiasm and her ability to consistently guide the organization in the right direction.
- Board Member Zena Fong recognized Deputy Superintendent of Instruction Danielle Kelsick for her supportive leadership during Superintendent Farnaz Flechner's absence.

VII. Transition to Closed Session

A. Adjourn to Closed Session

Mason Williams made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session.

Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Dr. Madhu Chatwani Absent
Dr. Betsy Hamilton Aye
LESD Representative Absent

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

VIII. Report Out of Closed Session

A. Report Out

The board returned from closed session with nothing to report out.

IX. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to adjourn meeting.

Mason Williams seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeremiah David