APPROVED

# Environmental Charter Schools

# Minutes

## Board of Directors' Meeting

In-Person at ECS Home Office

---

**Date and Time**
Thursday February 27, 2025 at 5:00 PM

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

**Two-way teleconference locations:** 723 Main Street Houston, TX 77002 | 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, .....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 & English Language Development
Mr. Cesar Delgado, Director of Student Wellness
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, Anthony Jowid (remote), Dr. Betsy Hamilton, Dr. Denise Berger, Herb Sims, Jenina Ramirez, LESD Representative, Mason Williams, Zena Fong

**Directors Absent**
Dr. Madhu Chatwani, Kennedy Hilario

**Directors who arrived after the meeting opened**
Andrew Ellenbogen

**Guests Present**

---

Alison Diaz (remote), Danielle Kelsick, Dorothy Lee, Dr. Howard Ho (LESD Representative), Dr. Shalene Wright (remote), Farnaz Golshani-Flechner, Helen Izaguirre, Jen Fenton, Jeremiah Rosario David, Lauren Pell, Nicholas Darden, Sarah Jamieson, Taylor Zamora, 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 Feb 27, 2025 at 5:06 PM.

### C. Approve the agenda

Mason Williams made a motion to approve the agenda.
Herb Sims seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

### D. Opener

The board, staff and guests engaged in a brief opener in groups of two or three for the purpose to get to know one another.

## II. Presentations from the Floor

### A. Presentations from the floor on non-agenda Items

Nicholas Darden from Environmental Educators United (EEU) gave public comment on the topic of the collective bargaining process in progress between EEU and ECS.

### B. Presentations from the floor on agenda items

None.

## III. Discussion Items / Updates

### A. EdTec financial update

*EdTec consultant Dorothy Lee presented the EdTec Financial Slides in the board packet:*

- 2024-25 budget forecast changes to 2nd Interim
  - ECHS-Lawndale: Operating Income decreased by $70k
  - ECMS-Gardena: Operating Income increased by $70k
  - ECMS-Inglewood: Operating Income increased by $70k
  - ECHS-Gardena: Operating Income increased by $2k
- 2nd Interim Financial Reports were reviewed school by school in depth with questions and answers from the ECS board and staff.

Andrew Ellenbogen arrived.

### B. LCAP midyear update report

Director of Strategic Initiatives Jen Fenton, in collaboration with our EdTec consultant Dorothy Lee, presented the midyear update slides on the Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs) for all ECS schools. They focused on the LCAP's framework of goals, actions, and expenditures for each school site and evaluated the progress of the sites in meeting these specified objectives.

## IV. Consent Items A-H

### A. Approve 12/12/2024 board meeting minutes

Zena Fong made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Directors' Meeting on 12-12-24.
Mason Williams seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

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

## B. Approve check registers and credit card statements

Zena Fong 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**

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

## C. Approve private donations over $1,000

Zena Fong made a motion to approve private donations over $1,000.
Mason Williams seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

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

## D. Approve contracts

Zena Fong made a motion to approve contracts.
Mason Williams seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

| | |
|---|---|
| Zena Fong | Aye |
| Dr. Betsy Hamilton | Aye |
| Dr. Madhu Chatwani | Absent |

**Roll Call**

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

## E. Accept ECHS-Gardena LACOE Instructional Program Review

Zena Fong made a motion to accept ECHS-Gardena LACOE Instructional Program Review.
Mason Williams seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

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

## F. Approve Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation MOA Amendment #1 to extend for an additional four years

Zena Fong made a motion to approve Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation MOA Amendment #1 to extend for an additional four years.
Mason Williams seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

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

**Roll Call**

| | |
|---|---|
| Dr. Madhu Chatwani | Absent |
| Zena Fong | Aye |

### G. Approve updated Comprehensive School Safety Plans for ECHS-L, ECMS-I, ECMS-G, ECHS-G

Zena Fong made a motion to approve updated Comprehensive School Safety Plans for ECHS-L, ECMS-I, ECMS-G, ECHS-G.
Mason Williams seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

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

### H. Approve revised ECS Academic Calendars 2024-25

Zena Fong made a motion to approve revised ECS Academic Calendars 2024-25.
Mason Williams seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

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

## V. Action Items

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

Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve Second Interim Financial Reports for ECHS-L, ECMS-I, ECMS-G, ECHS-G.
Herb Sims seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

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

## B. Approve contracts for ECS Environmental Leaders Pathway Program

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve contracts for ECS Environmental Leaders Pathway Program.
Anthony Jowid seconded the motion.
**Contracts:**

1. El Camino College - College and Career Access Pathways Partnership (CCAP) Agreement

2. Climate Action Pathways for Schools (CAPS) Agreement

3. South Bay Workforce Investment Board - Services Proposal for ECHS (contract term date: March 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)

4. South Bay Workforce Investment Board - Youth @ Work Worksite Agreement
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

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

**Roll Call**

| | |
|---|---|
| Andrew Ellenbogen | Aye |

## VI. Upcoming Dates/Announcements

### A. Next ECS Board Meeting

### B. Next ECS Committee Meetings

### C. Appreciations

Appreciations were shared among the ECS board, staff and EEU members in attendance.

## VII. Transition to Closed Session

### A. Adjourn to Closed Session

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to adjourn to closed session.
Zena Fong seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

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

## VIII. Report Out of Closed Session

### A. Report Out

Board president Dr. Betsy Hamilton reported that the ECS Board of Directors has unanimously selected Danielle Kelsick as the new superintendent effective May 1, 2025 with an annual salary of $196,000.

### B. Appoint the selected candidate as Superintendent, effective on June 1, 2025.

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to appoint the selected candidate Danielle Kelsick as Superintendent, with a modification of the effective date to May 1, 2025.
Jenina Ramirez seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

### C. Ratification of Superintendent's Employment Agreement, effective June 1, 2025

Mason Williams made a motion to ratify the Superintendent's Employment Agreement, with a modification of the effective date to May 1, 2025.
Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

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

## IX. Closing Items

### A. Adjourn Meeting

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

**Roll Call**

| | |
|---|---|
| LESD Representative | Aye |
| Anthony Jowid | Aye |
| Jenina Ramirez | Aye |
| Herb Sims | Aye |

**Roll Call**

| | |
|---|---|
| Kennedy Hilario | Absent |
| Dr. Madhu Chatwani | Absent |
| Mason Williams | Aye |
| Dr. Denise Berger | Aye |
| Zena Fong | Aye |
| Andrew Ellenbogen | 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 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Betsy Hamilton