



# Environmental Charter Schools

## Minutes

### Board of Directors' Meeting

In-Person at ECS Home Office

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#### 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

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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

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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 & 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>.

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### **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**

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Alison Diaz (remote), Danielle Kelsick, Dorothy Lee, Dr. Howard Ho (LESD Representative), Dr. Shalene Wright (remote), Farnaz Golshani-Flechner, Helen Izaguirre, Jen Fenton, Jeremiah David, Lauren Pell, Nicholas Darden, Sarah Jamieson, Taylor Zamora, Tracy Bondi (remote)

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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 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**

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

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

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

**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**

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

**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**

Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Mason Williams	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye

**Roll Call**

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

**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**

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

**Roll Call**

Mason Williams            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**

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

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

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

**Roll Call**

Dr. Denise Berger      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**

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

**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**

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

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

Anthony Jowid	Aye
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Absent

**Roll Call**

Andrew Ellenbogen	Aye
Mason Williams	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	Aye
Herb Sims	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Absent

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