APPROVED

Environmental Charter Schools

Minutes

Board of Directors' Meeting

In-Person at ECS Home Office

Date and Time
Thursday May 15, 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: 1100 Shasta Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126 | 13885 Dogleg Lane, Broomfield, CO 80023 | 1 Saarinen Cir, Dulles, VA 20166

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. Danielle Kelsick, Superintendent

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 (remote), Anthony Jowid (remote), Dr. Betsy Hamilton, Dr. Denise Berger (remote), Dr. Madhu Chatwani (remote), Kennedy Hilario (remote), Zena Fong

Directors Absent
Herb Sims, Jenina Ramirez, LESD Representative, Mason Williams

Guests Present
Caitlin Krier, Danielle Kelsick, Dorothy Lee (EdTec) (remote), Dr. Shalene Wright, Isabell Bañuelos, Jair Ventura (EdTec) (remote), Jeremiah Rosario David, Kayla McCarley, Lauren Pell, 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 May 15, 2025 at 5:06 PM.

C. Approve the agenda

Zena Fong made a motion to approve the agenda.
Dr. Betsy Hamilton seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

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

Caitlin Krier from Environmental Educators United (EEU) gave public comment on the topic of the collective bargaining agreement in progress between EEU and ECS.

B. Presentations from the floor on agenda items

None.

III. Discussion Items / Updates

A. Superintendent update

Superintendent Danielle Kelsick provided updates on school academic testing underway, leadership transitions including her own promotion to Superintendent and Lucia Bañuelos' promotion to fill the ensuing Deputy Superintendent vacancy, upcoming charter renewals, and academic initiatives, including the implementation of reading apprenticeship as the vehicle for the critical thinking priority.

B. EdTec financial update

EdTec consultant Jair Ventura presented the EdTec Financial Slides in the board packet:

- 2024-25 budget forecast changes
  - ECHS-Lawndale: Operating Income decreased by $54k
  - ECMS-Gardena: Operating Income decreased by $48k
  - ECMS-Inglewood: Operating Income decreased by $100k
  - ECHS-Gardena: Operating Income decreased by $184k
- FY26 State Budget was reviewed after the release of the CA Governor's May Revise budget. The estimated Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for ECS's K-12 state funding is reduced from 2.43% to 2.3%.

IV. Consent Items A-H

A. Approve 2/27/2025 board meeting minutes

Zena Fong made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Directors' Meeting on 02-27-25.
Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approve private donations over $1,000

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

Roll Call

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

C. Approve check registers and credit card statements

Zena Fong made a motion to approve check registers and credit card statements.
Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

D. Approve Danielle Kelsick as authorized signer for Beneficial State Bank accounts

Zena Fong made a motion to approve Danielle Kelsick as authorized signer for Beneficial State Bank accounts.
Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

Roll Call	
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Mason Williams	Absent
Andrew Ellenbogen	Absent

E. Approve closure of Comerica bank account

Zena Fong made a motion to approve closure of Comerica bank account.
Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

F. Approve contracts

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

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

G. Approve revised ECS Expulsion Hearing Committee Guidelines

Zena Fong made a motion to approve revised ECS Expulsion Hearing Committee Guidelines.
Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

H. Approve ECS/MCP & LLCs Tax Returns (Forms 990 and 199)

Zena Fong made a motion to approve ECS/MCP & LLCs Tax Returns (Forms 990 and 199).
Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

V. Action Item

A. Approve ECS Academic Calendars 2025-26

Anthony Jowid made a motion to approve ECS Academic Calendars 2025-26.
Zena Fong seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
LESD Representative	Absent
Herb Sims	Absent

Roll Call	
Jenina Ramirez	Absent
Mason Williams	Absent
Zena Fong	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Aye
Andrew Ellenbogen	Absent
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye

VI. Upcoming Dates/Announcements

A. Next ECS Board Meeting

B. Next ECS Committee Meetings

C. Appreciations

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

VII. Transition to Closed Session

A. Adjourn to Closed Session

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

Roll Call	
LESD Representative	Absent
Mason Williams	Absent
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Andrew Ellenbogen	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	Absent
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
Anthony Jowid	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. Betsy Hamilton made a motion to adjourn meeting.
Zena Fong seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Herb Sims	Absent
Mason Williams	Absent
Andrew Ellenbogen	Aye
Jenina Ramirez	Absent
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
LESD Representative	Absent
Anthony Jowid	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 7:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeremiah Rosario David