APPROVED

Environmental Charter Schools

Minutes

Board of Directors' Meeting

In-Person at ECS Home Office

Date and Time
Monday July 28, 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

ECS Board Members Term and End Date
Dr. Betsy Hamilton, President.....3 years June 30, 2028
Dr. Denise Berger, ...3 years June 30, 2026
Mr. Anthony Jowid.....3 years June 30, 2028
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, 2028
Mr. Mason Williams.....3 years June 30, 2028
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
Dr. Geneva Matthews, Principal at ECMS-Inglewood
Mr. Dave Trejo, Principal at ECMS-Gardena
Dr. Beth Bernstein-Yamashiro, Principal at ECHS-Gardena
Ms. Jennifer Larsen, Principal at ECHS-Lawndale

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, Dr. Betsy Hamilton, Dr. Denise Berger, Herb Sims (remote), Jenina Ramirez, Kennedy Hilario (remote), LESD Representative, Mason Williams, Remco Waller, Zena Fong

Directors Absent
Dr. Madhu Chatwani

Directors who arrived after the meeting opened
Dr. Denise Berger, Jenina Ramirez, Remco Waller

Guests Present
Cesar Delgado, Danielle Kelsick, Isabell Bañuelos, Jen Fenton, Jeremiah Rosario David, Lucia Bañuelos, Sarah Jamieson

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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 Monday Jul 28, 2025 at 5:07 PM.
Dr. Denise Berger arrived.

C. Approve the agenda

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

Roll Call

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

None.

B. Presentations from the floor on agenda items

None.

III. Discussion Items / Updates

A. Superintendent update: preview of 2025-26 Academic Priority Plan

Superintendent Danielle Kelsick presented an early preview of 2025-26 Academic Priority Plan, followed by a discussion and Q&A among the board members and staff.
Jenina Ramirez arrived.

IV. Consent Items A-H

A. Approve 6/23/2025 board meeting minutes

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Directors' Meeting on 06-23-25.
Andrew Ellenbogen seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approve 7/15/2025 Governance Committee meeting minutes

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Governance Committee Meeting on 07-15-25.
Andrew Ellenbogen seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Jenina Ramirez	Aye
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Absent
Zena Fong	Aye
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Absent
Remco Waller	Absent
LESD Representative	Aye

Roll Call

Herb Sims	Aye
Andrew Ellenbogen	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Mason Williams	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye

C. Approve contracts

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

Roll Call

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

D. Approve LACOE Certification of Signatures 2025-26

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve LACOE Certification of Signatures 2025-26.
Andrew Ellenbogen seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

E.

Approve Teachers on Special Assignment for 2025-26 School Year (Board Policy 32188)

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve Teachers on Special Assignment for 2025-26 School Year (Board Policy 32188).
Andrew Ellenbogen seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

F. Approve 2025-26 ECS Employee Handbook

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve 2025-26 ECS Employee Handbook.
Andrew Ellenbogen seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Absent
Remco Waller	Absent
Anthony Jowid	Absent

G. Approve revised 2025-26 ECS Board Committees & Terms

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve revised 2025-26 ECS Board Committees & Terms.
Andrew Ellenbogen seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Remco Waller	Absent
Anthony Jowid	Absent
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Absent

H. Approve sale or disposal of ECS e-waste (surplus technology equipment)

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve sale or disposal of ECS e-waste (surplus technology equipment).

Andrew Ellenbogen seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Remco Waller	Absent
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Absent
Anthony Jowid	Absent

V. Action Items

A. Approve CL 500 Declaration of Need for ECHS-Lawndale, ECMS-Gardena, ECMS-Inglewood, ECHS-Gardena

Remco Waller arrived.
Jenina Ramirez made a motion to approve CL 500 Declaration of Need for ECHS-Lawndale, ECMS-Gardena, ECMS-Inglewood, ECHS-Gardena.
Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Anthony Jowid	Absent
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Absent
Remco Waller	Aye

B. Elect prospective board member Remco Waller to ECS Board

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to elect prospective board member Remco Waller to ECS Board.
Mason Williams seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Anthony Jowid	Absent
Remco Waller	Absent
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Absent

C. Accept board member resignation of Jenina Ramirez effective 7/28/2025

Mason Williams made a motion to accept board member resignation of Jenina Ramirez effective 7/28/2025.
Remco Waller seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Anthony Jowid	Absent
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Absent

VI. Upcoming Dates/Announcements

A.

Next ECS Board Meeting

B. Next ECS Committee Meetings

C. Appreciations

Appreciations were shared by a number of board members and ECS staff for the many years of service from outgoing board member Jenina Ramirez.

VII. Transition to Closed Session

A. Adjourn to Closed Session

Mason Williams made a motion to adjourn to closed session.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Anthony Jowid	Absent
Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Absent

VIII. Report Out of Closed Session

A. Report Out

Reporting out of closed seesion, the board voted to affirm the expulsion of Student #2025-001 following the appeal hearing. The motion carried with a vote of 8–0. Board members Williams, Cooper, Fong, Waller, Berger, Ellenbogen, Ramirez, Hilario voted No to the appeal. No members voted Yes to the appeal. Board member Sims abstained (having served on the Expulsion Committee at the expulsion hearing).

IX. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

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

Roll Call

Dr. Madhu Chatwani	Absent
Anthony Jowid	Absent

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Betsy Hamilton