DRAFT

Environmental Charter Schools

Minutes

Board of Directors' Meeting

In-Person at ECS Home Office

Date and Time
Monday August 24, 2026 at 5:00 PM

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

Two-way teleconference locations: ECMS-Gardena (812 W. 165th Place, Gardena, CA 90247) |
ECMS-Inglewood (3600 W Imperial Hwy, Inglewood, CA 90303) | ECHS-Lawndale (16315 Grevillea Ave.
Lawndale, CA 90260) | ECHS-Gardena (2818 Manhattan Beach Blvd, Gardena, CA 90249) |
1100 Shasta Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126 | 795 Poplar Street, Denver, CO 80220

Each teleconference location listed above is open and accessible to the public. Members of the public may attend and address the Board from any listed location.

ECS Board Members Term and End Date
Dr. Denise Berger, President.................3 years June 30, 2029
Mr. Anthony Jowid, Vice President.......3 years June 30, 2028
Dr. Betsy Hamilton................................3 years June 30, 2028
Ms. Zena Fong......................................3 years June 30, 2029
Mr. Kennedy Hilario...............................3 years June 30, 2029
Mr. Herb Sims.......................................3 years June 30, 2028
Mr. Mason Williams...............................3 years June 30, 2028

Mr. Andrew Ellenbogen..........................3 years June 30, 2029
Mr. Remco Waller..................................3 years June 30, 2028
Lawndale Elementary School District Representative, Rotating Position

ECS Staff
Ms. Danielle Kelsick, Superintendent
Ms. Lucia Bañuelos, Deputy Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Jeremiah Rosario David, Director of Compliance & Operations
Ms. Sarah Jamieson, Director of Human Resources
Ms. Jen Fenton, Director of Development & Communications
Dr. Shalene Wright, Director of SpEd & English Language Development
Mr. Cesar Delgado, Director of Student Wellness
Ms. Sarahai Garibay, Senior Manager of Finance
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 regular meetings. 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 up to 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the Board meeting by turning in a Speaker Form (available at the check-in table in English and Spanish). Speaker Forms must be turned in by the time of the published start of the board meeting (e.g. 5:00 pm) in order to be added to the public comment section for that meeting.

Should a member of the public wish to speak on matters not listed on the agenda at regular meetings, they may speak during the Presentations from the Floor section of the agenda. Speakers will be given a maximum of two (2) minutes each to address the Board (non-English speakers utilizing translators will be given a maximum of four (4) minutes each). Please note that the Board allows a maximum of 16 minutes for this section, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Should a member of the public wish to speak on matters listed on the agenda, they may speak at the beginning of the specific agenda item. Speakers will be given a maximum of two (2) minutes each to address the Board (non-English speakers utilizing translators will be given a maximum of four (4) minutes each). Please note that the Board allows a maximum of 6 minutes to each agenda item on a first-come, first-served basis.

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.

AGENDA POSTING

This agenda is posted in the exterior public display case adjacent to the side entrance of the ECS Home Office, 2625 Manhattan Beach Blvd, Suite 100, Redondo Beach, CA 90278, which is freely accessible to the public 24 hours a day, at each teleconference location listed above, and on the ECS public meeting portal.

ACCESO AL IDIOMA

Para solicitar una traducción de esta agenda o servicios de interpretación para esta reunión, comuníquese con ECS al (310) 214-3408, opción 5, con al menos 48 horas de anticipación.

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF AGENDA MATERIALS
Writings that are public records and are distributed to a majority of the Board in connection with an open session agenda item are available for public inspection at the ECS Home Office, 2625 Manhattan Beach Blvd, Suite 100, Redondo Beach, CA 90278, during regular business hours, and on the ECS public meeting portal. Writings distributed less than 72 hours before the meeting will be made available for public inspection at the same time they are distributed to members of the Board. For more information concerning this agenda or for materials relating to this meeting, please contact ECS at (310) 214-3408, option 5.

Directors Present
Andrew Ellenbogen, Anthony Jowid (remote), Dr. Betsy Hamilton, Dr. Denise Berger, Herb Sims, Kennedy Hilario (remote), LESD Representative, Mason Williams, Remco Waller, Zena Fong

Directors Absent
None

Directors who left before the meeting adjourned
LESD Representative

Guests Present
Anita Amoh (Vertex Education), Cesar Delgado, Danielle Kelsick, Dr. Rosa Perez - Isiah, Ed. D. (remote), Dr. Shalene Wright (remote), Jeremiah Rosario David, Lucia Bañuelos, Sarah Jamieson, Sarahai Garibay, Tracy Pumilia (LESD representative)

I. Opening Items

A. Record attendance and guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Anthony Jowid called a meeting of the board of directors of Environmental Charter Schools to order on Monday Aug 24, 2026 at 5:08 PM.

C. Approve the agenda

Andrew Ellenbogen made a motion to approve the agenda.
Remco Waller seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Dr. Denise Berger	Aye

Roll Call

Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Herb Sims	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Remco Waller	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Mason Williams	Aye
Andrew Ellenbogen	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye

D. Opener

The board, staff and guests engaged in a brief opener in small groups for the purpose of getting to know each other.

II. Presentations from the Floor

A. Presentations from the floor on non-agenda items

None.

B. Presentations from the floor on agenda items

None.

C. Public hearing regarding sufficiency of instructional materials for 2026-27 for ECHS-L, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G

None.

III. Discussion Items / Updates

A. Superintendent update

Superintendent Danielle Kelsick presented the Superintendent Update slides including Stacking Good Days From the Start, enrollment and attendance statistics, HVAC modernization progress, and the upcoming charter renewal timelines for ECMS-G and ECHS-L.

B. 2025-26 Unaudited Actuals and FY26 Financial Update

Vertex Education consultant Anita Amoh presented the Financial Update slides in the board packet. The presentation covered the following for Fiscal Year 2025-26: unaudited actuals versus last forecast, enrollment, operating income comparison, forecast changes for each school, CapEx impact on ECHSG operating income, fund balances, cash flow and investments, days cash on hand, and financial covenants (debt service ratio and days cash on hand), followed by a full discussion among the board members and ECS leadership.

C. Committee Chair updates

The following chairs presented their committee updates slides:

- Andrew Ellenbogen, Finance
- Kennedy Hilario, Labor & Compensation
- Anthony Jowid, Governance

IV. EEU Comments to the Board

A. EEU Comments to the Board

None.

V. Consent Items A-I

A. Approve 7/27/2026 board meeting minutes

Dr. Betsy Hamilton made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Directors' Meeting on 07-27-26.
Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Mason Williams	Aye
Andrew Ellenbogen	Aye
Herb Sims	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Remco Waller	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye

B. Approve private donations over $1,000 as recommended by Finance Committee

Dr. Betsy Hamilton made a motion to approve private donations over $1,000 as recommended by Finance Committee.
Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Mason Williams	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye

Roll Call

Herb Sims	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
Remco Waller	Aye
Andrew Ellenbogen	Aye

C. Approve check registers and credit card statements

Dr. Betsy Hamilton 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

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

D. Approve contracts

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

Roll Call

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

E. Approve revised 2026-27 Board & Committee Calendar

Dr. Betsy Hamilton made a motion to approve revised 2026-27 Board & Committee Calendar.
Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

F. Approve 2026-27 Parent-Student Handbooks for ECHS-L, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G

Dr. Betsy Hamilton made a motion to approve 2026-27 Parent-Student Handbooks for ECHS-L, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G.
Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

G. Approve revised Independent Study Policy

Dr. Betsy Hamilton made a motion to approve revised Independent Study Policy.
Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
Mason Williams	Aye
Herb Sims	Aye

Roll Call

LESD Representative	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Andrew Ellenbogen	Aye
Remco Waller	Aye
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye

H. Approve Board Resolution No. 2026-01 - Sufficiency of Instructional Materials for 2026-27

Dr. Betsy Hamilton made a motion to approve Board Resolution No. 2026-01 - Sufficiency of Instructional Materials for 2026-27.
Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

I. Approve ECS English Learner Master Plan

Dr. Betsy Hamilton made a motion to approve ECS English Learner Master Plan.
Dr. Denise Berger seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

VI. Action Items

A.

Approve 2025-26 Unaudited Actuals for ECHS-L, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G as recommended by Finance Committee

Mason Williams made a motion to approve 2025-26 Unaudited Actuals for ECHS-L, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G as recommended by Finance Committee.
Remco Waller seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Herb Sims	Aye
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Andrew Ellenbogen	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
Mason Williams	Aye
Remco Waller	Aye

B. Approve revised ECS Salary Scales/Schedules Compensation 2026-27

Dr. Denise Berger made a motion to approve revised ECS Salary Scales/Schedules Compensation 2026-27.
Zena Fong seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Herb Sims	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Remco Waller	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
Andrew Ellenbogen	Aye
Mason Williams	Aye

VII. Upcoming Dates/Announcements

A. Next ECS board meeting

B. Next ECS committee meetings and events

C. Appreciations

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

VIII. Transition to Closed Session

A. Adjourn to closed session

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

Roll Call	
Zena Fong	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Andrew Ellenbogen	Aye
Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
LESD Representative	Aye
Herb Sims	Aye
Remco Waller	Aye
Mason Williams	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye

IX. Closed Session

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Government Code § 54956.9(d)(1))

LESD Representative left.

X. Report out of Closed Session

A. Report out

Coming out of closed session, Board Vice President Anthony Jowid stated there was nothing to report out.

XI. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Herb Sims made a motion to adjourn meeting.
Remco Waller seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Dr. Denise Berger	Aye
LESD Representative	Absent
Remco Waller	Aye

Roll Call

Dr. Betsy Hamilton	Aye
Herb Sims	Aye
Anthony Jowid	Aye
Kennedy Hilario	Aye
Zena Fong	Aye
Andrew Ellenbogen	Aye
Mason Williams	Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeremiah Rosario David