APPROVED

El Camino Real Charter High School

Minutes

Regular Board Meeting

1-22-2026

Date and Time
Thursday January 22, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Location
El Camino Real Charter High School - Media Center

5440 Valley Circle Woodland Hills CA 91367

Meeting can also be seen and heard at:

North Campus - 7401 Shoup Ave. West Hills CA 91307

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

For board meeting materials, please go to the school's main office, or call (818) 595-7500. Some board meeting materials are also posted on the school's website (https://ecrchs.net - click the ECR Board tab).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD BY PARENTS AND OTHER MEETING ATTENDEES: El Camino Real Alliance ("ECRA") welcomes your participation at ECRA's Board meetings. The purpose of a public meeting of the Board of Directors ("Board") is to conduct the affairs of ECRA in public. Your participation assures us of continuing community interest in our charter school. To assist you in the ease of speaking/ participating in our meetings, the following guidelines are provided:

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Agendas are available to all audience members at the door to the meeting.

2. “Request to Speak” forms are available to all audience members who wish to speak on any agenda items or under the general category of “Public Comments.” “Public Comments” is set aside for members of the audience to raise issues that are not specifically on the agenda. However, Due to public meeting laws, the Board can only listen to your issue, not respond or take action during the Public Comments periods. The Board may give direction to staff to respond to your concern or you may be offered the option of returning with a citizen-requested item.

NOTE: Public Comments, effective with the March 24th, 2022, Regular Board Meeting, are limited to two (2) minutes and total time allotted to all agenda and non-agenda items will not exceed thirty (30) minutes.

A member of the public who requires the use of a translator, in order to receive the same opportunity as others to directly address the Board, shall be permitted twice the allotted time to speak. The Board may give direction to staff to respond to your concern or you may be offered the option of returning with a citizen-requested item.

3. You may also complete a “Request to Speak” form to address the Board on Agenda items. With regard to such agenda items, you may specify the item(s) on your “Request to Speak” form and you will be given an opportunity to speak for up to three (3) minutes before the item is addressed, and total time allocated to agenda items will not exceed six (6) minutes for a Discussion item and nine (9) minutes per Vote item. A member of the public who requires the use of a translator, in order to receive the same opportunity as others to directly address the Board, shall be permitted twice the allotted time to speak, and the total allocated time shall be appropriately increased as well.

4. When addressing the Board, speakers are requested to state their name and adhere to the time limits set forth. In order to maintain allotted time limits, the Board Chair may modify speaker time allocations or the total amount of allotted time for an item.

5. Any public records relating to an agenda item for an Open Session of the Board which are distributed to all, or a majority of all, of the Board members shall be available for public inspection at 5440 Valley Circle Blvd., Woodland Hills, California, 91367.

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENTS: Effective September 2022, public comments presentations at all ECRA Regular and Special Board Meetings and at Committee Meetings must be made in person. There is no obligation on the part of the school to have a school official read public comments during inperson Board Meetings. Powered by BoardOnTrack 2 of 4 A member of the public is welcome to appear at the Board meeting to make a public comment or make arrangements with another person in attendance to speak on the person's behalf.

Consent Agenda: All matters listed under the consent agenda are considered by the Board to be routine and may be approved/enacted by the Board in one motion in the form listed below. Unless specifically requested by a Board member for further discussion or removed from the agenda, there will be no discussion of these items prior to the Board votes on them. The Executive Director recommends approval of all consent agenda items.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and upon request, El Camino Real Alliance may furnish reasonable auxiliary aids and services to qualified individuals with disabilities. Requests for disability related modifications or accommodations shall be made 24 hours prior to the meeting to David Hussey, in person, by email at comment@ecrchs.net, or by calling (818) 595-7500.

Directors Present
Alexandra Ramirez, Brad Wright, Linda Ibach, Norris Gunby, Ronald Laws, Steven Kofahl

Directors Absent
None

Guests Present
David Hussey, Fernando Delgado (remote), Janneyra Verduzco (remote), Ryan Guinto

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I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

Brad Wright called a meeting of the board of directors of El Camino Real Charter High School to order on Thursday Jan 22, 2026 at 5:30 PM.

B. Record Attendance and Guests

C. Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America (USA)

Mr. Wright led the Board members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America (USA).

D.

Public Comments

No public comments were received for this meeting.

E. Executive Director Update

Executive Director Update – David Hussey

- **Winter Sports Update**
  - Winter athletic programs are underway: boys' and girls' soccer, basketball, and wrestling.
  - Most teams are performing well, with several having strong seasons so far.
- **MAP Testing (Measures of Academic Progress)**
  - MAP testing is nearing completion.
  - Assessment compares student growth from August to January.
  - Subjects tested: English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science.
  - Results will be presented to the board in February.
- **Enrollment & Lottery Update**
  - School lottery has been completed with **540 applicants**, same as last year.
  - **116 additional families** expressed interest after the lottery and will be contacted with application information.
  - Approximately **50 ninth-grade applicants** were noted.
- **Recruitment & Outreach**
  - Prospective students come from a mix of private schools, local schools, and outside the immediate area.
  - Recruitment efforts include:
    - Social media outreach
    - School website information and applications
- **Open Enrollment**
  - Enrollment remains open even after the lottery.
  - Applications will continue to be accepted until all available spaces are filled.
  - Preferred process: families apply online first, then schedule enrollment appointments.
- **Feeder School Pipeline**
  - Local middle school has **257 residential students** who may potentially enroll.
  - If all enroll along with other applicants, total enrollment could reach around **750 students**, slightly higher than the current year.
  - Additional students may still come from private and non-local schools.
- **Public Clarification**
  - The lottery has concluded, but applications are still accepted due to remaining openings.

- Audience questions were deferred; board business continued with follow-up discussions offered after the meeting.

F. Chief Business Officer Update

Chief Business Officer Update – Fernando Delgado

- **Budget Planning & Conference Participation**
  - Attended a conference on the Governor's proposed **2026–2027 state budget**.
  - Insights from the conference will help guide budget assumptions and projections for the upcoming fiscal year.
- **Enrollment Update**
  - Email confirmations sent to lottery applicants who were accepted, outlining next steps.
  - Current enrollment stands at **2,857 students**.
  - **47 students withdrew** last month, typical during the winter session transition:
    - 23 foreign exchange students
    - 24 students transferred to other public schools.
- **External Audit**
  - Annual external audit conducted by **Christy White**.
  - Target completion date: **January 30, 2026**.
  - Final audit report to be submitted to LAUSD.
- **Second Interim Financial Report**
  - Legally required mid-year financial review for schools/districts.
  - Preparation underway.
  - Submission deadlines:
    - **February 16** – internal/LUZ submission
    - **March 15** – county submission
  - Report will include:
    - Actual revenues and expenditures through January
    - Updated projections for the full fiscal year
    - Three-year financial forecast
    - Cash flow and current financial position
- **Reporting Process**
  - Completed report will move from LUZ → County → State for review and compliance.

Linda Ibach made a motion to to move this section for finance ahead of the agenda, the finance and the investment update.
Alexandra Ramirez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Linda Ibach	Aye
Norris Gunby	Aye
Ronald Laws	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Aye
Alexandra Ramirez	Aye
Brad Wright	Aye

G. Board Chair Update

Board Chair Update – Brad Wright

- **Open Floor for Board Comments**
  - Board Chair invited members to share updates, comments, or announcements.
  - Most board members had no additional updates.
- **Student Technology Concern**
  - A concern was raised regarding students who enroll after 9th grade receiving used/refurbished laptops instead of new devices.
  - Administration clarified:
    - All new students are assigned a device.
    - Devices may be refurbished due to inventory limits.
    - Equipment is fully wiped and reset before reassignment.
  - Suggestion noted to consider support for transfer students who may face device issues.
- **Athletics Recognition**
  - Board Chair congratulated school athletic teams:
    - Soccer team for a win against Birmingham with strong attendance.
    - Boys' basketball team for a last-second three-pointer victory over Taft.
    - Girls' basketball team for a dominant win (by over 50 points) against Taft.
  - Chair showed support by wearing ECR basketball apparel in recognition of team achievements.

II. Consent

A.

Approve Minutes of December 18, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

Alexandra Ramirez made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Board Meeting on 12-18-25.
Ronald Laws seconded the motion.
Single voice vote for all 3 consent items
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Brad Wright	Aye
Alexandra Ramirez	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Aye
Ronald Laws	Aye
Linda Ibach	Aye
Norris Gunby	Aye

B. Discuss and Vote on the December 2025 Check Registers

Alexandra Ramirez made a motion to approve the December 2025 Check Registers.
Ronald Laws seconded the motion.
Single voice vote for all 3 consent items
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Norris Gunby	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Aye
Brad Wright	Aye
Linda Ibach	Aye
Ronald Laws	Aye
Alexandra Ramirez	Aye

C. Discuss and Vote on the December, 2025, Credit Card Charges

Alexandra Ramirez made a motion to approve the December, 2025, Credit Card Charges.
Ronald Laws seconded the motion.
Single voice vote for all 3 consent items
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Steven Kofahl	Aye
Alexandra Ramirez	Aye
Linda Ibach	Aye
Brad Wright	Aye
Norris Gunby	Aye
Ronald Laws	Aye

III. Finance

A.

December 2025 Investment Update

December 2025 Investment Update – Janneyra Verduzco

- **Reporting Period & Scope**
  - Investment performance covered **July–December 2025**.
  - Includes both the **OPEB/OPA Trust** and **General Fund investment portfolios** across all accounts.
- **Overall Portfolio Performance**
  - Combined portfolio grew from **$41,606,096 (July)** to **$43,994,581 (December)**.
  - Represents a **5.6% year-to-date increase**.
  - Investments remain stable and aligned with long-term financial strategy.
- **OPEB/OPA Trust Performance**
  - Began the year at **$33,470,633**.
  - Generated **$2,207,876 in gains** after retiree payments.
  - Ended December at **$35,333,944**.
- **General Fund Investments**
  - Managed by Beacon Point with a **~7% year-to-date return** (approx. 7.1%).
  - Performance described as strong and consistent.
- **Fixed Income Investments**
  - Accounts with **U.S. Bank, Midland, and City National Bank**.
  - Delivering steady returns ranging from **1.9% to 5.4%**.
- **Overall Assessment**
  - Combined investments increased to approximately **$43.9M**, maintaining **5.6% growth year to date**.
  - Portfolio remains stable across equities and fixed-income holdings.

B. December 2025 Financial Update

December 2025 Financial Update – Fernando Delgado, CBO

- **State Budget Outlook (2026–2027 Governor's Proposal)**
  - State projecting higher revenues but facing long-term structural deficits.
  - Budget focuses on sustaining existing programs; no major new mandates expected.
  - K–12 education remains a top priority with record per-pupil funding and continued statewide initiatives.
- **Education & Enrollment Landscape**
  - California serves nearly **6 million students** across districts and **~1,300 charter schools**.

    - Statewide trend shows **declining enrollment**, already factored into projections.
    - High schools expected to emphasize:
        - Career pathways
        - Dual enrollment
        - Workforce alignment
- **Key Funding Updates**
    - **LCFF (Local Control Funding Formula)** projected **2.41% COLA** (cost-of-living adjustment).
    - Per-pupil funding expected to reach a record **~$20,427** under Proposition 98.
- **Charter School Impacts**
    - New accountability requirements targeting fraud prevention and proper fund use.
    - Verified data required for charter renewals through **June 2028**.
    - County offices receiving additional resources to support struggling districts and charter schools.
    - School's charter renewal planned for **spring–summer submission (late summer target).**
- **High School Funding Opportunities**
    - State proposing **$100M one-time funding** to expand dual enrollment and career pathways.
    - Block grants expected to support:
        - Teacher training
        - Enrollment stabilization
        - Expansion of CTE (Career Technical Education) pathways
- **Implications for ECR**
    - Expect **stable base funding** with no growth beyond COLA.
    - Budget planning must be conservative due to enrollment decline and tighter oversight.
    - Increased scrutiny on:
        - Auditing practices
        - Enrollment reporting accuracy
        - Governance and compliance
- **Strategic Priorities**
    - Use block grants strategically for:
        - Literacy and math improvement
        - Teacher professional development
        - Enrollment stabilization
        - Career pathways and dual enrollment expansion
    - Align resources to strengthen college and workforce readiness initiatives.
- **Budget Planning Approach**
    - Focus on managing contraction rather than growth.

    - Budget calendar will:
        - Guide the planning process
        - Align spending with instructional goals
        - Avoid last-minute decisions
        - Ensure compliance with state and district deadlines
        - Include stakeholder participation.
- **Staffing & One-Time Funds**
    - Best practice: avoid funding permanent instructional roles with one-time funds.
    - One-time funding currently used mainly for external vendors/services to maintain flexibility.
    - Previous learning-loss supports funded with one-time money were reduced in prior budget adjustments.

IV. School Business

A. Discussion and Vote on ECR's School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for 2024-2025

ECR School Accountability Report Card (SARC) 2024–2025 – David Hussey

- **Teacher Credentials & Staffing**
    - All teachers fully credentialed.
    - Historical data:
        - 2022–2023: 137 fully credentialed; 4 university interns.
        - 2023–2024: 135 fully credentialed.
    - No current university interns; future reports expected to reflect fully credentialed staff only.
    - **Zero teacher misassignments** reported across multiple years.
- **Instructional Materials**
    - All textbooks and instructional materials publicly listed and accessible.
- **Academic Performance (CAASPP/CAST Trends)**
    - Increases observed from 2023–2024 to 2024–2025 in:
        - English Language Arts (ELA)
        - Mathematics
        - Science
    - Subgroup performance areas needing improvement:
        - English Learners (ELA proficiency ~27%; small sample size of 13 students).
        - Students with disabilities require additional support.
- **Mathematics Subgroup Performance**

    - African American students: ~38% proficient.
    - Hispanic/Latino students: ~30%.
    - English learners: ~18%.
    - Students with disabilities: ~9%.
    - School providing targeted supports:
        - Study skills classes
        - After-school tutoring
        - Teacher collaboration and subgroup monitoring.
- **Science Performance**
    - Overall proficiency ~37%.
    - English learners: ~5%.
    - Students with disabilities: ~15%.
    - Identified as priority areas for continued intervention.
- **Career Technical Education (CTE)**
    - Five programs offered:
        - Filmmaking
        - Food service & hospitality
        - Building & construction
        - Woodworking
        - Game design & integration
        - Audio/music production
    - 772 students participated in CTE.
    - 11.5% completed multi-level CTE pathways.
    - 13% articulation with postsecondary institutions.
    - School positioned ahead of state expectations in pathway development.
- **Physical Education & Fitness Results**
    - Strong outcomes on California Physical Fitness Test:
        - Aerobic capacity: 89%
        - Abdominal strength: 92%
        - Trunk strength/flexibility: 83%
        - Upper body strength: 92%
        - Flexibility: 91%
- **Graduation & Dropout Rates**
    - Graduation rate increased from **91.8% to 92.8%**.
    - Dropout rate decreased from **4.6% to 2.1%**.
    - English learners and students with disabilities may take longer to graduate due to additional support needs and extended eligibility (up to age 22).
- **Alternative & Specialized Programs**
    - Students with disabilities monitored through IEPs.
    - Approximately eight students enrolled in non-diploma/alternative programs.
- **Discipline & School Climate**
    - No expulsions since charter conversion.
    - Suspension rate decreased from ~1.7% to **0.69%**.

- Focus on reteaching and restorative approaches.
- Monitoring subgroup suspension rates, including African American students and students with disabilities.

• **Advanced Placement (AP) Program**
- 33% of students enrolled in at least one AP course.
- 65 AP courses offered.
- Pass rate above 80%, indicating strong college readiness and instructional support.

• **Overall Summary**
- Positive trends in academic growth, graduation, discipline, and program expansion.
- Continued focus needed on English learners and students with disabilities.
- SARC reflects stable performance and alignment with accountability and improvement goals.

Linda Ibach made a motion to approve ECR school accountability report card or start for 2024 2025.
Norris Gunby seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Ronald Laws	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Aye
Brad Wright	Aye
Alexandra Ramirez	Aye
Norris Gunby	Aye
Linda Ibach	Aye

B. Discuss and vote on the Updated Guidance Regarding Required Local Policies on Immigration Enforcement at Schoolsites

Updated Guidance on Required Local Policies for Immigration Enforcement at School Sites – David Hussey

• **State Guidance Requirement**
- California Department of Education (CDE) issued updated guidance under **AB 49**.
- All Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) must adopt model or equivalent policies by **March 1, 2026**.

• **Recommendation**
- Executive Director recommended adopting the CDE’s model policies to ensure compliance and consistency.

    - Following state-recommended policies viewed as the most efficient approach for the school.
- **Purpose of the Policy**
    - Provides guidance for school communities on:
        - Family preparedness (e.g., childcare planning)
        - Understanding rights related to immigration enforcement
        - Available resources and support
- **Clarification Provided**
    - Policy **does not allow immigration enforcement officers onto campus**.
    - Focus is informational and protective rather than enforcement-related.
- **Alignment with Existing Policies**
    - Updates build on previously approved local policies (adopted earlier by the board).
    - Ensures school practices remain current with state requirements and expectations.

Linda Ibach made a motion to approve the Updated Guidance Regarding Required Local Policies on Immigration Enforcement at Schoolsites.
Alexandra Ramirez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Steven Kofahl	Aye
Linda Ibach	Aye
Alexandra Ramirez	Aye
Ronald Laws	Aye
Brad Wright	Aye
Norris Gunby	Aye

C. Discussion and Vote on Policy on Referral Protocols for Addressing Student Behavioral Health Concerns (Education Code §49428.2)

Policy on Referral Protocols for Addressing Student Behavioral Health Concerns – David Hussey

- **State Requirement**
    - California Education Code **49428.2** requires LEAs and charter schools serving grades 7–12 to adopt a behavioral health referral policy by **January 31, 2026**.
    - Policy must be adopted during a regular governing board meeting.
    - Must be developed in consultation with:
        - School staff
        - Community stakeholders

        - School-linked behavioral health professionals.
- **Compliance & Timeline**
    - LEA must certify compliance with staff training requirements to the California Department of Education (CDE) by **July 1, 2029**.
    - School already implements many related practices; focus will be on formalizing and increasing public visibility.
- **Policy Components**
    - Identification and support for high-risk student groups.
    - Needs assessment and capacity-building efforts.
    - Professional development for staff.
    - Clear referral pathways and documentation procedures.
    - Parent notification consistent with legal requirements.
    - Ongoing evaluation through:
        - Data collection
        - Surveys
        - Feedback from staff, families, and community stakeholders.
- **Training & Legal Boundaries**
    - Staff training will cover:
        - Recognizing behavioral health concerns
        - Importance of early intervention
    - School staff **cannot diagnose or treat** behavioral health disorders unless properly licensed.
    - Emphasis on referring students to qualified professionals.

Norris Gunby made a motion to approve the Referral Protocols for Addressing Student Behavioral Health Concerns (Education Code §49428.2).
Ronald Laws seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Ronald Laws	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Aye
Linda Ibach	Aye
Brad Wright	Aye
Norris Gunby	Aye
Alexandra Ramirez	Aye

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Alexandra Ramirez made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Ronald Laws seconded the motion.

Single voice vote
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Linda Ibach	Aye
Brad Wright	Aye
Alexandra Ramirez	Aye
Ronald Laws	Aye
Norris Gunby	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:09 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ryan Guinto