



# Environmental Charter Schools

## Board of Directors' Meeting

In-Person at ECS Home Office

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### Date and Time

Monday September 15, 2025 at 5:00 PM PDT

### 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

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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
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
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

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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>.

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## Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<b>I. Opening Items</b>			<b>5:00 PM</b>
Opening Items			
<b>A. Record attendance and guests</b>		Dr. Betsy Hamilton	1 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Howard Ho, Lawndale Elementary School District, Asst. Superintendent of Business Services (<a href="https://www.lawndalesd.net/departments/business-services">https://www.lawndalesd.net/departments/business-services</a>)</li> </ul>			
<b>B.</b>	Call the Meeting to Order	Dr. Betsy Hamilton	1 m
<b>C.</b>	Approve the agenda	Vote	Dr. Betsy Hamilton 1 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Versión en español</a></li> </ul>			
<b>D.</b>	Opener	Discuss	Danielle Kelsick 5 m
<b>II.</b>	<b>Presentations from the Floor</b>		<b>5:08 PM</b>
<b>A.</b>	Presentations from the floor on non-agenda Items	FYI	10 m
<p>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).</p>			
<b>B.</b>	Presentations from the floor on agenda items	FYI	10 m
<p>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).</p>			
<b>C.</b>	Public hearing regarding sufficiency of instructional materials for 2025-26 for ECHS-L, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G	FYI	20 m
<p>Education Code §60119 requires an annual public hearing, held within the first eight weeks of school, for the governing board to determine whether each pupil has sufficient standards-aligned instructional materials to use in class and to take home in the following areas: English Language Arts/ELD, Mathematics, History–Social Science, Science, and, as applicable for grades 6–12, World Language and Health. For grades 9–12 science laboratory courses, sufficiency of lab equipment must also be verified.</p>			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<p>Following the public hearing, staff recommends adoption of Resolution No. 2025-01 certifying sufficiency for Environmental Charter High School–Lawndale (ECHS-L), Environmental Charter High School–Gardena (ECHS-G), Environmental Charter Middle School–Gardena (ECMS-G), and Environmental Charter Middle School–Inglewood (ECMS-I). The LEA-Approved Instructional Materials Lists (ECHS-L, ECHS-G, ECMS-G, ECMS-I) and supporting documentation relied upon for this determination are available for public inspection at the ECS Home Office - 2625 Manhattan Beach Blvd #100, Redondo Beach, CA 90278, during regular business hours and at the meeting.</p>			

<b>III.</b>	<b>Discussion Items / Updates</b>	<b>5:48 PM</b>
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<b>A.</b>	Superintendent update	FYI	Danielle Kelsick	15 m
<b>B.</b>	ECHSG school update	FYI	Dr. Beth Bernstein-Yamashiro	10 m
<b>C.</b>	EdTec finance update	Discuss	Jean Yang & Jair Ventura	35 m

- [EdTec financial update](#)
  - [ECHS-L financial statements](#)
  - [ECMS-G financial statements](#)
  - [ECMS-I financial statements](#)
  - [ECHS-G financial statements](#)
  - [ECS Consolidated Balance Sheet as of 6/30/2025](#)

<b>IV.</b>	<b>Consent Items A-H</b>	<b>6:48 PM</b>
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<b>A.</b>	Approve 7/28/2025 board meeting minutes	Approve Minutes	Jeremiah David	3 m
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- [7/28/2025 board meeting minutes](#)

<b>B.</b>	Approve private donations over \$1,000	Vote	Jen Fenton
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- [Private donations over \\$1,000](#)

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<b>C. Approve contracts</b>	Vote	Jeremiah David	
1. <a href="#">ECMSG - Boys &amp; Girls Club of the Los Angeles Harbor After-School Program Renewal Agreement 2025-26</a> 1. Staff analysis: After-school contract renewal matching annually awarded ASES grant amount. Approval requested in arrears due to time being of the essence between board meetings.			
2. <a href="#">ECS - Danielle Marquez Environmental Education Program Consultant Agreement 2025-26</a> 1. Staff analysis: Environmental consultant contract substantially matching previous year contracts for the purpose of working on sustainable environmental projects. Approval requested in arrears due to time being of the essence between board meetings.			
3. <a href="#">ECMSI - MDC Valencia New Windows Installation Contract</a> 1. Staff analysis: construction-related work budgeted for the facilities expansion project at ECMS-Inglewood. Approval requested in arrears due to time being of the essence between board meetings.			
<b>D. Approve Parent-Student Handbooks for ECHS-L, ECMS-G, ECMS-I, ECHS-G</b>	Vote	Jeremiah David	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">ECHS-Lawndale</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ECMS-Gardena</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ECMS-Inglewood</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ECHS-Gardena</a></li> </ul>			
<b>E. Approve revised ECS Financial Policies for FY26</b>	Vote	Tracy Bondi	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised <a href="#">ECS Financial Policies (redlined)</a> for FY26               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Sole change: equipment capitalization threshold to \$10,000 for the purpose of matching the federal guidelines (page 12, Section H).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<b>F. Approve revised 2025-26 Board &amp; Committee Calendar</b>	Vote	Jeremiah David	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised <a href="#">2025-26 ECS Board &amp; Committee Calendar (redlined)</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Add 10/27/2025 board meeting &amp; 7/15/2025 Special Governance Committee</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
	◦ Remove 9/12/2025 Finance Committee		
<b>G.</b>	Approve revised 2025-26 ECS Board Committees & Terms	Vote	Jeremiah David
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revised <a href="#">2025-26 ECS Board Committees &amp; Terms (redlined)</a></li> <li>◦ Add Remco Waller to Finance Committee</li> </ul>		
<b>H.</b>	Approve Board Resolution No. 2025-01 - Sufficiency of Instructional Materials for 2025-26	Vote	Danielle Kelsick / Jeremiah David
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Board Resolution No. 2025-01 - Sufficiency of Instructional Materials for 2025-26</a></li> </ul>		
<b>V.</b>	<b>Action Items</b>		<b>6:51 PM</b>
<b>A.</b>	Approve Unaudited Actuals for ECHS-L, ECMS-I, ECMS-G, ECHS-G	Vote	Tracy Bondi
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">ECHS-Lawndale</a></li> <li><a href="#">ECMS-Gardena</a></li> <li><a href="#">ECMS-Inglewood</a></li> <li><a href="#">ECHS-Gardena</a></li> </ul>		3 m
<b>B.</b>	Approve LACOE Governance Review of SY 2024-25	Vote	Danielle Kelsick / Jeremiah David
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">LACOE Governance Review of SY 2024-25</a></li> </ul>		3 m
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Upcoming Dates/Announcements</b>		<b>6:57 PM</b>
<b>A.</b>	Next ECS Board Meeting	FYI	Danielle Kelsick
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday, October 27, 2025 @ 5pm (pending board approval)</li> </ul>		1 m
<b>B.</b>	Next ECS Committee Meetings	FYI	Danielle Kelsick
			1 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilities Committee - October 1, 2025 @ 4:30pm</li> <li>• Governance Committee - October 28, 2025 @ 10:30am</li> <li>• Audit Committee - December 10, 2025 @ 1pm</li> <li>• Finance Committee - June 18, 2026 @ 8:30am</li> </ul>			
<b>C.</b>	Appreciations	Discuss	All Attendees
			1 m
<b>VII.</b>	<b>Transition to Closed Session</b>		<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>A.</b>	Adjourn to Closed Session	Vote	Dr. Betsy Hamilton
			1 m
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>Closed Session</b>		<b>7:01 PM</b>
<b>A.</b>	CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Government Code § 54956.9)	Discuss	
	Name of Case: Environmental Educators United, CTA/NEA v. Environmental Charter Schools. Case No. LA-CE-6934-E.		10 m
<b>B.</b>	CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Government Code §54957.6)	Discuss	
	Agency Designated Representative: Robert Escalante		10 m
	Employee Organization: Environmental Educators United		
<b>IX.</b>	<b>Report Out of Closed Session</b>		<b>7:21 PM</b>
<b>A.</b>	Report Out	FYI	Dr. Betsy Hamilton
			1 m
<b>X.</b>	<b>Closing Items</b>		<b>7:22 PM</b>
<b>A.</b>	Adjourn Meeting	Vote	Dr. Betsy Hamilton
			1 m