

MINUTES

Of the Board of Directors of Grow Public Schools

(A California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation)

I. PRELIMINARY

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Directors of this corporation, held their meeting at the time, on the day, and at the place set forth as follows:

Time: 4:03 p.m.

Date: January 31, 2022

Meeting held via teleconference

2. DIRECTORS PRESENT

The following directors, constituting a quorum of the Board, were present at the meeting held via teleconference:

Present: Tom Mestmaker, President; Ernie Unruh, Kern County Superintendent of Schools Representative; Dr. Jean Fuller, Grimm Family Education Foundation Representative; Matt Look, Star Parents of Grow Academy (SPGA) President and Parent Representative; and Manuel Pantoja, Secretary and Arvin Community Representative

Absent: NA

Grow Public Schools Staff Present via teleconference: Casey Yeazel, Chief Executive Officer; Michelle Lumis, Executive Assistant; Elizabeth Ramos, Operations Specialist (interpreter); Rick Phillips, Operations Specialist; Dr. Wendy Creek, Chief Academic Officer; Adam Alvidrez, Director of School Operations; Monica Jara Guerra, Director of Community Initiatives; Mike Romero, Chief Operating Officer

Grow Academy Staff Present via teleconference: Hurshel Williams, Principal, Grow Academy Arvin; Adrianna Salazar, Counselor, Grow Academy Shafter; Alijah Tapia, Teacher, Grow Academy Arvin; Zulema Ela, Assistant Principal of Academics, Grow Academy Arvin

Grimm Family Education Foundation: Dylan Wilson, Program Director; and Evelyn Steed, Office Manager

Others Present via teleconference: Cindy Frantz, EdTec; Elia Sagasta, Curriculum & Instruction Director, Richland School District; Emma Pereida-Martinez, Assistant Superintendent, Arvin Union School District; Fatima Altamirano; Jayden Perez; Toni

Franz; Val and Nate Campbell; Sally Munoz; Jessica Rodriguez; Emelia Gonzalez; Teresa Verdugo; Ralph Kress; Santos Gonzales; Shandreka Beck; Laura Aguilar; Jessica Arvizu; Jennifer Anne; Lourdes Ortega; Laura Hidalgo; Maria Dominguez; Danielle Jaime; Karen Zamora; Arlene Yeazel; Contreras Family; and eight unidentified participants

3. *FLAG SALUTE*

4. APPROVAL OF AB 361 BOARD FINDING – MUST BE READ AND VOTED AT EACH TELECONFERENCE BOARD MEETING OR EVERY 30 DAYS

On a motion duly made by Manuel Pantoja, seconded by Jean Fuller, and carried, the Board approved via roll call the approval of AB 361 board finding.

Board Member	Yay	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Tom Mestmaker	X			
Manuel Pantoja	X			
Ernie Unruh	X			
Matt Look	X			
Jean Fuller	X			

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion was made by Ernie Unruh, seconded by, Matt Look, and passed, to approve via roll call the minutes of the Public Hearing dated November 22, 2021.

Board Member	Yay	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Tom Mestmaker	X			
Manuel Pantoja	X			
Ernie Unruh	X			
Matt Look	X			
Jean Fuller	X			

Resolved further, that the Secretary of the Corporation is authorized and directed to insert a copy of these certified minutes into the book of minutes of this Corporation and to see that a certified copy of these minutes is kept at the Home Office for the transaction of business of this Corporation.

On a motion was made by Jean Fuller, seconded by, Matt Look, and passed, to approve via roll call the minutes of the Board meeting dated November 22, 2021.

Board Member	Yay	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Tom Mestmaker	X			
Manuel Pantoja	X			
Ernie Unruh	X			
Matt Look	X			
Jean Fuller	X			

Resolved further, that the Secretary of the Corporation is authorized and directed to insert a copy of these certified minutes into the book of minutes of this Corporation and to see that a certified copy of these minutes is kept at the Home Office for the transaction of business of this Corporation

On a motion was made by Manuel Pantoja, seconded by, Matt Look, and passed, to approve via roll call the minutes of the Board meeting dated December 20, 2021.

Board Member	Yay	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Tom Mestmaker	X			
Manuel Pantoja	X			
Ernie Unruh	X			
Matt Look	X			
Jean Fuller	X			

Resolved further, that the Secretary of the Corporation is authorized and directed to insert a copy of these certified minutes into the book of minutes of this Corporation and to see that a certified copy of these minutes is kept at the Home Office for the transaction of business of this Corporation.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

LEADERSHIP REPORT

Casey Yeazel shared the COVID-19 update and impact on staff and students, along with the impacted program priorities of COVID-19. There have been twenty new COVID cases in the last two weeks.

Casey provided the strategic growth update on the high school facilities and petition. The planned high school model is designed to be located at or adjacent to CSU Bakersfield, and in close proximity the Bakersfield College Southwest campus. For the past year, Grow Public Schools has been exploring facility options and currently reviewing the potential impact that certain facility options may have on the school model (potential space to expand beyond 9-12th). Given the significant space capacity available at one of the facility options being explored, there is the possibility of expanding the high school model from 9 – 12 to TK-12. A projected opening in Fall 2023 with 9th and 10th grades, with an additional grade level each successive year until full enrollment. The TK-8 would open in Fall 2024 with TK-4th grades.

Given the changes in the model (from 9-12 to TK-12), there have been numerous revisions to the petition draft. Revising the grade levels served from 9-12 to TK-12 also impacts authorization. A countywide benefit charter is the most appropriate avenue to pursue for authorization given the nature of the TK model. A 30-day notice of submission will be provided to both the Kern High School District and Panama-Buena

Vista Union School District that Grow Public Schools plan is to submit a petition for a countywide benefit charter to KCSOS.

Casey shared the Governor's budget and new revenue programs. The Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) offers unduplicated Transitional Kindergarten/K-6 students in classroom based instructional programs access to comprehensive before and after school and intersessional expanded learning opportunities. The Transitional Kindergarten Expansion will be phased in from 2022-23 to 2025-26. Transitional Kindergarten eligibility to all four year- old's and provides \$300 million in 2021-22 for planning and development. A plan must be developed for consideration by the Governing Board at a public meeting before June 30, 2022.

Mike Romero provided the operations report. All employees were tested upon return from the Winter break. Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS) provided Grow Public Schools with rapid antigen tests for any interested scholars in need of a rapid test. Both school site nurses have been utilizing these tests to assist in returning students from quarantine upon COVID-19 exposure.

Upon return from Winter break, KCSOS also offered a limited supply of N95 masks to Grow Public Schools. Any staffer or student (6th grade and older) can request an N95 from their site nurses. Grow Public Schools will continue to work with KCSOS to obtain more masks as they become available.

In November 2021, our Information Technology consultant, in partnership with Tel-Tec, shared that the existing security cameras, which were initially installed by Tel-Tec, are no longer in compliance with the NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act). Existing cameras will need to be replaced at both campuses. Bids are currently being obtained from three companies, Tel-Tec, Signa-Terra, and American Business Machines. A presentation will be shared with the Board on the cost and scope of the project once the bids are collected.

Mike shared the school site Principals in partnership with the Home Office are actively working on an annual update for the 2021-2022 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and will provide the Board and educational partners with a point-in-time update in February related to funding received through the 2021 Budget Act.

The Shafter shade structure has been completed by Colombo Construction. Mike shared, staff and scholars are enjoying the new shaded outdoor learning spaces.

Dr. Wendy Creek, Chief Academic Officer, shared NWEA Scores from Winter 2021 for each grade in reading and math that was at or above the 50th percentile. The NWEA scores were broken down for each campus and by subgroup. In Shafter, in-class intervention has been implemented as an extra layer of support, and in Arvin, afterschool tutoring and extra academic support is occurring during class electives.

The number of students participating in Independent Study has fluctuated over the last month, but as of January 28, 2022, the current totals were 58 students in Arvin and 89 students in Shafter.

Tom Mestmaker asked how the NWEA scores compared to the county and state. Dr. Creek stated it is hard to compare since most other schools do not utilize the NWEA. CAASPP testing, which Grow Public School scholars took last Spring, would be difficult to compare to other schools due to no CAASPP data being shared.

Ernie Unruh recommended other local charters who utilize the NWEA might be willing to share their test scores. Wendy stated she can share data which shows our scholars who have met their growth targets and would provide a more comparative information.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT-Grow Academy Arvin

Hurshel Williams, Principal of Grow Academy Arvin (GAA), shared beginning January 19 - January 21, 2022, Grow Academy Arvin hosted the Winter '22 Academic Parent Conferences. GAA parents and staff were extremely excited to be able to meet in person to discuss the progress of their scholars, as well as host virtual meetings for families. The conferences afforded GAA staff the opportunity to establish relationships with families that were meeting in person for the first time in two years.

Progress on LCAP Goal 3- Action 5, Extracurricular Athletics Program was shared with the board. On January 26th, 2022, the Grow Academy Arvin All STARS were elated to have the opportunity to travel to the city of Lamont, to compete against Sunset Middle School. This athletic field trip featured both boys' and girls' soccer. The next soccer competition is Tuesday, February 1st, 2022, against Lincoln Jr. Middle School in Taft, CA.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT-Grow Academy Shafter

Dr. Wendy Creek shared Grow Academy Shafter's report, which covered LCAP Goal one: Provide a dynamic learning experience that inspires students and teachers to reach for higher academic achievement. Grow Academy Shafter completed their second Academic Parent Teacher Teams (APTT) meetings. Once per year for each student, the teacher holds a 30-minute individual session with the student and their family to provide individualized, personal support. Parents were provided progress reports, NWEA, STAR Reading, and Lexia reports. Each report was shared, and student growth targets explained. APTTs help to bridge the home to school connections which strengthens the learning experience.

The Second Quarter Awards assemblies were held via Zoom, but staff are looking at ways to host the awards onsite in the Spring, under the new shade structures.

The Middle School sports program is off to a great start. The middle school athletes are more invested in their academics as a condition of their game day eligibility. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, research shows that high-quality afterschool programs improve students' educational outcomes, school attendance, and social and emotional learning.

FISCAL REPORT

Cindy Franz from EdTec (back-office provider) provided the December 2021 financial update.

Cindy shared the State budget process, explaining the Governor's January proposal summary, which will impact Local Control Funding Formula, Special Education, Expanded Learning Opportunities Program, and other upcoming funding programs.

Cindy also addressed declining enrollment and attendance relief, which the Governor will explore options for providing declining enrollment protection to charter schools.

For GA Arvin, Cindy shared the forecasted net income is approximately \$681,000, a \$44,000 decrease from the previous forecast.

For GA Shafter, the forecasted net income is approximately \$726,000, a \$103,000 decrease from the previous forecast. Shafter paid off their start-up loan of \$250,000.

For the home office, the forecasted net income is approximately \$380,000, a \$4,000 decrease from the previous forecast.

Notable changes from the prior forecast are due to technology needs at all three sites and the library expansion for GA Shafter, which drove expense changes.

Cindy discussed each site's enrollment and attendance and the areas to watch regarding restricted revenue, attendance, and payroll.

Dylan Wilson - Grimm Family Education Foundation

Dylan provided an update on the professional development for the edible school yard teams for each school site. The garden and kitchen teams discussed classroom connections with scholars and how to keep a comprehensive approach to support and teach edible education, along with other school curriculum. Other topics included classroom management to ensure the right tools and new concepts are being implemented.

III. ACTION ITEMS

1. The Directors were presented with the approval of the Purchase Orders and Warrants and Credit Card Register for December 2021 that were considered and discussed. On a motion duly made by Jean Fuller, seconded by Matt Look, and carried, the Board approved via roll call the Purchase Orders and Warrants and Credit Card Register for December 2021.

Board Member	Yay	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Tom Mestmaker	X			
Manuel Pantoja	X			
Ernie Unruh	X			
Matt Look	X			
Jean Fuller	X			

2. The Directors were presented with the approval of 2020-21 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for GA Arvin that were considered and discussed. On a motion duly made by Ernie Unruh, seconded by Matt Look, and carried, the Board approved via roll call the 2020-21 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for GA Arvin.

Board Member	Yay	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Tom Mestmaker	X			
Manuel Pantoja	X			
Ernie Unruh	X			
Matt Look	X			
Jean Fuller	X			

3. The Directors were presented with the approval of 2020-21 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for GA Shafter that were considered and discussed. On a motion duly made by Matt Look, seconded by Ernie Unruh, and carried, the Board approved via roll call the 2020-21 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for GA Shafter.

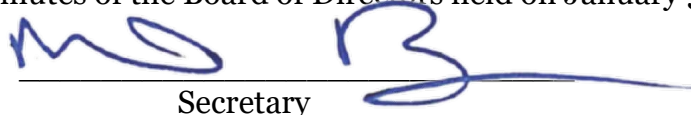
Board Member	Yay	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Tom Mestmaker	X			
Manuel Pantoja	X			
Ernie Unruh	X			
Matt Look	X			
Jean Fuller	X			

IV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion the board adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I certify that I am the duly elected Secretary of the Grow Public Schools, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation; that these minutes, consisting of seven (7) pages are the minutes of the Board of Directors held on January 31, 2022.


Secretary