



**GROW**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## **Minutes**

### **Grow Public Schools Special Board Meeting**

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#### **Date and Time**

Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 8:30 am

#### **Location**

##### **Physical Location:**

Grow Public Schools – Conference Room  
5080 California Ave., Suite 100  
Bakersfield, CA 93309

##### **Available Locations to Join Virtually:**

Grow Academy Shafter – Conference Room  
471 W Los Angeles Ave.  
Shafter, CA 93263

Grow Academy Arvin – Conference Room  
901 Nectarine Ct.  
Arvin, CA 93203

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### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD BY PARENTS AND CITIZENS**

Grow Public Schools welcomes your participation at the School's Board meetings. The purpose of a public meeting of the Board of Directors ("Board") is to conduct the affairs of the school in public. Your participation assures us of continuing community interest in our School. To assist you in the ease of speaking/participating in our meetings, the following guidelines provided:

1. Agendas and agenda materials produced by Grow Public Schools staff and Board members that are distributed at the meeting to members of the Board relating to open session items are available to all audience members. Email [kheilman@growpublicschools.org](mailto:kheilman@growpublicschools.org) for an electronic copy of the materials. Alternatively, a printed copy of the agenda packet will also be available at both the meeting and teleconference location(s) and items distributed for the first time at the meeting can be copied for members of the public upon request.
2. Individuals wishing to provide public comment at this Board meeting may provide comments on non-agenda items during the Oral Communications item on the agenda, or prior to the Board discussion of the Agenda items during the meeting. On your public comment card, please include whether you are commenting on non-agenda items or a specific agenda item (reference the agenda item number). Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. If comments are in Spanish

or another language, twice as much time will be allowed in order to provide for translation to English. Comments requiring translations will be limited to six (6) minutes. The Board of Directors may limit the total time for public comment to a reasonable time.

3. When addressing the Board, speakers are requested to state their name and adhere to the time limits set forth.

4. Any public records relating to an agenda items for an open session of the Board which are distributed to all, or a majority of all, of the Board members in advance of the meeting shall be available for public inspection of 5080 California Ave., Suite 100, Bakersfield, CA 93309.

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and upon request, Grow Public Schools may furnish reasonable auxiliary aids and services to qualified individuals with disabilities. Individuals who require appropriate alternative modification of the agenda in order to participate in Board meetings are invited to contact the main office.*

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### **Directors Present**

Tom Mestmaker, Manuel Pantoja, Matt Look, Dr. Kristen Watson, & Ernie Unruh

### **Directors Absent**

N/A

### **Guests Present**

Doc Ervin, Dr. Ric Esquivel, Steve McClain, Afaf Aldhulay, Rick Phillips, Melody Castillo, Alan Blandon, Kari Heilman, Maddison Contreras, RJ Valentino (remote), Kari Heilman

## **I. Opening Items**

### **A. Call the Meeting to Order**

Tom Mestmaker called a meeting of the Board of Directors of Grow Public Schools to order on Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 8:31am.

### **B. Record Attendance**

### **C. Flag Salute**

Tom Mestmaker, Board Chair, lead the flag salute.

### **D. Public Comment**

No public comments.

## **II. Action Items**

### **A. Approval of Resolution to Open New Bank & Investment Accounts with J.P. Morgan Private Bank and Chase Bank.**

Ernie Unruh asked the Board whether we are allowed to take monies from grants and/or the state and invest them. Steve McClain, Chief Business Officer, replied that discussion has been taking place with Grow Public Schools legal counsel, Young Minney, Corr, LLC and EdTec, to get more clarification. Doc Ervin, added that today, the Board is only

voting to open accounts. Once we have answers from our legal team, we will be sure to circle back with the Board. Ernie Unruh mentioned that another good source for answers would be to consult with our auditors.

Ernie Unruh made a motion to approve the Resolution to Open New Bank & Investment Accounts with J. P. Morgan Private Bank and Chase Bank.

Matt Look seconded the motion.

The board VOTED to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Tom Mestmaker	Aye
Matt Look	Aye
Dr. Kristen Watson	Aye
Ernie Unruh	Aye
Manuel Pantoja	Aye

**B. Approval of Resolution to Open New Bank & Investment Accounts with Bank of America and Merrill Private Wealth Management.**

Dr. Kristen Watson made a motion to approve the Resolution to Open New Bank & Investment Accounts with Bank of America and Merrill Private Wealth Management.

Manuel Pantoja seconded the motion.

The board VOTE to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Tom Mestmaker	Aye
Matt Look	Aye
Dr. Kristen Watson	Aye
Ernie Unruh	Aye
Manuel Pantoja	Aye

Dr. Kristen Watson commented that she was not sure if GPS already has an investment policy. If not, there should be one that has guard rails on what is allowable with investments, specifically for charter schools. The GPS team responded that there is not one currently in place. Creating one and bringing it to the Board for approval will be a top priority.

**III. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41am.

**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 three (3) pages are the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of the Board of Directors held on May 4, 2023.

  
Secretary