

# 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: May 23, 2022

Location: Grow Academy Shafter – 471 W. Los Angeles St Shafter, CA 93263 or Grow Academy Arvin – 901 Nectarine Court Arvin, CA 93203, and via teleconference

#### 2. DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

Present: Tom Mestmaker, President; Matt Look, Star Parents of Grow Academy (SPGA) President and Parent Representative via teleconference at GA Arvin; Ernie Unruh, Kern County Superintendent of Schools Representative

Absent: Manuel Pantoja, Secretary and Arvin Community Representative and Dr. Jean Fuller, Grimm Family Education Foundation Representative (attended via Zoom, as a participant)

Grow Public Schools Staff Present In-Person: Casey Yeazel, Chief Executive Officer; Michelle Lumis, Executive Assistant; Rick Phillips, Operations Specialist; Mike Romero, Chief Operating Officer; Ana Prado, Recruitment Specialist

Grow Academy Staff Present In-Person: Lacie Harris, Principal, Grow Academy Shafter; Hurshel Williams, Principal, Grow Academy Arvin; Wendy Elmore, Special Education Coordinator, Grow Academy Shafter; Irene Montoya, Administrative Assistant, Grow Academy Shafter; Kayleigh Meyers, Teacher, Grow Academy Shafter

Others Present In-Person: Bridgett Rubio, Parent and Doc Ervin, community member

Others Present via teleconference: Dr. Monica Jara Guerra, Director of Community Initiatives; Elizabeth Ramos; Interpreter; Tatia Hunter-Jennings, Assistant Principal of Student Services; Zulema Ela, Assistant Principal of Academics, Grow Academy Arvin; Wendy Creek, Chief Academic Officer; Barbara Grimm Marshall, Founder; RJ

Valentino, President, Grimm Family Education Foundation; Jennifer Marcus, Office Manager, Grimm Family Education Foundation; Cindy Frantz, EdTec

3. *FLAG SALUTE*

4. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES*

On a motion was made by Matt Look, seconded by, Tom Mestmaker, and passed via roll call, to approve the minutes of the board meeting dated April 25, 2022.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Yay</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
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, Chief Executive Officer, shared the Governor’s May Budget Revise for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

A legislative update was provided on Assembly Bill 2484 and Senate Bill 1343. AB 2484 revises the criteria for SB740 lease reimbursement and the disposition of assets in the event of a charter school closure. The fiscal impact of AB 2484 is significant. Both campuses would lose approximately \$13,321,626 (\$606,422 annually) combined in SB 740 funding beginning in January,2023. Statewide, the losses to charter schools in California are estimated to exceed \$1.4 billion.

SB 1343 would require a charter school authorized on or after January 1, 2023, to participate in CalSTRS or CalPERS, or both. The potential estimated fiscal impact on a new school (authorized after Jan.1, 2023) would be approximately \$600,000.

Casey shared that after input from a variety of stakeholders, including faculty, staff, scholars, and families, Laci Harris will be the next principal at Grow Academy Shafter. Lacie was previously the Assistant Principal of Student Services. Grow Public Schools is excited to have Lacie’s expertise, passion, and dedication lead the GA Shafter community.

Mike Romero, Chief Operating Officer, provided the operations report. Both sites are continuing high level priorities for the 2022-23 budget. This includes refining the staffing models which include a number of new positions funded by the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP).

On May 18th Woody Colvard from Kern County Superintendent of Schools visited the GA Arvin campus to review potential Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) classroom setup for the upcoming year. The current plan in Arvin is to build a permanent wall in the Learning Lab on the west side of the room to create space of approximately 500 sq. ft. to comfortably accommodate 15-20 UPK scholars. GA Shafter will use an existing Kindergarten classroom to house their incoming UTK class in the upcoming year so no additional construction will need to take place. Additionally, we are looking into the possibility of building permanent structures in the coming year that meet all of the minimum requirements for UPK classrooms due to the amount of funding available for UPK expansion. Board President, Tom Mestmaker asked how many students would be at each site. Mike stated approximately 15-17 students per site. Board member Ernie Unruh asked, what the square footage of the UPK facility in Arvin would be. Mike stated the square footage is approximately 500 square feet and GA Arvin is looking to use the art room to meet the minimum square footage requirements.

Mike shared GA Shafter's oversight visit is scheduled for May 31<sup>st</sup>. An update on the outcome of both oversight visits will be shared at the July board meeting.

The LCAP process is near completion for both sites. Several stakeholder meetings were facilitated by school leadership to solicit input for this LCAP cycle. Through feedback was received from several governance and stakeholder groups.

Every year Home Office staff and IT Service Contractor, Signa-Terra, work to assess the overall IT infrastructure needs of both schools. Some of the major IT projects next school year include deploying 200-300 Chromebooks & Tablets for TK and Kinder students; decommissioning over 600 Chromebooks that are deemed "end of life"; Rolling 10% laptop refresh for employees in need of new technology; IT infrastructure upgrades to support new technology (i.e., Access Points, updated servers, firewalls).

Wendy Creek, Chief Academic Officer, shared the Academics update. Both school sites are in the process of finishing state CAASPP testing and will do one final round of NWEA testing. Shafter will continue pulling some of the lowest readers and giving them one-on-one reading support, while continuing to identify students who were not successful with Tier 1 academic supports and giving those students extra small group support during lab time using NWEA MAP skills. Arvin will continue their whole-campus focus on math vocabulary and giving incentives to students who are able to spontaneously answer math questions. Additionally, both sites will be looking to identify students who will qualify for extra support during Summer Academy.

## *PRINCIPAL'S REPORT-Grow Academy Arvin*

Principal, Hurshel Williams shared GA Arvin's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Goal three, action six – Extracurricular Athletics Programs. GA Arvin incorporated competitive Track and Field within their extracurricular athletic opportunities. Approximately 30-40 students pursued the opportunity with approximately 20-25 students making the team. Twelve scholar athletes made it to the league finals, six progressed to our district finals, and two continued to the Kern County finals only to proceed further to the San Joaquin Valley finals in Clovis Ca, on May 14th, 2022. These Championships served as the equivalent to the CIF High School State Track and Field Championships. Remarkably, both of our Grow Academy Arvin Scholars outperformed athletes who had years of competition experience.

Brian Cisneros who competed in "Youth Boys 800 Meters Finals" placed 7th in a field of 15 competitors. Selah Carlos who competed in "Intermediate Girls Shot Put" placed 3rd in Valley in her first season of participating in the sport.

Hurshel shared messages of gratitude from families for providing students with the opportunity to explore their hidden athletic talents. "Thank you so much... We appreciate all the love GAA has given her. Selah is grateful as well" was one such message. Many families referenced the social-emotional importance of this experience and such benefits derived from their children taking part, as many of these scholars were greatly impacted by the pandemic, some having lost their parents over the course of the pandemic.

On May 14<sup>th</sup> GA Arvin, in conjunction with Arvin Mayor, Olivia Trujillo and Dr. Monica Jara Guerra, hosted the Arvin Beautification-Mother's Day Weekend event. During this event, GA Arvin mothers/guardians and their scholars assisted in beautifying our local "Garden in the Sun Park" by planting various flowers and succulent plants. Upon conclusion of their time at the park, our GA Arvin stakeholders arrived on-site where they took photos while having brunch in a relaxing music-filled environment.

## *PRINCIPAL'S REPORT-Grow Academy Shafter*

Principal, Lacie Harris, shared GA Shafter's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) goal one – Provide a dynamic learning experience that inspires students and teachers to reach for higher academic achievement. As the year ends, scholars are showcasing their hard work and talents through many avenues across the county. This month, two teams of scholars participated in academic competitions: Battle of the Books and KCSOS' STEM Olympiad. Both teams fared well, bringing home medals for their efforts in both reading and math.

The after-school boys and girls softball teams also have been bringing home wins! To celebrate the end of their season, the teams by attended a CSUB softball game on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Inside the classrooms, scholars and teachers have been hard at work completing the 2022 CAASPP and CAA assessments. With a 99% participation rate, GA Shafter is looking forward to seeing how scholars performed and progressed throughout

the 2021-2022 school year. The CA Science Test (CAST) began for 5th and 8th graders and will be completed by the end of the week.

#### *GROW PUBLIC SCHOOLS STAFF REPORT- NA*

#### *PARENT REPORT*

Bridgett Rubio, shared the GA Shafter parent report. Movie night was held recently, and concessions were sold to fundraise for Parents of Grow Academy. Parents are looking forward to supporting the first GA Shafter Promotion.

Matt Look shared the parent report for GA Arvin. Teacher gifts were provided for 55 teachers during teacher appreciation week. Upcoming nominations and voting for next school year is forthcoming. Matt and Bridgett shared parents are looking forward to being back on campus next school year.

#### *TOUR OF THE SENSORY PATH AT GA SHAFTER*

Kayleigh Meyers, Teacher and Wendy Elmore, Special Education Coordinator in GA Shafter showcased the Sensory Path at GA Shafter after the board meeting.

#### *FISCAL REPORT*

Cindy Franz from EdTec (back-office provider) provided the May Revise state budget update and the 2021-22 financial update, along with the 2022-23 budget draft and assumptions.

For GA Arvin, the forecasted net income is approximately \$1,834,000, a \$516,000 increase from the previous forecast.

For GA Shafter, the forecasted net income is approximately \$1,804,000, a \$611,000 increase from the previous forecast.

For the home office, the forecasted net income is approximately \$593,000, a \$73,000 increase from the previous forecast.

Cindy discussed the notable changes from the prior forecast, which resulted in a revenue increase from enrollment based funding and special education.

### **III. ACTION ITEMS**

1. The Directors were presented with the approval of the Purchase Orders and Warrants and Credit Card Register for April 2022 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 Purchase Orders and Warrants and Credit Card Register for April 2022.

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

2. The Directors were presented with the approval of the 403(b) Match Affirmation for 2021-2022 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 403(b) Match Affirmation for 2021-2022.

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

3. The Directors were presented with the approval of the Amended Grow Public Schools Integrity Plan for 2021-22 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 Amended Grow Public Schools Integrity Plan for 2021-22.

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

4. The Directors were presented with the approval of the Amended Title IX Policy 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 Amended Title IX Policy.

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

5. The Directors were presented with the approval of the Alliant International University California School of Education MOU 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 Alliant International University California School of Education MOU.

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

6. The Directors were presented with the approval of the National University Internship Credential Program Agreement 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 National University Internship Credential Program Agreement.

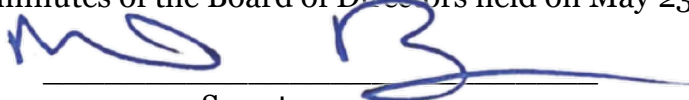
Board Member	Yay	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Tom Mestmaker	X			
Manuel Pantoja			X	
Ernie Unruh	X			
Matt Look	X			
Jean Fuller			X	

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion, the board adjourned at 4:50 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 May 23, 2022.

  
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 Secretary