

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: 4:06 p.m.

Date: April 25, 2022

Location: 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 held in-person:

Present: Tom Mestmaker, President; Dr. Jean Fuller, Grimm Family Education Foundation Representative; Matt Look, Star Parents of Grow Academy (SPGA) President and Parent Representative

Absent: Ernie Unruh, Kern County Superintendent of Schools Representative, and Manuel Pantoja, Secretary and Arvin Community Representative (attended via Zoom, as a participant)

Grow Public Schools Staff Present: Casey Yeazel, Chief Executive Officer; Michelle Lumis, Executive Assistant; Rick Phillips, Operations Specialist; Adam Alvidrez, Director of School Operations; Dr. Monica Jara Guerra, Director of Community Initiatives; Mike Romero, Chief Operating Officer; Melody Castillo, Accounting Manager, via Zoom; Elizabeth Ramos; Interpreter, via Zoom

Grow Academy Staff Present: Hurshel Williams, Principal, Grow Academy Arvin; Tatia Hunter-Jennings, Assistant Principal of Student Services, via Zoom; Yuri Perez, Intervention Coordinator, Grow Academy Arvin; Carmen Dias, Music Teacher; Grow Academy Arvin

Grimm Family Education Foundation Staff Present: Barbara Grimm Marshall, Founder; Evelyn Steed, Officer Manager, via Zoom; Jennifer Marcus, Office Manager, via Zoom

Others Present via teleconference: Cindy Frantz, EdTec; Emma Pereida-Martinez, Assistant Superintendent, Arvin Union School District; Elia Sagasta, Curriculum and Instruction Director, Richland School District

3. *FLAG SALUTE*

4. *BOARD REAPPOINTMENT*

The board accepted the reappointment of Dr. Jean Fuller as a Grimm Family Education Foundation representative, for a two-year term as a board member of the Grow Public Schools Board of Directors.

5. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES*

On a motion was made by Jean Fuller, seconded by, Matt Look, and passed, to approve the minutes of the board meeting dated March 28, 2022.

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, Chief Executive Officer, shared the COVID-19 update. There will not be a vaccine mandate for the 2022-23 school year.

Casey provided the strategic growth plan update on the expansion of Grow Public Schools. On March 31st, Grow Public Schools secured an additional \$1,749,729 in funding in our CSP CMO Growth and Expansion grant. This brings the total federal grant amount to \$5,818,637.

A legislative update was provided on Assembly Bill 599.

Mike Romero, Chief Operating Officer, provided the operations report. Grow Public Schools successfully renewed GA Arvin and GA Shafter's E-Rate plans for the 2022-23 school year with the help of an E-Rate consultant (The Miller Institute for Learning with Technology). Funded through the federal Universal Service Fund (USF) the school sites can receive internet and connectivity services at a discounted cost.

Site principals, in partnership with the Home Office, are actively working on budget development for the 22-23 school year. Should be high-level topics include staffing, facilities/infrastructure enhancements, technology upgrades, and replacement, education software, curriculum and textbooks, payroll, and benefits. Grow Public Schools continues to work with EdTec on budget development, with a current focus on developing a detailed spending plan for the various one-time funds with particular attention to the ESSER III, ELOG (Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant), and ELOP (Expanded Learning Opportunities Program).

The preliminary renewal numbers from TriStar have been received. As a result of the favorable claims performance of the plans over the past 3 years, Grow Public Schools will be able to lower copays for both Primary and Specialty visits without increasing premiums for the '2022-23 school year.

Casey shared the Academics update. Projected CAASPP scores from 21-22 Winter NWEA in reading and math were shared. Some actions being taken to prepare students for upcoming tests include GA Shafter utilizing their Intervention Coordinator Instructional Coaches to pull some of the lowest readers and giving them some one-on-one reading support. Shafter also did two cycles of focusing on Tier 1 academic supports and identifying students who still were not successful and giving those students extra small group support during lab time using NWEA MAP skills.

GA Arvin enacted a whole campus focus on math vocabulary and is giving incentives to students who are able to spontaneously answer math questions (Drop Everything and Math). Arvin is also giving extra academic support to some of the middle school's students during elective time. Small Group Instructors are also using NWEA Map Skills with students in the lab to support learning gaps.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT-Grow Academy Arvin

Principal, Hurshel Williams shared GA Arvin's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) action one – Intervention and Enrichment. During the week of March 28th, Grow Academy Arvin hosted a Spring Intersession for all scholars. Specific invitations were given to students identified as nearly meeting standards in either Math or ELA using the data provided through the administration of the Interim Comprehensive Assessment (ICA). Approximately 80 scholars attended the Spring Intersession. Students received targeted instruction focused on selected Math and ELA standards utilizing Standards Plus as an instructional resource. A highlight of Spring was a field trip to the Bakersfield Condors game. One scholar shared, that they were 11 years old, and this event was the first field trip they had ever attended.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT-Grow Academy Shafter

Casey provided the principal's report for GA Shafter and shared Shafter's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) goal three – Provide an environment that encourages healthy lifestyles. Enhancements have been centered around an environment that encourages scholars to participate in healthy activities that get them excited to come to school. With the green light from the local health department, the salad bar has returned to the cafe and scholars (and staff) are thoroughly enjoying serving themselves their daily helpings of fruits and vegetables. A team of scholars and staff led by Mrs. Elmore and Ms. Meyers have created a beautiful sensory path on the elementary side of campus and plan to create a second path for our middle school students soon. Students from our afterschool program are learning to work together in a collaborative environment in a new eSports pilot program offered free of charge by Vanta Leagues. Our middle school scholars are in the middle of our inaugural softball season, playing against other teams in the area. Finally, two ESY team members, Ms. Jordin, and Mr. Ben, have created an afterschool club, Grow Academy Afterschool Agriculture Club (GAAAC), in an effort to spread awareness of agricultural topics such as composting and stewardship of our school and community environments.

GROW PUBLIC SCHOOLS STAFF REPORT

Yuri Perez, the Intervention Coordinator for GA Arvin, provided the staff report. Spring Intercession saw the biggest enrollment yet for GA Arvin. Project-based learning in STEM from Kindergarten to eighth grade was incorporated as well during Spring Intercession.

PARENT REPORT – NA

2022-2023 BOARD MEETING DATES

The 2022-23 board meeting dates were shared with the board.

FISCAL REPORT

Cindy Franz from EdTec (back-office provider) provided the March 2022 financial update.

For GA Arvin, the forecasted net income is approximately \$1,317,000, a \$409,000 increase from the previous forecast.

For GA Shafter, the forecasted net income is approximately \$1,193,000, a \$331,000 increase from the previous forecast.

For the home office, the forecasted net income is approximately \$520,000, a 101,000 increase from the previous forecast.

Cindy discussed the notable changes from the prior forecast, which resulted in a revenue increase and the preliminary P2 attendance.

III. ACTION ITEMS

1. The Directors were presented with the approval of the Purchase Orders and Warrants and Credit Card Register for March 2022 that were considered and discussed. On a motion duly made by Jean Fuller, seconded by Matt Look, and carried, the Board approved the Purchase Orders and Warrants and Credit Card Register for March 2022.

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 the 2020 Form 990 and Form 199 Tax Return that were considered and discussed. On a motion duly made by Matt Look, seconded by Jean Fuller, and carried, the Board approved via roll call the 2020 Form 990 and Form 199 Tax Return.

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 the Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators for GA Shafter that were considered and discussed. On a motion duly made by Jean Fuller, seconded by Matt Look, and carried, the Board approved the Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators for GA Shafter.

Board Member	Yay	Nay	Absent	Abstain
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 CSUB Clinical Practices Agreement for 2022-2023 that were considered and discussed. On a motion duly made by Matt Look, seconded by Jean Fuller, and carried, the Board approved the CSUB Clinical Practices Agreement for 2022-2023.

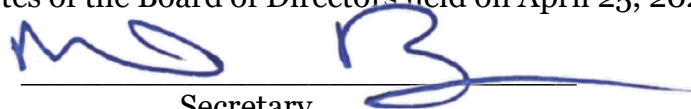
Board Member	Yay	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Tom Mestmaker	X			
Manuel Pantoja			X	
Ernie Unruh			X	
Matt Look	X			
Jean Fuller	X			

IV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion, the board adjourned at 4:36 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 six (6) pages are the minutes of the Board of Directors held on April 25, 2022.



 Secretary