

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: February 28, 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

Absent: Manuel Pantoja, Secretary and Arvin Community Representative

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; Melody Castillo, Accounting Manager; Daisy Rodriguez, Branding and Communication Manager

Grow Academy Staff Present via teleconference: Hurshel Williams, Principal, Grow Academy Arvin; Brook Webb, Principal, Grow Academy Shafter; Tatia Hunter-Jennings, Assistant Principal of Student Services, Grow Academy Arvin; Zulema Ela, Assistant Principal of Academics, Grow Academy Arvin; Lisa Fenton, Executive Chef, Grow Academy Arvin and Maria Jaime, Teacher, Grow Academy Arvin; Lexus Block, Teacher, Grow Academy Shafter

Grimm Family Education Foundation: Evelyn Steed, Office Manager

Others Present via teleconference: Cindy Frantz, EdTec; Emma Pereida-Martinez, Assistant Superintendent, Arvin Union School District; Martha Valdez; Val and Nate

Campbell; Emelia Gomez; Teresa Verdugo; Jennifer Anne; Maria Dominguez; Danielle Jaime; Araceli Ruiz; Elena Pinedo; Isabel Lopez; Ada McFarland; Andy Jones; Jennifer Marcus; Jorge Manuel; Melissa Espinoza; Kristian Mecham; Samantha Hernandez; Diana Lozano; Alex and Adam Reyna; Cristian Serrato, Leysle Soto and eighteen 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 Jean Fuller, seconded by Matt Look, 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 board meeting dated January 31, 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 has been one new COVID-19 case in the last two weeks.

Casey shared the 2021 Standard & Poor's (S&P) Rating Report. S&P affirmed a BB+/Stable bond rating.

On February 28th, the California Department of Public Health announced updated mask guidance/requirements for K-12 schools. Due to the shift in current Board approved policies related to current COVID safety procedures, a special board meeting may need to be held to seek board approval for a revision to current policies before changing or shifting policies, protocols, or procedures at school sites.

An update to the Strategic Growth Plan was provided. The high school petition is being finalized and will be presented to the board for approval. Facility options are still being explored, with the planned location being adjacent or on the CSU Bakersfield campus.

Mike Romero, Chief Operating Officer, provided the operations report. Employees can now receive over the counter COVID-19 test kits at the pharmacy with no out of pocket cost, by presenting their insurance card at a participating Cigna pharmacy. Tests purchased outside of the Cigna pharmacy network are reimbursable up to \$12 per test. Employees can utilize this new feature effective March 1, 2022.

Site principals, in partnership with the Home Office, are actively working on budget development for the 22-23 school year. High level topics include staffing, facilities/infrastructure enhancements, technology upgrades and replacement, education software, curriculum and textbooks, payroll, and benefits.

On Saturday, February 5th, Grow Public Schools participated in the second all virtual Kern County Superintendent of Schools Teacher Job Fair. Human Resources Generalist, Stephanie Sanchez, and new Recruiter, Anthony Cabanillas, did an outstanding job of running a successful recruitment event and coordinating a "virtual mixer".

Mike shared the Staff Intent to Return surveys were completed and approximately 97% of certificated staff have elected to return next school year.

Dr. Wendy Creek, Chief Academic Officer, shared the number of students participating in Independent Study has fluctuated over the last month, but as of February 28, 2022, the current totals were 4 students in Arvin and 5 students in Shafter. Operations Specialist, Elizabeth Ramos will be taking over the position of Independent Study Coordinator. Jessica Martinez, the previous Independent Study Coordinator has transitioned from Grow Public Schools.

Wendy shared the 2021 CAASPP testing results for GA Arvin and GA Shafter. Wendy reminded the board that CAASPP testing was optional in 2021. Both campuses decided to have all scholars take the assessment so data could be derived about the learning loss

suffered because of the COVID shutdown. The comparisons are problematic since every school district did not take the CAASPP (Kern, CA).

2021-2022 LOCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (LCAP) UPDATES

Principals, Hurshel Williams and Brook Webb, presented a PowerPoint with updates pertaining to the supplement to the annual update for the 2021-22 LCAP, mid-year outcome data related to metrics identified in the 2021-22 LCAP, and mid-year expenditures and implementation data on all actions identified in the 2021-22 LCAP, for GA Arvin and GA Shafter.

FISCAL REPORT

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

Cindy shared the Universal Transitional Kindergarten timeline, Expanded Learning Opportunities Program, and proposed legislation, including SB 579.

For GA Arvin, Cindy shared the forecasted net income is approximately \$908,000, a \$227,000 increase from the previous forecast.

For GA Shafter, the forecasted net income is approximately \$882,000, a \$155,000 increase from the previous forecast.

For the home office, the forecasted net income is approximately \$419,000, a \$39,000 increase from the previous forecast.

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

III. ACTION ITEMS

1. The Directors were presented with the approval of the Purchase Orders and Warrants and Credit Card Register for January 2022 that were considered and discussed. On a motion duly made by Ernie Unruh, seconded by Jean Fuller, and carried, the Board approved via roll call the Purchase Orders and Warrants and Credit Card Register for January 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 2021 403(b) Plan Audit 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 2021 403(b) Plan Audit.

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 403(b) Quarterly Reports for July 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021, and October 1, 2021 -December 31, 2021 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 403(b) Quarterly Reports for July 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021, and October 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021.

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 403(b) Auditor Engagement between Clifton Larson Allen LLP for 2021-22 School Year 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 403(b) Auditor Engagement between Clifton Larson Allen LLP for 2021-22 School Year.

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

5. The Directors were presented with the approval of Auditor Engagement between Clifton Larson Allen LLP for 2021-22 School Year 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 Auditor Engagement between Clifton Larson Allen LLP for 2021-22 School Year.

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 GA Arvin School Safety Plan that were considered and discussed. On a motion duly made by Jean Fuller, seconded by Ernie Unruh, and carried, the Board approved via roll call the GA Arvin School Safety Plan.

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

7. The Directors were presented with the approval of GA Shafter School Safety Plan 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 GA Shafter School Safety Plan.

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

8. The Directors were presented with the approval of Amended Grow Public Schools Conflict of Interest Policy 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 Amended Grow Public Schools Conflict of Interest Policy.

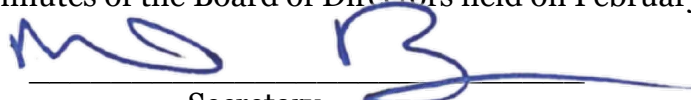
Board Member	Yay	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Tom Mestmaker	X			
Manuel Pantoja			X	
Ernie Unruh	X			
Matt Look	X			
Jean Fuller	X			

IV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion the board adjourned at 5:16 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 February 28, 2022.



Secretary