

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: 4:07 p.m.

Date: March 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 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; 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; Daisy Rodriguez, Branding and Communication Manager and Stephanie Sanchez, Human Resources Generalist

Grow Academy Staff Present via teleconference: Hurshel Williams, Principal, Grow Academy Arvin; Tatia Hunter-Jennings, Assistant Principal of Student Services, Grow Academy Arvin; Zulema Ela, Assistant Principal of Academics, Grow Academy Arvin; Jenny Bard, Interim Special Education Coordinator, Grow Academy Arvin; Maria Jaime, Teacher, Grow Academy Arvin; Lacie Harris, Teacher, Assistant Principal of Student Services Grow Academy Shafter; Annie Salazar, Counselor, Grow Academy Shafter

Grimm Family Education Foundation: NA

Others Present via teleconference: Cindy Frantz, EdTec; Emma Pereda-Martinez, Assistant Superintendent, Arvin Union School District; Elia Sagasta, Curriculum and Instruction Director, Richland School District; Val and Nate Campbell; Toni Franz; Santos Gonzalez and five 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 Manuel Pantoja, 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 February 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.

On a motion was made by Jean Fuller, seconded by, Matt Look, and passed, to approve via roll call the minutes of the special board meeting dated March 10, 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 have been two new COVID-19 cases in the last two weeks.

A legislative update was provided on the following Senate and Assembly Bills: SB740, AB1609, AB579, AB 1652, AB 2214 and AB2484.

The 2022 California Charter School Association (CCSA) Conference was held the week of March 14th. Teachers, administrators, front office staff, chefs, and Edible School Yard (ESY) educators from both school sites, along with Home Office staff attended the event. Grow Public Schools was asked to showcase our schools during a conference session. GA Shafter Garden Educator, Vanessa Ghilarducci provided an overview of the ESY and its power to impact different types of learners. Casey discussed the Grow Public Schools model, the challenges faced during the pandemic and how those challenges were navigated, along with how the ESY program (and Cafe) served in many ways as the connective tissue in our communities throughout the past two years of school shutdowns and reopening's.

Also released at the conference was CCSA's "Portrait of a Movement" 30th Anniversary report. Grow Public Schools was highlighted in the report as a "Rising Star" network.

Casey provided the strategic growth plan update on the expansion of Grow Public Schools.

Mike Romero, Chief Operating Officer, provided the operations report. Oversight preparation is underway. GA Arvin's Oversight Review is scheduled for May 19th and GA Shafter's Oversight Review is scheduled for May 31st.

Mike shared the Universal Pre-Kindergarten Plan (UPK) update and timeline.

A security camera update was provided. Existing cameras will be upgraded to meet the National Defense Authorization Act.

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.

Casey shared the Academics update. The number of students participating in Independent Study has stabilized over the last month. As of March 23, 2022, the current totals were 5 students in Arvin and 0 students in Shafter.

The Grow Public Schools teacher pipeline is building with the partnership of the Alder Graduate School of Education. The partnership will enable Small Group Instructors to keep working in the classroom with teachers as they receive formal training to earn their preliminary teaching credential and Master's degree.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT-Grow Academy Arvin

Principal, Hurschel Williams shared GA Arvin's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) goal two, action four – Parent Education. GA Arvin hosted a virtual parent workshop that was aimed at familiarizing families with the instructional platform, Next Gen Math. Approximately 25 parents attended the hour-long workshop and parents were able to log into their scholars' accounts and utilize many of the new features Next Gen has recently incorporated into their platform.

On February 16th, GA Arvin All STARS boys and girls soccer teams hosted a soccer match against Mt. View Middle School Tigers. This was the first athletic event to be hosted on campus since Spring of 2020.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT-Grow Academy Shafter

Lacie Harris, Assistant Principal of Student Services, provided the principal's report. Lacie shared GA Shafter's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) goal two – Create collaborative partnerships with parents to improve student achievement. Parents were eager to participate in interactive Zoom Garden and Kitchen demonstrations, Facebook Live Storytime, and interactive Parent Information Sessions. In an effort to increase onsite parent participation and volunteer opportunities, Parents of Grow Academy (PoGA), have been able to have representatives participate onsite in Governance meetings and volunteers have been able to use the parent room for Spring Egg Hunt stuffing. Parents are now able to attend indoor sporting events to support their athletes and GA Shafter. Guest speakers are now able to come onto campus to speak to Middle School scholars about career and college readiness. Eighth graders will be attending the Career Expo and STEMposium in Bakerfield, and sixth and seventh graders will be going to Camp KERP for a day trip. Lacie shared increased opportunities for parent involvement will lead to an increase in student achievement.

GROW PUBLIC SCHOOLS STAFF REPORT

Jenny Bard, Interim Special Education Coordinator, provided the staff report for GA Arvin. Jenny shared her experience at the CCSA conference and her takeaways.

FISCAL REPORT

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

Cindy shared the projected revenue timeline for the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program.

For GA Arvin, the forecasted net income is approximately \$827,000, a \$81,000 decrease from the previous forecast.

For GA Shafter, the forecasted net income is approximately \$852,000, a \$30,000 decrease from the previous forecast.

For the home office, the forecasted net income is approximately \$426,000, a \$7,000 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 February 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 February 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 2nd Interim for GA Arvin 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 2nd Interim 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 2nd Interim for GA Shafter that were considered and discussed. On a motion duly made by Matt Look, seconded by Manuel Pantoja, and carried, the Board approved via roll call 2nd Interim 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 Kindergarten Early Admission Request 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 Kindergarten Early Admission Request.

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 Student Freedom of Speech and Expression Policy 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 Student Freedom of Speech and Expression Policy.

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 2022-2023 School Calendar 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 2022-2023 School Calendar.

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 Security Camera Upgrade that were considered and discussed. On a motion duly made by Matt Look, seconded by Manuel Pantoja, and carried, the Board approved via roll call Security Camera Upgrade.

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 Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators for GA Arvin 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 Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators for GA Arvin.

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

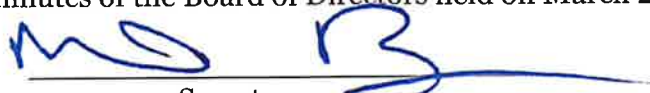
9. The Directors were presented with the approval of Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators for GA Arvin. This action item was a duplicate of action item number 8.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion the board adjourned at 4:47 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 March 28, 2022.


Secretary

