

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 board meeting at the time, on the day, and at the place set forth as follows:

Time: 4:01pm

Date: August 29, 2022

Location: 901 Nectarine Court Arvin, CA 93203

2. DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

Present: Tom Mestmaker, President; Manuel Pantoja, Secretary and Arvin Community Representative; and Matt Look, Star Parents of Grow Academy (SPGA)

Absent: Ernie Unruh, Kern County Superintendent of Schools Representative

Grow Public Schools Staff Present: Doc Ervin, Chief Executive Officer; Dr. Ricardo Esquivel, Chief of Schools; Mike Romero, Chief Operating Officer; Michelle Lumis, Compliance & Network Coordinator; Rick Phillips, Operations Manager; Elizabeth Ramos, Interpreter, via teleconference; Jenny Bard, Director Teacher Development; Afaf Aldhulay, Marketing & Communications Manager; Zulema Ela, Assistant Principal of Academics, Grow Academy Arvin; Melody Castillo, Accounting Manager; Hurshel Williams, Principal, Grow Academy Arvin; Lacie Harris; Principal, Grow Academy Shafter; Tanya Kelley, Assistant Principal of Academics, Grow Academy Shafter

Grimm Family Education Foundation Staff Present: Barbara Grimm Marshall, Founder, via teleconference; RJ Valentino, President, via teleconference; Dylan Wilson, ESYKC Executive Director; Kari Heilman, Executive Assistant

Other attendees: Cindy Frantz, Back-Office Provider, EdTec; James Ramsey, Signa-Terra; Don Pasion, Signa-Terra; Emma Pereida-Martinez, Arvin Union School District Assist Superintendent

3. *FLAG SALUTE*
4. *ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT - None*

II. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of June 27, 2022, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of July 19, 2022, Special Board Meeting Minutes
3. Approval of July 27, 2022, Special Board Meeting Minutes
4. Approval of August 10, 2022, Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
5. Approval of August 10, 2022, Special Board Meeting Minutes
6. Approval of Purchase Orders and Warrants and Credit Card Registers from July 2022
7. Approval of CSUB Clinical Practices Agreement for Administrative Experience for 22-23
8. Revised COVID-19 Safety Plan – also known as Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan

On a motion made duly by Matt Look seconded by Manuel Pantoja, and carried, the Board approved the Consent Agenda.

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

III. COMMUNICATIONS

A. *GROW PUBLIC SCHOOLS EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT*

Chief Executive Officer, Doc Ervin, presented the Board with 45/90 day progress updates and what the next steps will be.

The 45 Day deliverables prioritize academic achievement and stakeholder communication and engagement. The Executive Leadership Team met with the Leadership Advisory Council, the Grow Network, student families and external partners to explore where we are, what we are doing and where we have opportunities. Doc Ervin also shared that the high school project has been placed on hold.

The 90 Day deliverables focus on re-establishing the academic culture of excellence. This plan also includes stakeholder communication, expansion and engagement but this time, asking all faculty and staff. We will be working with key stakeholders to come up with a plan for growth and expansion for both campuses. Also, we will be implementing network-wide professional development.

Tom Mestmaker thanked Doc and his team for all their hard work and commented that he greatly appreciates receiving the Friday Board updates.

Chief of Schools, Dr. Ricardo Esquivel, presented the board with the spring and fall achievement data update. He shared that the data is embargoed and has not been released to the public yet.

The SBAC – State Summative Assessment is given annually toward the end of the school year in grades 3-8. The SBAC 2022 data for Grow Academy Shafter resulted with both the elementary and middle school grades seeing a positive percent change increase in ELA proficiency between the 20-21 and 21-22 school year. However, the elementary school math had a negative percent change. Grow Academy Arvin experienced proficiency increases in all subjects in elementary and middle school – apart from middle school math which remained the same.

The NWEA Fall 2022 data – NWEA Proficiency – Approximately we want students performing above the 50th percentile. Elementary students scored 29% in math and 39% in reading. Middle school students scored 29% in math and 40% in reading. Doc Ervin shared that a lot happened in the pandemic and there is a heavy focus on bringing these scores back to pre-pandemic numbers.

Dr. Esquivel shared the Quarter 1 Action Plan.

- 1.) Aligning professional development network-wide
- 2.) Planning based on student readiness in key learning structures (core instruction, literacy block and learning lab)
- 3.) K-2 Foundational Literacy Skills
- 4.) Focuses Math and ELA Instruction

Tom Mestmaker thanked Dr. Esquivel for the valuable information.

Mike Romero, Chief Operating Officer, presented the Growth & Expansion updates highlighting 3 phases. Phase 1 is analyzing the needs and feasibility. Phase 2 is planning, design and finance. Phase 3 is board and key stakeholder review and next steps. He shared that Phase 1 is almost complete and they are inching closer to Phase 2. Doc Ervin clarified that no decisions have been made yet, need to meet with key stakeholders first.

B. Schools Leadership Report

Grow Academy Arvin's Principal, Hurshel Williams, shared that Arvin was excited to start the 22-23 school year by reconnecting with families. Throughout the month of August GAA hosted several events including: Back to School Night, Parent Information Meeting, SPGA Meeting, Virtual Parent Information Meeting, Coffee and Conversation and GPS Meet and Greet. During all these events, crucial information was shared and gathered.

The GPS 6-Week Plan is also a highlight during this first month. As week 4 ends, we can see "Teacher Moves" and "Student Learned Habits" translating to student academic achievement. Students have taken ownership of the cultural expectations outlined within the plans.

The NWEA Fall Assessment has concluded and GAA has begun a data review by analyzing trends. GAA acknowledged the students who performed well on their assessment with either a GAA hat or university shirt.

Grow Academy Shafter's Principal, Lacie Harris, shared that Back to School Night events occurred on campus, in-person for the first time in two years. Parents and families enjoyed being able to visit classrooms, meeting teachers, and learning about campus expectations.

Literacy Block started early this year providing students in grades 1-5 specific literacy instruction based on their instructional reading level. Students are focused on five key areas of literacy: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

Teacher professional learning and collaboration have been a priority starting with our Summer Professional Learning. Teacher teams are sharing best practices on classroom management and instructional techniques on a weekly basis during Friday Professional Learning opportunities. Our most recent topic has been reviewing the Reading and Math NWEA data.

C. Parent Report

Matt Look, Star Parents of Grow Academy (SPGA), commented that the school has had lots of events on campus which everyone has enjoyed. The Parent Report for Shafter will be at next month's meeting.

D. Grimm Family Education Foundation Report

Barbara Grimm Marshall, Founder, commented that she appreciated all the information shared by the Executive Leadership Team, especially the 45/90 Day Plan. She also added that its great to see the schools working together and thanked everyone for their hard work.

Dylan Wilson, ESYKC Executive Director, gave an update stating that the big focus for the start of this school year is getting back to basics through the founding principles. He has created a committee that is working on an action plan and going through handbook trainings. Also, he and his team have been working on overall site maintenance on both campuses.

He shared that he has a training plan per semester with training dates scheduled for 9/16/22, 11/4/2022 and 12/9/22 - each date will be at a different site.

ESY classes for Arvin started on 8/15 and Shafter's started on 8/29, so far, the reports have been great.

IV. JULY FISCAL REPORT

Cindy Franz from EdTec (back-office provider) provided the Board with the August 2022 Grow Public Schools financial update.

V. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION

1. The Directors were presented with the approval of the Vanta League Contract for Grow Public Schools, that were considered and discussed. On a motion duly made by Manuel Pantoja, seconded by Matt Look and carried, the Board approved the Vanta League Contract for Grow Public Schools.

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

2. The Directors were presented with the approval of the McGraw Hill Social Studies and History Curricula for GA Arvin that were considered and discussed. On a motion duly made by Matt Look, seconded by Manuel Pantoja and carried, the Board approved the McGraw Hill Social Studies and History Curricula for GA Arvin.

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

VI. ADJORNMENT

On a motion the board adjourned at 4:50 pm.

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 five (5) pages are the minutes of the regular board meeting of the Board of Directors held on August 29, 2022.



Secretary