



Minutes

Grow Public Schools Board Meeting

DATE and TIME:

Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 2:30pm

LOCATIONS:

Physical Location:

Grow Public Schools - Conference Room
5080 California Ave., Ste. 100, Bakersfield CA 93309

Locations to Attend Virtually:

Grow Academy Arvin - Learning Lab
901 Nectarine Ct., Arvin, CA 93203

Grow Academy Shafter - Learning Lab
471 W. Los Angeles Ave., Shafter, CA 93263

1. Opening Items

1.1 Call the Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:29pm by Dr. Kristen Watson, filling in for Board Chair, Tom Mestmaker.

1.2 Record Attendance

Dr. Kristen Watson, Matt Look, Manny Pantoja, Dr. Elysa Vargas, Steve McClain, Doc Ervin, Dr. Ric Esquivel, Lacie Harris, Rick Phillips, Eric Mendez, Melody Castillo, Afaf Aldhulay, Don Pasion, Alfonso Valenzuela, Jocelyn Scruggs, Stephanie Sanchez, Maddison Contreras, Kari Heilman, Dylan Wilson, Cindy Frantz (remote), Raj Cheshire (remote) and Bridgett Rubio (remote).

1.3 Flag Salute

The flag salute was led by Dr. Kristen Watson.

1.4 **Public Comment**

Kari Heilman, Executive Assistant, shared that there were no public comments.

1.5 **Public Hearing on 2023-24 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Budget Overview for Parents for Grow Academy - Arvin**

Dr. Kristen Watson opened the Public Hearing on 2023-24 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Budget Overview for Parents for Grow Academy Arvin at 2:31pm.

Dr. Elysa Vargas presented an overview of Grow Academy Arvin's LCAP explaining that there are three main goals with deliverables listed underneath: Goal (1) - Provide a dynamic learning experience that inspires students and teachers to reach for higher academic achievement. Goal (2) - Create collaborative partnerships with parents to improve student achievement. Goal (3) - Provide an environment that encourages healthy lifestyles.

Dr. Vargas added there were a couple of actions removed from last year's LCAP. One of them was regarding our after-school program which is now being funded through ELOP (Extended Learning Opportunities Program).

Dr. Watson thanked Dr. Vargas and asked if there were any public comments concerning the 2023-2024 LCAP for Grow Academy Arvin. Kari Heilman, Executive Assistant, shared that there were none.

1.6 **Public Hearing on 2023-24 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Budget Overview for Parents for Grow Academy - Shafter**

Dr. Vargas presented the overview for Grow Academy Shafter's LCAP, acknowledging the similarities to Arvin. Goal (1) - Provide a personalized and inclusive learning experience that inspires all staff and students to achieve at high levels. Dr. Vargas explained that item 1.19 Assessment & Data Analysis Tools was added as we implement Otus (academic database). Goal (2) - Create collaborative partnerships with parents to improve student achievement. Dr. Vargas shared that an Assistant Principal was just hired for Grow Academy Shafter, Shyanne Ledford. Goal (3) - Maintain a learning environment that promotes a creative, healthy, and conscientious lifestyle.

Dr. Watson thanked Dr. Vargas and asked if there were any public comments concerning the 2023-2024 LCAP for Grow Academy Shafter. Kari Heilman, Executive Assistant, shared that there were none.

Because there were no public comments, Dr. Watson closed the Public Hearing at 2:36pm.

2. CMO Executive Team Leadership Reports

Doc Ervin, CEO

Mr. Ervin presented his updates to the Board with a year-end reflection. Overall, it was a great school year with a lot of changes. Continuous improvements to overall structure can be expected. Many of the items in the Seeds for Success document have been implemented or are in progress. He expressed his gratitude to everyone in the Grow Public Schools systems.

Dr. Ric Esquivel, Chief of Schools

Dr. Esquivel shared that as the year comes to an end, we will close out our end-of-year evaluations across the entire network. This reflection process has given an opportunity to identify strengths and opportunities. With the new school year approaching, Leadership is preparing and focusing on professional development. Dr. Esquivel, Dr. Vargas, the principals, and assistant principals are going to the Relay Graduate School of Education conference next week. Other team members are heading to the NWEA Fusion Conference in Atlanta, GA to deepen the signature practices we launched. This training will cascade to our teaching teams in July as we get ready for the new year. Finally, today, the staff is recommending approval of our local indicators. Local indicators are linked to the LCFF local priorities, and we intend to upload the local indicators and self-reflection by September 2023. This process has allowed the team to step back to look at each priority then identify what progress has been made and what areas we need to continue to work on. The key signature piece to the local indicators is family and community engagement. This is because there have been so many positive enhancements, it will strengthen the overall dashboard moving forward.

Steve McClain, Chief Business Officer

Mr. McClain said the existing lease for the CMO office expires this August. The current office has multiple challenges including limited space to accommodate both future and current growth as an organization. We have experienced safety concerns as well as concerns with location, parking, and building maintenance. We have continued to look at options which meet our organization's needs. There is one specific property on the agenda with a resolution which authorizes the CEO to enter into a lease agreement. There is no Board Meeting in July, therefore, updates will be provided during August's Board Meeting.

Dr. Elysa Vargas, Chief Academic Officer

Dr. Vargas said the Expanded Learning Opportunity Plan (ELOP) has been finalized. ELOP came as a result of trying to enhance academic, social, emotional, and physical enrichment needs on campuses due to the pandemic; includes the after-school program; intersession nonacademic school days, which we are defining as our Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer Intersessions. We are renaming the sessions Camp Grow Fall, Camp Grow Winter, and Camp Grow Spring. The hope is that it will encourage more families to attend. The after-school programs are also being renamed to Comet's Club for Shafter and Star Society for Arvin. There will be rebranding to get scholars excited to stay after school. In addition to tutoring, we are partnering with Athlete's Global and Vanta to support Grow activity leaders. This organization offers experts on various topics to teach students; some of the activities include karate, ballet, and photography.

ELOP will also fund Saturday Celebrations which will take place one Saturday each month as an incentive experience.

Dr. Watson asked what type of grant ELOP is. Steve McClain answered that ELOP is an ongoing State funded grant, unique to California. Dr. Vargas added the intention is to run it as a comprehensive program with the after-school enrichment and safety program.

Dr. Watson asked if there are metrics available on participation levels. Dr. Vargas answered this is the first year the State will audit the program so there is still more to come on what the program evaluation looks like, but there are expectation levels for attendance.

3. CMO Division Reports

3.1 Operations

Rick Phillips, Director of Operations

Mr. Phillips shared the Aeries implementation is almost completed; the data has been mapped and removed from Infinite Campus. There are online as well as in-person trainings between now and the go-live date, July 13th. We are continuing to work with Otus through Class Link throughout the transition as well.

The uniform website is live, families can begin purchasing with the vouchers and instructions on ordering were distributed last week. Various uniform sizes are available at both school sites for students to come in and try on.

There are multiple facility summer projects happening. Some of the projects include painting, storage, and tech refreshing.

Board Member Matt Look asked how the vouchers were given out. Mr. Phillips said only the Shafter vouchers have been given out; Arvin's will be distributed next week.

3.2 Human Resources

Eric Mendez, Director of Human Resources

Mr. Mendez shared the HR Team is focusing on closing out the current school year while simultaneously preparing for the coming school year. This has also been a time for reflection, considering half of the HR Team are new to the organization.

On June 10th, all new hires were invited to an onboarding event at the CMO where leadership presented and some of the necessary paperwork was completed; this was a successful event, and the incoming staff were enthusiastic.

3.3 **Family & Community Engagement (FACE)**

Jocelyn Scruggs, FACE Coordinator

Mrs. Scruggs shared that both campuses held an End of the Year informational meeting. About 200 families attended from each campus. Parents were able to have open dialogue and engage in meaningful conversations with our executive and school leadership teams.

FACE will be busy over the summer as we develop and work on programs for next year. We are starting to map out Parent University, which will be a series of academic sessions that will be offered at both school sites once a month. FACE liaisons will be trained in developing and sustaining effective parent advisory committees to be able to better support and guide our SPGA and POGA groups. FACE is also planning on partnering with a couple of local non-profits. One of them is CAPK, who will hold nutrition education classes on both campuses and the other one is the Kern Literacy Council who will offer literacy programs that will especially benefit our English learner families and students. FACE will also receive training on Loving Solutions Parent Project, which is the parent behavior program that will help address any behaviors, especially in our middle school. Another item FACE will be working on is updating the mutual promise to make sure that it aligns with our Seeds for Success and our mission and vision.

3.4 **Business Services**

Alan Blandon, Business Services Director

Mr. Blandon was unable to attend the Board meeting Steve McClain, CBO, filled in for him. Mr. McClain introduced Cindy Frantz from EdTec to give the financial update. Mrs. Franz shared that the May financial results are included in the Board packet, but the focus of her report will be on the State Budget for next year. EdTec provided the May revised assumptions at the last board meeting and as of yesterday, the State budget is still not finalized. Mrs. Franz shared a summary of the proposed budget. COLA will be 8.22% for all the major revenue resources. It is much higher than it has been in years past. For the FY23 Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials Block Grant, the Governor is proposing a deeper cut than the Legislature. Mrs. Franz showed a summary of the major revenue assumptions for both sites. For enrollment, we are budgeting 809 in Arvin and 802 in Shafter. Arvin has \$900K of ESSER funding still to use, while Shafter has already used all their funding.

3.5 **Communications**

Afaf Aldhulay, Communications & Branding Manager

Ms. Aldhulay shared that there are two top communication items she is working on for a successful 2023-24 school year. The first one is a comprehensive communications plan. Additionally, there is a concentration on establishing SOPs for marketing requests, regular updates, and newsletters.

4. School Leadership Reports

4.1 **Grow Academy Arvin** **Jenny Bard, Principal**

Ms. Bard was unable to attend the Board meeting, Dr. Vargas, CAO, filled in for her. The school year ended with a series of celebrations we would like to highlight as evidence of the positive school culture that Grow Academy Arvin continues to foster. Our 8th graders had four special events to celebrate promotion, which included an awards night, a trip to Universal Studios, an end of year formal dance and a beautiful cap and gown ceremony at Arvin High School. Many thanks to the Grimm Family Education Foundation for helping celebrate our scholars. A lot of positive feedback was received from families, and it was the best promotion ceremony yet.

Another event to highlight was our TK promotion. Our inaugural TK class had a promotion ceremony as well as a special performance for parents and they were presented with stoles that denote them as inaugural UPK class. The Kinder class also had a promotion ceremony with caps and gowns.

The Spring test results are still coming in, but we are proud to share a sneak peek that we achieved school wide growth in all content areas according to the NWEA results. We achieved a 1.9% growth for students at or above the 60th percentile in ELA. We had an increase in students meeting growth goals school-wide. 54.92% of students met their goals, which was a 13% increase from winter. In math, they achieved a 4.5% growth for students at or above the 60th percentile. Additionally, the students meeting their math growth goals was 51%, which was a 9% increase from winter.

Grow summer camp, currently has 198 scholars in grades K-7 enrolled in the academic program. We prioritized students who were right on the cusp of achieving the next academic level. 22 scholars are participating in the ESY summer camp.

4.2 **Grow Academy Shafter** **Lacie Harris, Principal**

Ms. Harris shared that Grow Academy Shafter had their 8th grade promotion, held at Shafter High School, and they received great feedback from parents. During the last couple of weeks of school, many of our scholars were also taking high school and/or college summer school programs. It was nice to see our scholars already soaring before they left us.

We aligned our inaugural UPK promotion, across both sites, to have a butterfly theme. Each student got their own set of butterfly wings, were recognized by their teacher, and butterflies were released into the ESY garden.

At our annual Aloha Kinder promotion, students wore Hawaiian attire and leis, and each class did a performance. This was also our last day of school and our annual water day.

As for our academic update, results are still coming in, but we are very proud of our team. We are seeing an 8% increase in ELA and 5% in math on CAASPP. We are doing some reflecting to see the things that were put into place this year that made that success a reality.

Dr. Watson commented that she attended both promotion ceremonies and they were lovely. Great job!

5. Parent Reports

5.1 Star Parents of Grow Academy (SPGA) Arvin Matt Look, SPGA

Mr. Look commented that they had a fantastic year. It started off a bit slow, but once we established a base it was great. Jocelyn Scruggs and her FACE team have been an excellent addition to the schools. We are losing a couple of parents this year due to promotion, but we will recruit for next year. We are excited for the next school year.

Doc Ervin asked if Matt had attended the promotion ceremonies. Matt replied that he attended Arvin's since he had an 8th grader graduating.

5.2 Parents of Grow Academy (POGA) Shafter Bridgett Rubio, POGA

We had a great school year with a lot of great activities. POGA is looking forward to meeting with Jocelyn and the FACE team as they plan next year and really focus on building the POGA committee. The promotion ceremony was great with the new format, the decorations, the way it was run, and all the photo opportunities. The Kinder promotion combined with the water day was a huge hit. All the scholars and teachers had a great time and it was a great way to end the school year.

6. Grimm Family Education Foundation Report Dylan Wilson, Executive Director ESY

We started our ESY summer programs, and this is the first time ever we have had three summer camps happening simultaneously on all three campuses. We have been able to designate our fall fundraiser, Toast & Taste the Season, to sponsor spots for summer camp next year. We have also been working on a couple of facility improvement projects at each campus. We are currently working on collecting bids and will update the Board at the next meeting.

7. Action Items

7.1 **Public Hearing and approval of the Grow Academy Arvin 2023-24 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Budget Overview for Parents**

Following the Public Hearing, Manuel Pantoja made a motion to approve the Grow Academy Arvin 2023-2024 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Budget Overview for Parents.

Moved by: Manuel Pantoja

Seconded by: Matt Look

The Board voted to approve the motion.

7.2 **Approval of 2023-24 LCAP Federal Addendum for Grow Academy Arvin**

Matt Look made a motion to approve the 2023-24 LCAP Federal Addendum for Grow Academy Arvin.

Moved by: Matt Look

Seconded by: Manuel Pantoja

The Board voted to approve the motion.

7.3 **Approval of 2023-24 Budget for Grow Academy Arvin**

Manuel Pantoja made a motion to approve the 2023-24 Budget for Grow Academy Arvin.

Moved by: Manuel Pantoja

Seconded by: Matt Look

The Board voted to approve the motion.

7.4 **Approval of LCAP Local Indicator Report for Grow Academy Arvin**

Manuel Pantoja motioned to approve the LCAP Local Indicator Report for Grow Academy Arvin.

Moved by: Manuel Pantoja

Seconded by: Matt Look

The Board voted to approve the motion.

7.5 **Approval of Resolution Authorizing Grow Academy Arvin to Pay CMO Fees to Grow Public Schools**

Matt Look made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Grow Academy - Arvin to pay CMO fees to Grow Public Schools.

Moved by: Matt Look
Seconded by: Manuel Pantoja

The Board voted to approve the motion.

7.6 **Public Hearing and approval of the Grow Academy Shafter 2023-24 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Budget Overview for Parents**

Following Public Hearing, Manuel Pantoja made a motion to approve Grow Academy Shafter 2023-24 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Budget Overview for Parents.

Moved by: Manuel Pantoja
Seconded by: Matt Look

The Board voted to approve the motion.

7.7 **Approval of LCAP Federal Addendum for Grow Academy Shafter**

Matt Look motioned to approve the LCAP Federal Addendum for Grow Academy Shafter.

Moved by: Matt Look
Seconded by: Manuel Pantoja

The Board voted to approve the motion.

7.8 **Approval of 2023-24 Budget for Grow Academy Shafter**

Matt Look motioned to approve the 2023-24 Budget for Grow Academy Shafter.

Moved by: Matt Look
Seconded by: Manuel Pantoja

The Board voted to approve the motion.

7.9 **Approval of Local Indicator Report for Grow Academy Shafter**

Matt Look motioned to approve the Local Indicator Report for Grow Academy Shafter.

Moved by: Matt Look
Seconded by: Manuel Pantoja

The Board voted to approve the motion.

7.10 **Approval of Resolution Authorizing Grow Academy Shafter to Pay CMO Fees to Grow Public Schools**

Manuel Pantoja motioned to approve the Resolution Authorizing Grow Academy Shafter to pay CMO fees to Grow Public Schools.

Moved by: Manuel Pantoja

Seconded by: Matt Look

The Board voted to approve the motion.

7.11 **Approval of 2023-24 Budget for the GPS Charter Management Organization (CMO)**

Matt Look motioned to approve the 2023-24 Budget for the GPS Charter Management Organization (CMO).

Moved by: Matt Look

Seconded by: Manuel Pantoja

The Board voted to approve the motion.

7.12 **Approval of Expanded Learning Opportunities Program Plan for Grow Academy Arvin and Grow Academy Shafter**

Matt Look motioned to approve the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program Plan (ELOP) for Grow Academy Arvin and Grow Academy Shafter.

Moved by: Matt Look

Seconded by: Manuel Pantoja

The Board voted to approve the motion.

7.13 **Approval of Grow Public Schools Investment Policy**

Manuel Pantoja motioned to approve Grow Public Schools Investment Policy.

Moved by: Manuel Pantoja

Seconded by: Matt Look

The Board voted to approve the motion.

8. Consent Agenda

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS/OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Consent Agenda consists of items that are considered routine and non-controversial by Grow Public Schools staff. Consent items will be considered first and may be approved by one motion. If a member of the public wishes to comment regarding an item or items on the Consent Agenda, they may do so prior to a vote being taken on the Consent Agenda. A member of the board may remove any item from the Consent Agenda, and it will be considered in listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the board concerning the item before action is taken.

Matt Look made a motion to approve Consent Action items 8.1 - 8.26.

Moved by: Matt Look

Seconded by: Manuel Pantoja

The Board voted to approve the motion.

- 8.1 Approval of Minutes from May 22, 2023
- 8.2 Approval of Warrants and Credit Card Registers for May 2023
- 8.3 Approval of Resolution to Change 403(b) Plan Providers and
- 8.4 Approval of Resolution Regarding the 2023-24 Education Protection Account (EPA) Spending Plan for Grow Public Schools
- 8.5 Approval of Grow Public Schools Conflict of Interest Code
- 8.6 Approval of Grow Public Schools Authorized Signatories
- 8.7 Approval of 23-24 Parent/Student Handbook - Grow Academy Arvin & Grow Academy Shafter
- 8.8 Approval of 23-24 Employee Handbooks - Grow Public Schools CMO, Certificated & Classified
- 8.9 Approval of Clinical Practice Agreement Between California State University, Bakersfield, and Grow Public Schools
- 8.10 Approval of Agreement for Legal Services with Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud and Romo (AALRR)
- 8.11 Approval of 2023-24 Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS) Nursing Services Agreement for Grow Public Schools
- 8.12 Approval of 2023-24 Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS) Memorandum of Understanding - County Level Educational Services for K-6 Students for Grow Academy Arvin
- 8.13 Approval of 2023-24 Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS) Memorandum of Understanding - County Level Educational Services for K-6 Students for Grow Academy Shafter
- 8.14 Approval of 2023-24 Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS) Memorandum of Understanding - Teacher Induction Program for Grow Public Schools
- 8.15 Approval of 2023-24 Memorandum of Understanding with Maple School District - Speech Pathology Services
- 8.16 Approval of 2023-24 Bolton Insurance Services Renewal Proposal for Liability Insurance

- 8.17 Approval of 2023-24 Learningtech.org Renewal Proposal for E-Rate Consulting Services
- 8.18 Approval of 2023-24 Renaissance Learning Renewal Proposal
- 8.19 Approval of Otus Proposal for Student Learning Platform for Three Years Ending June 30, 2026
- 8.20 Approval of 2023-24 CORE Learning Year 2 Math Instructional Rounds and Coaching
- 8.21 Approval of 2023-24 GoGuardian Safe Digital Learning Solutions
- 8.22 Approval of Student Furniture Purchase from Sierra School Equipment
- 8.23 Approval of Digital Phone System Upgrade
- 8.24 Approval of Digital Intercom System Replacement for Grow Academy Arvin and Grow Academy Shafter
- 8.25 Approval of Food Service Program Policies: Child Nutrition Program Integrity Plan, Foodservice Staff Uniform Policy, Breakfast in the Classroom Policy, Child and Adult Care Food Program and National School Lunch Program
- 8.26 Approval of Resolution to Pursue and Execute a Lease Agreement for the Grow Public Schools CMO Office

9. Closing Items

9.1 Adjourn Meeting

Manuel Pantoja made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:17pm.

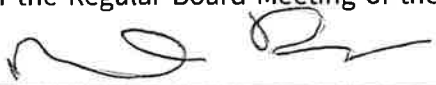
Moved by: Manuel Pantoja

Seconded by: Matt Look

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting.

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I certify that I am the duly elected Secretary of Grow Public Schools, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation; that these minutes, consisting of twelve (12) pages are the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Directors held on June 20, 2023.



Secretary