

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: 4:01 p.m.

Date: November 22, 2021

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; and Matt Look, Star Parents of Grow Academy (SPGA) 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; Adam Alvidrez, Director of School Operations; Elizabeth Ramos, Operations Specialist (interpreter); Rick Phillips, Operations Specialist; Dr. Wendy Creek, Chief Academic Officer; Daisy Rodriguez, Branding and Communication Manager; Melody Castillo, Accounting Manager; Monica Jara Guerra, Director of Community Initiatives

Grow Academy Staff Present via teleconference: Brook Webb, Principal, Grow Academy Shafter; Hurshel Williams; Principal, Grow Academy Arvin; Carmen Dias, Teacher, Grow Academy Arvin; Joseph Haddad, Teacher, Grow Academy Shafter; Jesus Calderon, Teacher, Grow Academy Arvin; Elma Rodriguez, Teacher, Grow Academy Arvin; Zulema Ela, Assistant Principal of Academics, Grow Academy Arvin; Gloria Davis, Teacher, Grow Academy Shafter; and Fabiola Ramirez, Classified Substitute

Others Present via teleconference: Emma Pereida-Martinez; Raj Cheshire; Dylan Wilson; Cindy Frantz, EdTec; Maria Garcia; Val and Nate Campbell; Santos Gonzalez; Elena Delgado; Cecilia Garcia; Jocelyne Sahagun; Jenn Fain; Beatriz Bravo; Maria

Domínguez; Jessica Arvizu; Becky Bentley; Ana Andrade; Jill O'Brien; Rosaura Calderon; Kelly Sierra; Amanda Saldana; Carla Jimenez; Araceli Ruiz; Olivia Gutierrez; Marylue Perez; Teresa Verdugo; Daniel Webb; Shenny Perez; Ana Santoyo; Maria Rojas; Cristal Escutia; Toni Franz; Francisco Lopez; Angie Mack and eight 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 Manuel Pantoja, seconded by Jean Fuller, 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. *BOARD REAPPOINTMENT*

The board accepted the reappointment of Matt Look as the Star Parents of Grow Academy (SPGA) representative, for a one-year term to the Grow Public Schools Board of Directors.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ernie Unruh, seconded by, Matt Look, and passed, to approve via roll call the minutes of the Public Hearing dated September 27, 2021.

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 shared the COVID-19 update and impact on staff and students, along with the impacted program priorities of COVID-19.

Casey provided the strategic growth update on the high school facilities and petition. The high school model is designed to be located at or adjacent to CSU Bakersfield, and in proximity of the Bakersfield College Southwest campus. This location is important to Grow Public Schools' model, which is to not only provide early college pathways for scholars, but to provide physical access to an actual college campus. Grow Public Schools' strategic priority is to extend their model to two new communities with zero charter school options.

Progress on the petition has occurred for the past several months. Given the changes in the model (from 9-12 to TK-12), there have been numerous revisions to the draft, including the budget modeling. Revising grade levels served from 9-12 to TK-12 also impacts authorization and to whom Grow Public Schools eventually are submitting the petition. Once there is greater clarity, the petition will be presented in front of the Board for approval, as well as the proposal for financing the lease.

Casey provided the board with an update on the Charter School Program (CSP) Expansion and Replication Grant, which was awarded in January 2020.

Grow Public Schools was awarded the 2021 Beautiful Bakersfield Award, in the category of Education. This award is for efforts by an educator, project, school or college, that promotes or benefits education in our city at all levels. Grow Public Schools was honored to receive the award. Casey thanked Dr. Monica Jara Guerra and Daisy Rodriguez, for submitting the nomination, which included a video by Daisy Rodriguez.

Casey provided the operations report. Weekly testing for all unvaccinated staff began last month. All staff will be tested after Thanksgiving break and Winter break, regardless of vaccination status.

Adventist Health has partnered with Grow Public Schools to provide a mobile unit clinic for basic health services, beginning in January 2022. The mobile unit will be at GA Arvin on the first Saturday and second Wednesday of each month and is available to all community members. Information will be shared with families via ParentSquare.

GA Shafter's shade structure will be installed over the winter break and completed by January 10, 2022.

Dr. Wendy Creek, Chief Academic Officer, shared the independent study update and Small Group Instructor (SGI) to Teacher Pipeline: Alder Graduate School of Education residency program.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT-Grow Academy Arvin

Hurshel Williams, Principal, shared progress on Local Control and Accountability Plan, Goal 2 - Creating meaningful partnerships with parents. In an ongoing effort to improve upon existing partnerships, GA Arvin was able to host or maintain the following programs or events throughout the month of November: Fall Family Paint Night, Edible School Yard Virtual Classes, Family Workshops, Virtual Family Friday Fitness Classes, and Intramural Sports.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT-Grow Academy Shafter

Brook Webb, Principal, shared a garden update presentation via PowerPoint and provided an update on Local Control and Accountability Plan, Goal 3 – Maintaining a learning environment that promotes a creative, healthy and conscientious lifestyle. GA Shafter is committed to encouraging health and wellness both on site and within the community. The last week in October was Farm to School week. Brook shared harvest season will provide the opportunity to educate the community on the importance of where food comes from, along with sustainability, and seasonality.

Stakeholders have requested more opportunities for extracurricular activities. The Arvin campus recently challenged the Shafter campus to a Middle School game day, which GA Shafter will host on December 8th. The dense fog will provide the perfect weather for a Fall Fog Fun Run. Lastly, GA Shafter has collaborated with North Kern Small School Districts to provide after-school sports opportunities for middle school students. Mr. Western is working to get sports signups, equipment, practices, and uniforms all prepared for the upcoming winter sports season.

GRIMM FAMILY EDUCATION FOUNDATION MOU

Dylan Wilson, Edible School Yard Program Manager, shared an update on the network partnership agreement between the Edible School Yard Kern County (ESYKC) and Grow Public Schools.

FISCAL REPORT

Cindy Franz from EdTec (back-office provider) shared the October 2021 financial update.

For GA Arvin, Cindy shared the forecasted net income is approximately \$850,000, a \$9,000 increase from the previous forecast.

For GA Shafter, the forecasted net income is approximately \$946,000, a \$33,000 decrease from the previous forecast.

For the home office, the forecasted net income is approximately \$327,000, a \$15,000 decrease from the previous forecast.

Notable changes from the prior forecast are due to additional technology needs for both campuses, which were partially offset by revenue.

An intercompany loan repayment of \$200,000 is scheduled for December.

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 October 2021 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 the Purchase Orders and Warrants and Credit Card Register for October 2021.

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 Amended Fiscal Policies and Procedures 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 Fiscal Policies and Procedures.

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 Grimm Family Education Foundation MOU that were considered and discussed. On a motion duly made by Ernie Unruh, seconded by Matt Look, and carried, the Board approved via roll call the Grimm Family Education Foundation MOU.

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 5:01 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 November 22, 2021.



Secretary