

APPROVED



GROW
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Grow Public Schools

Minutes

Grow Public Schools Board Meeting

Date and Time

Monday December 12, 2022 at 4:00 PM

Location

Grow Academy Arvin - 901 Nectarine Ct., Arvin, CA 93263 - Classroom 14

Or

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

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/97092940475>

Or Call: (669) 900-9128 Meeting ID: 970 9294 0475

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD BY PARENTS AND CITIZENS

Grow Public Schools welcomes your participation at the School's Board meetings. The purpose of a public meeting of the Board of Directors ("Board") is to conduct the affairs of the school in public. Your participation assures us of continuing community interest in our School. To assist you in the ease of speaking/participating in our meetings, the following guidelines are provided:

1. Agendas are available to all audience members.

Email kheilman@growpublicschools.org for an agenda.

2. Individuals wishing to provide public comment at this Board meeting may send their comments in writing to kheilman@growpublicschools.org or provide comments during the Oral Communications of the meeting, or prior to the discussion of the Agenda item during the meeting –comments received after that point in the meeting will not become part of the record. In your email, please include whether you are commenting on non-agenda items or a specific agenda item (reference the agenda item number). Comments submitted by email will be read aloud during the Board meeting for up to three (3) minutes. If comments are in Spanish or another language, they will be translated to English and such comments will be limited to six (6) minutes. The Board of Directors may limit the total time for public comment to a reasonable time.

3. With regard to specific agenda items, you may specify that agenda item in your email and you will be given an opportunity to speak for up to five (5) minutes when the Board discusses that item. When addressing the Board, speakers are requested to state their name and adhere to the time limits set forth. Any public records relating to an agenda item for an open session of the Board which are distributed to all, or a majority of all, of the Board members shall be available for public inspection at 5080 California Ave. Suite 100, Bakersfield, California 93309.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and upon request, Grow Public Schools may furnish reasonable auxiliary aids and services to qualified individuals with disabilities. Individuals who require appropriate alternative modification of the agenda in order participate in Board meetings are invited to contact the School's office.

Directors Present

Manuel Pantoja, Matt Look, Tom Mestmaker

Directors Absent

Ernie Unruh, Kristen Watson

Guests Present

Afaf Aldhulay, Alan Blandon, Alfonso Valenzuela, Doc Ervin, Elizabeth Ramos (remote), Elysa Vargas, Eric Mendez, Jenny Bard, Kari Heilman, Lacie Harris, Maddison Contreras, Mike Romero, RJ Valentino (remote), Raj Cheshire (remote), Ricardo Esquivel, Rick Phillips, Tanya Kelley

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

Tom Mestmaker called a meeting of the board of directors of Grow Public Schools to order on Monday Dec 12, 2022 at 4:02 PM.

B. Record Attendance

C. Flag Salute

Michael Navarro, GA-Arvin Scholar, led the flag salute.

D. Public Comment

No Public Comments.

II. Grow Public Schools Executive Team Leadership Report

A. CEO Report

Doc Ervin shared his CEO updates. He reminded the Board that Monday, January 30, 2023 there will be a Board training from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, location to be determined. Members can expect to be contacted by Kari Heilman in the upcoming weeks regarding their top two training topics.

Additionally, Mr. Ervin asked the Board to consider changing the date of the January Board Meeting from the 23rd to the 30th. This will eliminate the need to meet twice in the same month. Tom Mestmaker, Matt Look and Manny Pantoja shared that they are available on the 30th. Kari Heilman will follow up with absent Board members, Dr. Kristen Watson and Ernie Unruh, to find out their availability.

Finally, Mr. Ervin shared that staff is in the process of finalizing the *Seeds for Success* document which is Grow Public Schools' strategic plan and organizational goals for the 22-23 school year. Copies of the draft version are on each desk and a PDF copy will be emailed after the meeting. A finalized document for parents, teachers, key stakeholders, and Board members, is expected to be completed by the end of January.

B. COS Report

Dr. Ric Esquivel, COS presented his updates and expanded on the *Seeds for Success*. This document defines priorities and demonstrates clear deliverables. The table of contents lists each section which includes: a letter from the CEO, an entry plan timeline, organizational accomplishments, and each Seed topic - Academic Excellence, Health & Wellness, Operational Excellence, Family & Community Engagement, and Talent Management. We are still in the draft phase of the document and welcome any feedback.

There will be a Semester 2 launch on Tuesday, January 3rd where various professional development breakouts will take place. The launch will be at Grow Academy Shafter and start at 8:00am and go until 3:30pm. Board members are encouraged to drop in at any time.

C. COO Report

Mike Romero, COO presented his report starting with a CSP grant update. Last week, GPS was notified that we have been selected for a CSP Monitoring Visit from WestEd (through the Department of Education). The monitoring visit is a requirement of the grant and will give us an opportunity to show the Department of Education how the grant money has been used and how it has impacted our scholars. The visit is tentatively scheduled for the week of March 13th. More information to come.

A committee has been formed to refine the Breakfast in the Classroom program. The goal is to provide a nutritious breakfast for scholars while not wasting valuable instructional time. Principals, teachers and CMO staff are having continued discussions on how to accomplish the goal. Updates will be provided at the next Board meeting.

Lastly, Mike Romero shared the GA-Shafter Facility Project update. Target drop date for the four temporary classrooms is January 2023. The cost of the project went down a little from the price that was quoted in October. The utilities have all been examined and are good to go. We will keep everyone posted if there are any changes or delays.

III. Division Reports

A. Operations

Rick Phillips, Director of Operations, gave his report starting with the technology infrastructure update. The School Information System (SIS) program, Aeries, kick-

off meeting was held last week. The goal is to have everyone in the Grow network trained on this new SIS by the end of the school year.

Professional development for site managers continues adding items like scissor lift certification.

As the network continues to grow, school site storage and office space options continue to be a challenge. Looking at storage clean up and office spaces that can be doubled up.

Rick continued his update sharing that Arvin experienced a city wide Spectrum outage today. GPS's server is located in Arvin and this outage affected the entire GPS network. Outages like this have happened in the past which has brought the issue of moving GPS's server from Arvin to Bakersfield to the forefront. Our IT contractor, Signa-Terra is currently investigating the cost of this move and will have an update at the next Board meeting.

Finally, as we look to bring uniformity across campuses, scholar uniforms need continuity. Discussions with both sites and parent representatives have begun. We are looking to finalize the new vendor by the end of this month and streamline uniform colors. More information to come.

B. Human Resources

Eric Mendez, Director of Human Resources, presented his report starting with the total compensation update. He shared that GPS salaries, compared to other districts, remain competitive but there's still room for improvement. This compensation comparison will help provide clarity for current and future staff.

Eric continued his report with Home Office position updates. Initial interviews for the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Director were conducted today. Once this position is finalized, we can move on to the FACE liaison search. Also, we just hired a Talent Acquisition Specialist, Ashley Blandon. This position is critical with teacher recruitment season right around the corner. Positions the Home Office is still searching for are a Payroll Specialist and an Operations Specialist.

C. Business Services/Fiscal Report

Alan Blandon, Director of Business Services, presented his report. Alan shared that he has been working on GPS's health benefits study. This study will help GPS remain competitive and help recruit and maintain current and future talent. He will provide recommendations to the Board in January.

Alan shared the items needing Board approval. The Amended Fiscal & Operational Policies & Procedure Handbook, approval of the FY23 First Interims for both Arvin and Shafter, and approval for the FY22 Audit. All items have been reviewed and vetted.

EdTec representative, Cindy Frantz, presented the First Interims for both sites and gave a review of the FY22 audit. She shared that the audit had a State compliance finding. It was regarding P2ADA, related to independent study. It was a new report last year and was a timing issue on when the report was filed. It will be corrected in the spring when the portal opens.

Cindy also shared with the Board that she will be going on maternity leave in early January and that EdTec's, Kristin Dietz and Jair Ventura will be stepping in for a few months while she is out.

D. Learning & Innovation

Elysa Vargas, Director of Learning and Innovation presented her report beginning with scholar assessments. There were three assessments administered in the month of December; (1) NWEA was given organization-wide which compares scholar performance to peers across the nation, (2) STAR Reading test provides concrete data as to the students' reading level, (3) Benchmark testing in writing and math.

Elysa shared that she and her team are now in the process of aggregating all the data to create 2nd semester action plans and network goals. Data will be presented at the next Board meeting.

IV. Grow Public Schools Leadership Report

A. Grow Academy Arvin

Jenny Bard, Interim Principal of Arvin introduced a group of her 8th grade history students (Carolina Navarro, Abigail Gallardo, Daniela Morales and Michael Navarro) who presented their report on the Boston Tea Party.

Ms. Bard continued her update stating that there has been lots of testing in Arvin these last couple weeks. She mentioned that teachers are continuing to use their blended learning models and CORE curriculum. They are also continuing with professional development and are focusing on attendance - scholars who have missed five or more days will be talked to on the importance of attending school.

Ms. Bard shared that GA-Arvin is working on their Post Tier 1 culture plan which will deepen the system already established.

Several upcoming events are taking place including a musical concert with kids singing holiday songs and Santa Clause coming to the school.

B. Grow Academy Shafter

Lacie Harris, Principal of Shafter presented her updates. Prizes were distributed to scholars who had perfect attendance for five weeks in a row.

Santa Clause visited the school and the school put on a Winter arts and music showcase where students sang holiday songs and their art was displayed.

Teachers are looking forward to the Semester 2 launch and are excited to host the event at GA Shafter.

V. Grow Public Schools Parent Report

A. SPGA

SPGA served coffee and treats for teachers to kick off testing season.

B. POGA

No report from POGA - will share a report at the next Board meeting.

VI. Grimm Family Education Foundation Report

A. Buena Vista Edible School Yard

RJ Valentino, President of the Grimm Family Education Foundation, thanked Doc and Ric and the Grow team for all their hard work in creating the *Seeds for Success*. From the 45 to 90 day entry plan to all the committee meetings and feedback, we now have a strategic plan in place that aligns the network and gives us all a dedicated focus. The Foundation is looking forward to working together.

RJ also wished everyone a happy holiday season.

VII. Action Items

A. Amended Fiscal & Operational Policies and Procedure Handbook

Manuel Pantoja made a motion to approve the Fiscal & Operational Policies and Procedure Handbook.

Matt Look seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Manuel Pantoja	Aye
Ernie Unruh	Absent
Matt Look	Aye
Kristen Watson	Absent
Tom Mestmaker	Aye

B. Approval of FY23 First Interim Financial Reports for GA-Arvin

Matt Look made a motion to approve FY23 First Interim Financial Reports for GA-Arvin.

Manuel Pantoja seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Ernie Unruh	Absent
Kristen Watson	Absent
Manuel Pantoja	Aye
Matt Look	Aye
Tom Mestmaker	Aye

C. Approval of FY23 First Interim Financial Reports for GA-Shafter

Matt Look made a motion to approve FY23 First Interim Financial Reports for GA-Shafter.

Manuel Pantoja seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Manuel Pantoja	Aye
Kristen Watson	Absent
Ernie Unruh	Absent
Tom Mestmaker	Aye
Matt Look	Aye

D. Approval of FY22 Audit Report

Manuel Pantoja made a motion to approve FY22 Audit Report.
Matt Look seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Tom Mestmaker Aye
Manuel Pantoja Aye
Matt Look Aye
Ernie Unruh Absent
Kristen Watson Absent

E. Approval of Shafter Facilities Project - Phase 1

Manuel Pantoja made a motion to approve Shafter Facilities Project - Phase 1.
Matt Look seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Kristen Watson Absent
Ernie Unruh Absent
Matt Look Aye
Tom Mestmaker Aye
Manuel Pantoja Aye

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. Approve Minutes from November 14, 2022 Board Meeting

Matt Look made a motion to approve the minutes from Grow Public Schools Board Meeting on 11-14-22.
Manuel Pantoja seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Tom Mestmaker Aye
Matt Look Aye
Manuel Pantoja Aye
Ernie Unruh Absent
Kristen Watson Absent

B. Purchase Orders, Warrants, and Credit Card Registers for October 2022

Matt Look made a motion to approve purchase orders, warrants, and credit card registers for October 2022.
Manuel Pantoja seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Kristen Watson Absent
Manuel Pantoja Aye
Tom Mestmaker Aye
Matt Look Aye
Ernie Unruh Absent

C. Purchase Orders, Warrants, and Credit Card Registers for November 2022

Matt Look made a motion to approve purchase orders, warrants, and credit card registers for November 2022.
Manuel Pantoja seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Tom Mestmaker	Aye
Manuel Pantoja	Aye
Matt Look	Aye
Kristen Watson	Absent
Ernie Unruh	Absent

IX. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 4:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Mestmaker