

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: December 20, 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

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

Grow Public Schools Staff Present via teleconference: Casey Yeazel, Chief Executive Officer; Michelle Lumis, Executive Assistant; Elizabeth Ramos, Operations Specialist (interpreter); Rick Phillips, Operations Specialist; Dr. Wendy Creek, Chief Academic Officer; Melody Castillo, Accounting Manager; Monica Jara Guerra, Director of Community Initiatives

Grow Academy Staff Present via teleconference: Brook Webb, Principal, Grow Academy Shafter; Adrianna Salazar, Counselor, Grow Academy Shafter; Jesus Calderon, Teacher, Grow Academy Arvin; Zulema Ela, Assistant Principal of Academics, Grow Academy Arvin; Gloria Davis, Teacher, Grow Academy Shafter

Others Present via teleconference: Cindy Frantz, EdTec; Alejandra Garcia; Samantha Hernandez; Shenny Perez; Toni Franz; Val and Nate Campbell; Kelly Sierra; Araceli Ruiz; Jill O'Brien; Teresa Verdugo; Nora Montoya; Maria Garcia; Norma Rivera; Aidee Lemus; Maria Rojas; Valentine Ibarra; Ana Reyes; and seven 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 Ernie Unruh, 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion was made by Jean Fuller, seconded by, Ernie Unruh, and passed, to approve via roll call the minutes of the Public Hearing dated October 25, 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.

Michelle Lumis, Executive Assistant, asked all participants to follow the guidelines set forth on page one of the agenda for public comment.

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. There have been no new COVID cases in the last two weeks.

The 2021 Fiscal Audit of Grimmway Schools is complete, and auditors Clifton, Larson, Allen (CLA) reported no findings of noncompliance. A special note of appreciation for the work of Michelle Lumis and Accounting Manager Melody Castillo, for their relentless dedication to ensuring that everyone in the GPS Network complies with the fiscal policies.

Casey provided the strategic growth update on the high school facilities and petition.

Casey shared an update from the Charter School Development Center Leadership conference, which was held in San Diego, December 5th – 7th. Some projections of what the next 12 months might look like for charter schools in California, include: vaccine mandate for students, universal transitional kindergarten, surging state revenues, Expanded Learning Opportunities Program, Community School Partnership Program, and a potentially quiet legislative outlook for charter schools.

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

Dr. Wendy Creek, Chief Academic Officer, shared student-instructor/staff ratios for each school site. She shared a PowerPoint presentation on the Educator Effectiveness Grants for GA Arvin and GA Shafter. A Public Hearing was held on November 22, 2021, for public input on each site's Educator Effectiveness Grant.

Dr. Creek shared the social and emotional learning survey results, which was administered by New School Venture Fund, which utilized Kelvin Education for surveys, which were given to fourth – eighth grade scholars, over the course of two weeks in October. Surveys were created with the support and input of school site staff and surveys were differentiated by grade level. There was a 75.3% participation rate in the self-management, social awareness, emotional regulation survey and an 80.3% participation rate in the belonging, safety, engagement, diversity & inclusion survey. The results of this survey will be shared with school site teams when they return from winter break. The school site teams will engage in a planning activity facilitated by Panorama Education to help address opportunities for improvement highlighted by this data.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT-Grow Academy Arvin

Zulema Ela, Assistant Principal of Academics, shared progress on Local Control and Accountability Plan, Goal 1 -Action 11, After School Tutoring. Approximately, 100-150 students were invited to attend after school tutoring. After school tutors have varying schedules in order to ensure that a credentialed instructor will be available to provide additional academic assistance on a daily basis. After school tutoring instructors also work closely with the ASES Coordinator in order to schedule personalized learning opportunities for students enrolled within ASES. The targeted grade levels that have been afforded this expanded learning opportunity include grades 3-8.

Progress on LCAP Goal 3- Action 6, Extracurricular Athletics Program was shared with the board. Zulema shared On December 8th, Grow Academy Arvin middle school scholars were extremely excited to participate in the inaugural *GPS Sports Day*. This event featured both boys' and girls' volleyball as well as soccer. Students took part in competitive tryouts that lasted over several days. Both parents and staff alike expressed their joy in witnessing our Grow Public Schools scholars take part in this event. Messages of gratitude are still being received for providing such an opportunity. Many expressed how emotionally impactful it was to see "kids be kids" once again. In the most appropriate outcome possible, of the 8 trophies that were awarded, both Grow Academy Shafter and Grow Academy Arvin teams received 4 trophies. Each day since the event, either a student, parent or staff member has inquired about "*GPS Sports Day- The Sequel*."

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT-Grow Academy Shafter

Brook Webb, Principal, provided an update on Local Control and Accountability Plan, Goal 2 – create collaborative partnerships with parents to improve student achievement. The GA Shafter community had the pleasure of hosting the very first "Carrot Cup" sports day invitational. This event was the brainchild of Mr. Williams. While GA Shafter hosted the event at the park adjacent to the campus, the Arvin team coordinated and scheduled the event. Brook thanked her PE team, Mr. Josh Western, Mr. Christian Serrato, and Ms. Hannah Ramirez for working with Parks and Recreation. A team of educators chalked the park and set up multiple soccer fields and volleyball courts for the tournament to occur. Parents showed up from both campuses to cheer on their scholars. Brook shared she was proud of the scholars for their sportsmanship and mature behavior. Ernie asked Brook what schools participated in the West Side League.

PARENT REPORT

Samantha Hernandez, President of Parents of Grow Academy, shared the parent report. "Comet grams" were sold at school and over fourteen hundred dollars was raised. Hot chocolate was sold at the Christmas concert and the ESY is currently working on fundraising for a pizza oven.

FISCAL REPORT

Cindy Franz from EdTec (back-office provider) provided the November 2021 financial update.

Cindy provided the 2020-21 audit recap, sharing the fiscal audit was clean with no findings.

For GA Arvin, Cindy shared the forecasted net income is approximately \$726,000, a \$124,000 decrease from the previous forecast.

For GA Shafter, the forecasted net income is approximately \$830,000, a \$116,000 decrease from the previous forecast.

For the home office, the forecasted net income is approximately \$384,000, a \$57,000 decrease from the previous forecast.

Notable changes from the prior forecast are due to staffing needs and restricted grant planning, which drove expense changes.

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.

The Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant and Program were shared, showing how the grants are similar and aimed at providing additional supplementary support. Additional one-time funding was also shared.

III. ACTION ITEMS

1. The Directors were presented with the approval of the Purchase Orders and Warrants and Credit Card Register for November 2021 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 Purchase Orders and Warrants and Credit Card Register for November 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 1st Interim for GA Arvin and Procedures 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 1st 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 1st Interim for GA Shafter and Procedures 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 1st 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 2021-22 Amended Parent/Student Handbook 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 2021-22 Amended Parent/Student Handbook.

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 the Educator Effectiveness Block Grant for GA Arvin 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 Educator Effectiveness Block Grant for GA Arvin.

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 Educator Effectiveness Block Grant for GA Shafter 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 Educator Effectiveness Block Grant for GA Shafter.

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 the 2020-21 Fiscal Audit for Grimmway Schools 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 2020-21 Fiscal Audit for Grimmway Schools.

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 Grow Public Schools Retirement Plan Change to Investment Options 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 Grow Public Schools Retirement Plan Change to Investment Options.

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 5:21 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 December 20, 2021.



Secretary