

# MINUTES

## Of the Board of Directors of

### Grimmway 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: May 26, 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; Manuel Pantoja, Secretary and Arvin Community Representative; Dr. Jean Fuller, Grimm Family Education Foundation Representative; Matt Look, Star Parents of Grimmway Academy (SPGA) and Parent Representative; Ernie Unruh, Kern County Superintendent of Schools Representative

Absent: N/A

Grimmway Schools Staff Present via teleconference: Casey Yeazel, Chief Executive Officer; Michelle Lumis, Executive Assistant; Mike Romero, Chief Operating Officer; Dr. Wendy Creek, Chief Academic Officer; Adam Alvidrez, Director of School Operations; Dr. Monica Jara Guerra, Director of Community Initiatives; and Melody Castillo, Accounting Manager

Grimmway Academy Staff Present via teleconference: Zulema Ela, Vice Principal of Academics, Grimmway Academy Arvin; Hurshel Williams, Principal, Grimmway Academy Arvin; Brook Webb, Principal, Grimmway Academy Shafter; Tatia Hunter-Jennings, Vice Principal of Student Services, Grimmway Academy Arvin; Samantha Sampson, Teacher, Grimmway Academy Arvin; Lisa Fenton, Sous Chef, Grimmway Academy Arvin

Grimm Family Education Foundation Staff present: Rick Phillips, Fiscal Manager

Others Present via teleconference: Kristin Dietz, EdTec, Back Office Provider; Elia Sagasta, Assistant Superintendent, Richland School District

3. FLAG SALUTE

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by, Jean Fuller seconded by, Matt Look, and passed, to approve via roll call the minutes of the Board meeting dated April 26, 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

### GS LEADERSHIP REPORT

Casey Yeazel, Chief Executive Officer, provided Grimmway Schools reopening update, which includes relaxed health and safety protocols, including mask wearing.

Governor Newsom has set a date of June 15th for moving “Beyond the Blueprint for a Safer Economy” – which were the state guidelines which set health and safety protocols for businesses. The CDPH language related to schools reads: “Schools and institutions of higher education should conduct full-time, in person instruction, *in compliance with Cal/OSHA emergency temporary standards and public health guidelines*” (emphasis added). Unless the Cal/Osha Emergency Temporary Guidelines and CDPH School Reopening Framework are revised, Grimmway Schools will to continue to adhere to our Board approved Covid Protection Plan (CPP).

The last day of the school year for both schools is June 17th – so any changes would only impact only two school days. We will monitor and update the Board if/when this guidance changes.

Casey shared the CMO Leadership team has been closely working with site leadership over the past several months to produce site budget drafts that provide the necessary

resources to ensure fulfillment of our mission – providing a rigorous educational experience that addresses the needs of the whole child, academic social/emotional, and health and wellness. The goal is to be an effective steward of the public funding Grimmway Schools receive, and the drafts prepared speak to this.

Complicating the process this year was an unprecedented amount of state and federal COVID relief funding, which required a significant amount time allocating and reporting each funding source based upon the unique criteria for use. The funding sources have been tagged in the budget proposals are squarely consistent with the intent of the state and federal government to enhance learning, improve facilities to address learning needs in the post pandemic worlds, and provide additional capacity for addressing the social and emotional impacts of the pandemic and distance learning that Grimmway Schools scholars have endured this past year.

Casey provided an update to the Governor's May budget revise. For K-12 education, the May Revision provides total funding of \$121.7 billion for K-12 schools from all revenue sources. The Proposition 98 school funding guarantee results in average funding of about \$14,000 per pupil.

To recognize the significant data-gap caused by a lack of testing and dashboard metrics during the pandemic, the Governor proposes that all charter schools whose term expires on or before June 30, 2025, shall have their term extended by two years. Specifically: *“Notwithstanding the renewal process and criteria established in sections 47605.9, 47607 and 47607.2, all charter schools with a term beginning on or before July 1, 2020, and whose term expires on or before June 30, 2025, shall have their term extended by two years.”* GA Shafter's term ends in June 2022. If the May Budget Revise is passed, this would extend until June 2024. GA Arvin's term ends in June 2026 – and this would not apply. Board member Ernie Unruh asked about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for those that provide Oversight, which in the past, has superseded the educational code. Ernie asked what are Grimmway Schools' attorneys expecting as it related to GA Shafter's renewal. Casey shared Grimmway Schools must wait and see this specific piece is ratified by the legislature before our attorneys have an opinion.

Casey provided the legislative updates for AB 1316 and SB 593.

Mike Romero, Chief Operating Officer, provided the Operations and Human Resources (HR) updates. It has been one month since the implementation of a full 5 day/week schedule. As of May 21st, there have been no on-site transmissions based on our contact tracing. Grimmway Schools continue to remain diligent about COVID protocols which still include use of a face coverings, social distancing, daily temperature checks, and on-site testing of staff every month. Additionally, off-site exposures have declined dramatically which has stabilized staffing over the course of the past three months.

On the benefits side, renewal numbers from TriStar and the Lynn Company have been received. Overall, the figures are favorable on both fronts. TriStar's self-funded plan renewal resulted in a 1% increase and Kaiser Permanente's renewal resulted in a 6% increase. All other supplemental plans held with no increases. The increase with our

employees resulted in a .50% increase in premiums for TriStar plans and a 3% increase in premiums for Kaiser.

Grimmway Schools is considering moving the TriStar health network back to Cigna from First Health. This will result in more health care access for our employees as well as a net savings in plan costs. Cigna and Dignity Health split in January of 2020 which resulted in Grimmway Schools moving to First Health to avoid a large disruption of care. Though it made sense at the time, First Health is a much smaller network and is more expensive than Cigna. Now that Cigna and Dignity Health have reconciled, the move back to Cigna will be effective July 1, 2021.

Mike provided a snapshot of current COVID data for Grimmway Schools as of May 21, 2021. Mike thanked the COVID liaisons and site leadership for their efforts, as there have been zero on-site transmissions.

Mike shared the Oversight review update. GA Shafter is in the process of completing a virtual oversight visit with our charter school authorizer, Richland School District. Arvin's virtual oversight visit with KCSOS is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>.

The LCAP process is near completion for both sites. Since the LCAP was not required during the 20-21 School Year, the LCAP for 21-22 (and beyond) will focus on in-person instruction. Several virtual stakeholder meetings were facilitated by school leadership to solicit input for this LCAP cycle. Through feedback has been received from the several governance groups (SPGA, ELAC, SSC) and a Public Hearing will be held in June.

Every 2-3 years, Home Office staff and our IT Services Contractor, Signa-Terra, work to re-assess the overall IT infrastructure needs of both schools. Coming out of a highly dynamic year which included distance learning, hybrid learning, and full on-site instruction, some of the major IT projects going into next year will include: Decommissioning Chromebooks that are deemed "end of life"; deploying Chromebooks & tablets for students and laptops for staff; and much needed IT infrastructure upgrades to support new technology.

Home office staff will continue to find ways to maximize technology to increase efficiencies while providing ongoing support for our network of schools.

Dr. Wendy Creek, Chief Academic Officer, shared both sites recently completed their CAASPP SBAC summative assessments, and are now in the process of completing their Spring NWEA MAP Growth assessments. Both assessments will provide a wealth of data for teams at both sites to use in planning for next year.

Both sites will use the results from NWEA MAP Growth as the main driver in inviting scholars to Summer Academy, beginning on Monday June 21st, and running through Thursday, July 4th.

Teachers have been engaged in professional learning for the last few months with the overall goal of becoming more effective at diagnosing student misconceptions and areas where support is needed. Their learning has differed slightly based on content area as

follows: Humanities teachers from both sites started receiving training from the California Reading and Literacy Project in December, and have so far completed nine sessions. STEM teachers began lesson study training with Dr. Anita Kreide (formerly of the Center for Math and Science Teaching at LMU) which is grounding the teachers in the lesson planning model advocated by the Next Generation Science Standards, as well as providing them with a collaborative structure to plan and evaluate each other's lessons. Board member Jean Fuller commented to Wendy that her report was thorough and helpful, especially during this time when it is hard to gauge what is going on with students while distance learning.

#### *PRINCIPAL'S REPORT-Grimmway Academy Arvin*

Hurshel Williams, Principal of Grimmway Academy Arvin, shared students and staff had the opportunity to celebrate Cinco De Mayo, through hosting a schoolwide "Paletas Fiesta." Staff appreciation was also held in May. Hurshel shared Grimmway Academy Arvin staff's resilience and diligence has remained steadfast throughout the duration of this pandemic. The staff's consummate professionalism, work ethic, consideration and flexibility has enabled GA Arvin to ensure the safety of scholars, while providing them the best academic and educational experience possible. Joining the GA Arvin Leadership Team in expressing their appreciation to the GA Arvin staff was both our Star Parents of Grimmway Academy (SPGA) as well as the Grimmway Schools Home Office Team.

Camp K.E.E.P. provided 6th grade scholars with such a unique experience. The 2021 Camp K.E.E.P. visit was virtual, and the 6th grade students and their instructors truly enjoyed having the experience.

As this 2020-2021 school year comes to a close, we turn our attention to our year-end standardized testing while preparing to provide expanded learning opportunities for those whose scores indicate that they may be in need of academic intervention. SBAC state testing started on May 10, 2021, with approximately 97.5 % of our scholars participating both on site, as well as remotely. To date, approximately 93.5% of our scholars have completed their assessments.

Grimmway Academy Arvin has been preparing to host the 2021 GA Arvin 8th Grade Promotion. With many of our country, state, and county covid restrictions being lifted, GA Arvin leadership has been readily seeking the input of our 8th grade stakeholders in order to determine what percentage of these families would prefer an on-site versus virtual promotion. It has not been determined whether Promotion will be hosted on site, virtually or a combination of the two, but Promotion will be held on Thursday, June 10, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

#### *PRINCIPAL'S REPORT-Grimmway Academy Shafter*

Brook Webb, Principal of Grimmway Academy Shafter, commended Hurshel for his report. Brook also shared that GA Shafter staff loved their new Grow Academy swag for staff appreciation. Brook The scholars are excited to receive their new Grow Academy Shafter uniforms. reported an additional five scholars have returned to campus for in-

person instruction. The majority of families choosing to remain on Distance Learning are doing so for family convenience and economic necessity. Most Distance Learning scholars are doing well, and for those who are not, GA Shafter staff continues to work with and schedule meetings with families to help provide additional supports. As state testing wraps - up, planning for Summer Academy has begun. Staff will be reaching out to all Distance Learning families in the weeks to come to see if they are interested in Summer Academy as a means to transition back to on campus learning. Staff will then assess needs based on attendance and growth targets.

GA Shafter will continue to use Lexia and SFA Lightening Squad for Literacy and will focus on Numeracy and Math Talks to support number sense. In planning for staffing for next year, GA Shafter is almost completely staffed for the 2021-2022 school year. Interviews for a Middle School English teacher and a K-5 Art/Music teacher are currently being held.

Brook shared a “Running for the House” event, a superheroes theme for SBAC testing is coming up. A GA Shafter family shared their story about their daughter who has had multiple surgeries and the family stayed at a Ronald McDonald House. GA Shafter has partnered with the Ronald McDonald House to provide awareness and community support for the organization.

#### *ARVIN AND SHAFTER PARENT REPORT*

Matt Look, President of SPGA, shared ten-dollar Starbucks gift cards were provided to all staff at GA Arvin as part of the teacher appreciation week. Matt shared SPGA is looking forward to help support eighth grade Promotion.

#### *GRIMMWAY SCHOOLS STAFF REPORT*

Samantha Sampson, Teacher, Grimmway Academy Arvin, provide the staff report. Samantha thanked leadership for all the wonderful items received during teacher appreciation week. NWEA testing will take place this week. Teachers are currently working on literacy projects in the classrooms to help support learning for the upcoming school year. The students are excited to be on campus five days a week.

#### *2021-2022 BOARD MEETING DATES*

The 2021-2022 Board meeting dates were shared with the board.

#### *FISCAL REPORT – May 2021*

Kristin Dietz from EdTec (back-office provider) shared the fiscal report for April 2021.

For GA Arvin, Kristin shared the forecasted net income increased to \$1,667,631.

For GA Shafter, the forecasted net income increased to \$970,220.

For the Home Office, the forecasted net income remained unchanged at \$677,837.

Kristin shared GA Shafter will remain positive due to a year-end loan extension between GA Shafter and Grimmway Schools.

Kristin shared the Federal and State update to the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget. A 5% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and 4% Special Education increase has been added to the Governor’s May Revise budget. There is additional ongoing funding, along with one-time funding for both school sites. Kristin shared the proposed 2021-2022 budget, which will be presented to the board in June for approval.

Kristin also shared the proposed staffing numbers for 2021-2022, along with the Home Office budget, which includes a reduction to the CMO fee charged to school sites.

**III. ACTION ITEMS**

1. The Directors were presented with the approval of the Purchase Orders and Warrants and Credit Card Register for April 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 April 2021.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Yay</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Tom Mestmaker	X			
Manuel Pantoja	X			
Ernie Unruh	X			
Matt Look	X			
Jean Fuller	X			

2. The Directors were presented with the approval of Revised Bylaws to Change Name to Grow Public Schools 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 Revised Bylaws to Change Name to Grow Public Schools.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Yay</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Tom Mestmaker	X			
Manuel Pantoja	X			
Ernie Unruh	X			
Matt Look	X			
Jean Fuller	X			

3. The Directors were presented with the approval of Amendment to Articles of Incorporation to Change Name to Grow Public Schools 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 Amendment to Articles of Incorporation to Change Name to Grow Public Schools.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Yay</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Tom Mestmaker	X			
Manuel Pantoja	X			
Ernie Unruh	X			
Matt Look	X			
Jean Fuller	X			

4. The Directors were presented with the approval of Revised Resolution Authorizing Acceptance and Approval of a Loan Agreement between GA Arvin & Grimmway Schools that were considered, and discussed. On a motion duly made by Ernie Unruh, seconded by Matt Look, the Board approved via roll call Revised Resolution Authorizing Acceptance and Approval of a Loan Agreement between GA Arvin & Grimmway Schools.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Yay</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Tom Mestmaker	X			
Manuel Pantoja	X			
Ernie Unruh	X			
Matt Look	X			
Jean Fuller	X			

5. The Directors were presented with the approval of Revised Resolution Authorizing Acceptance and Approval of a Loan Agreement between Grimmway Schools and GA Shafter 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 Revised Resolution Authorizing Acceptance and Approval of a Loan Agreement between Grimmway Schools and GA Shafter.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Yay</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Tom Mestmaker	X			
Manuel Pantoja	X			
Ernie Unruh	X			
Matt Look	X			
Jean Fuller	X			

6. The Directors were presented with the approval of GA Arvin Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant that were considered, and discussed. On a motion duly made by Jean Fuller, seconded by Manuel Pantoja, and carried, the Board approved via roll call GA Arvin Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Yay</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Tom Mestmaker	X			
Manuel Pantoja	X			
Ernie Unruh	X			
Matt Look	X			
Jean Fuller	X			



7. The Directors were presented with the approval of GA Shafter Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant that were considered, and discussed. On a motion duly made by Matt Look, seconded by Jean Fuller, and carried, the Board approved via roll call GA Shafter Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant.

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 2019 Form 990 & Form 199 Tax Return 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 2019 Form 990 & Form 199 Tax Return.

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

9. The Directors were presented with the approval of Board Resolution Opposing AB1316 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 Board Resolution Opposing AB1316.


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

**IV. ADJORNMENT**

On a motion the board adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

**CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY**

I certify that I am the duly elected Secretary of the Grimmway Schools, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation; that these minutes, consisting of nine (9) pages are the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors held on May 26, 2021.

  
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 Secretary

