

MINUTES

Of the Board of Directors of Grow Public Schools

(A California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation)

I. PRELIMINARY

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Directors of this corporation held their board meeting at the time, on the day, and at the place set forth as follows:

Time: 4:00pm

Date: October 24, 2022

Location: 901 Nectarine Ct., Arvin, CA 93203

B. DIRECTORS PRESENT

The following directors, constituting a quorum of the Board, were present at the meeting:

Present: Ernie Unruh, Kern County Superintendent of Schools Representative, Manuel Pantoja, Secretary; Matt Look, Star Parents of Grow Academy (SPGA), Dr. Kristen Watson

Absent: Tom Mestmaker, President

Grow Public Schools Staff Present: Doc Ervin, Chief Executive Officer; Dr. Ricardo Esquivel, Chief of Schools; Mike Romero, Chief Operating Officer; Eric Mendez, HR Director; Rick Phillips, Operations Manager; Alan Blandon, Director of Business Services & Compliance; Jenny Bard, Director of Teacher Development; Elysa Vargas, Director of Learning & Innovation; Afaf Aldhulay, Marketing & Communications Manager; Melody Castillo, Accounting Manager; Hurshel Williams, Principal, Grow Academy Arvin; Lacie Harris, Principal, Grow Academy Shafter; Madison Anderholt, Intervention Coordinator, Grow Academy Shafter; Zulema Ela, AP of Academics, Grow Academy Arvin; Tatia Jennings-Hunter, AP of Student Services, Grow Academy Arvin; Karmen Molina, Nurse, Grow Academy Arvin; Yuri Perez, Intervention, Grow Academy Arvin, Maria Moreno, Grow Academy Arvin

Grimm Family Education Foundation Staff Present: Barbara Grimm Marshall, Founder; Shea O’Gara, Guest; RJ Valentino, President; Dylan Wilson, ESYKC Executive Director; Kari Heilman, Executive Assistant; Jennifer Marcus, Office Manager, via teleconference; Raj Cheshire, Director of Community Engagement & Development, via teleconference

Other attendees: Don Passion, Signa-Terra; Allison Fenton, Signa-Terra; Diego Moreno, Student Council President; Emma Pereida-Martinez, Assistant Superintendent, Arvin Union School District; Jim Young, Young Minney Corr, via teleconference; Rosa Romero, Superintendent, Richland School District, via teleconference; Elia Sagasta, Curriculum & Instructor Director, Richland School District, via teleconference, Victoria Cardova

C. FLAG SALUTE

Diego Moreno, Student Council President led the flag salute.

D. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

None

II. COMMUNICATIONS

A. GROW PUBLIC SCHOOLS EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

Facilities Report

Dr. Ric Esquivel, Chief of Schools (COS) shared the part of the Executive Team's entry plan was an assessment of the current facilities. For GA Shafter, the facilities assessment included: stakeholder input and feedback, program efficacy, space and class utilization and furniture condition. Through these assessments came the following emerging themes: learning lab utilization, UPK expansion, storage utilization (extended learning opportunity, Programming/Family Engagement) and ESY garden placement. As a solution, GPS is recommending four temporary classrooms to be placed in the southeast corner of campus.

Mike Romero, Chief Operating Officer (COO) shared that the southeast corner of campus was the best placement for these temporary classrooms due to the current utility placement. The cost of these temporary classrooms would be \$431,000 with a target completion in winter of 2023.

Dr. Kristen Watson asked what the life expectancy is for these classrooms. Mike Romero replied that the lease for the temporary classrooms is 12 months.

Chief Executive Officer

Doc Ervin shared his CEO updates. The CCSA conference is March 13-16, 2023 and will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center. If you are interested in attending please let Kari Heilman, Executive Assistant know. The Leadership Advisory Council met on Tuesday, October 18th and we have our emerging themes for the 22-23 school year. Our goal is to share these with the board at our November or December board meeting.

We are recommending that the Board do a training workshop. Jim Young from Young, Minney, Corr has joined us via Zoom to talk about the different training topics: Maximizing Success in Charter Board Leadership, Operationalizing the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Charter School Governing Boards, Understanding the Basics of California's Open Meeting Law, Tips for Implementing Best Practices to Ensure Effective & Efficient Board Meetings. Suggested Board training day for Monday, January 30th – more information to come.

We are moving to BoardOnTrack. Kari Heilman, Executive Assistant shared that BoardOnTrack is an online governance management platform built for Charter School Boards. This will be our one stop shop for all things board related. On this platform you will be able to access the agendas and board packets. Next week expect an email with your membership activation information. An informational follow up email will be sent with helpful videos and BoardOnTrack's staff contact information for additional assistance. Our goal is to have this implemented starting with November's board meeting.

Our November board meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 21st. This is during Thanksgiving week. We are proposing to move the Board meeting date up to Monday, November 14th. Matt Look shared that he will not be able to attend on November 14th. The remaining Board members shared that they are available and agreed to move the meeting to the 14th.

Chief of Schools

Dr. Ric Esquivel presented his COS updates. He shared the school leadership update highlighting positions that are being adjusted and welcomed Alan Blandon, Business Services & Compliance Director to the Home Office Team.

Quarter 2 focus is going to be on math achievement and closing the gap. We have engaged with CORE (Consortium on Reaching Excellence in Education) & KCSOS to come out to each campus and work with our scholars and teachers.

Chief Operating Officer

Mike Romero presented his COO updates. He shared CSP Grant highlights: Annual Performance Review (APR) is due November 14; a convening for grantees in Washington DC (four CMO employees to attend) on November 1 & 2; CSP amendment extending the length of the grant by one year.

B. DIVISION REPORTS

Human Resources

Eric Mendez, HR Director shared his department updates highlighting staffing, retention and refining the onboarding process.

Operations

Rick Phillips, Operations Director shared his department updates focusing on the technology infrastructure. Signa-Terra (GPS's IT provider) now has an employee on site, every day on each campus to provide IT support. Also, a new Student Information System (SIS) – Aeries has been decided upon. Implementation and roll out soon to come.

Business Services/Fiscal Report

Alan Blandon, Business Services & Compliance Director commented that he is excited to be a part of the team. He shared that Cindy Frantz, EdTec was not able to be with us today, but shared a proposed schedule highlighting the months when Cindy will give the board financial updates instead of attending every meeting. He added that Cindy and

the GPS team will continue to meet weekly to monitor YTD actuals and updated forecasts.

Doc Ervin commented that this will be a more efficient and productive way to present the finances. If the board has any questions during the meetings where Cindy is not in attendance, Alan Blandon or Melody Castillo, Accounting Manager can answer them.

Learning & Innovation

Elysa Vargas, Learning & Innovation Director shared her updates including finalizing the hiring for key Learning and Innovation positions, onboarding the new Academic Data Coordinator and establishing Q2 growth goals and metrics.

C. GROW PUBLIC SCHOOLS LEADERSHIP REPORT

Hurshel Williams, Principal, GA-A shared his updates. Students and staff returned from Fall Break united in our effort to continue the instructional and cultural momentum. Q2 has had a strong start with a focus on math instructional practices.

Lacie Harris, Principal, GA-S shared her updates highlighting the core value of “Joy”. Scholars are participating in the end of quarter Comet Cash student store rewards. Our token economy allows our scholars to earn bonuses for demonstrating our COMETS values through all areas of campus. Good first instruction continues in Q2. Our Instructional Leadership Team and Administrators are working diligently to create specific action plans for all teachers on campus.

D. GROW PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARENT REPORT

SPGA’s Representative, Matt Look, shared that there was a SPGA meeting two weeks ago with a good turnout. He also announced that the Halloween parade will be Monday, October 31st at 9:00am if anyone would like to join.

POGA will give an update at the next board meeting.

E. GRIMM FAMILY EDUCATION FOUNDATION REPORT

Dylan Wilson, Edible Schoolyard Kern County Executive Director, shared a recap of the Foundation’s event, Toast & Taste which was held Friday, October 21st. It was great to have GPS staff volunteer and attend. He also shared that ESY professional development continues next week in Arvin.

III. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of the Colombo Contract – GA-A – Southeast Wing (6 classrooms) was tabled for a future meeting.
2. The Directors were presented with the approval of the Colombo Construction Contract – GA-S – Southeast Corner (4 temporary classrooms) that were considered and discussed. On a motion duly made by Manuel Pantoja, seconded by Matt Look

and carried; the Board approved the Colombo Construction Contract – GA -S - Southeast Corner (4 temporary classrooms).

Board Member	Yay	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Tom Mestmaker			X	
Manuel Pantoja	X			
Ernie Unruh	X			
Matt Look	X			
Dr. Kristen Watson	X			

3. The Directors were presented with the approval of the Class Leasing Contract for Temporary Classrooms in GA-S that were considered and discussed. On a motion duly made by Matt Look, seconded by Manuel Pantoja and carried; the Board approved the Class Leasing Contract for Temporary Classrooms in GA-S.

Board Member	Yay	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Tom Mestmaker			X	
Manuel Pantoja	X			
Ernie Unruh	X			
Matt Look	X			
Dr. Kristen Watson	X			

4. The Directors were presented with the approval of the Student Information System (SIS) Contract – Aeries Software Agreement that were considered and discussed. On a motion duly made by Dr. Kristen Watson, seconded by Matt Look and carried; the Board approved the Student Information System (SIS) Contract – Aeries Software Agreement.

Board Member	Yay	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Tom Mestmaker			X	
Manuel Pantoja	X			
Ernie Unruh	X			
Matt Look	X			
Dr. Kristen Watson	X			

5. The Directors were presented with the ratification of Master Agreement for Services – Consortium on Reaching Excellence in Education (CORE) that were considered and discussed. On a motion duly made by Matt Look, seconded by Manuel Pantoja and carried; the Board approved the ratification of Mater Agreement for Services – Consortium on Reaching Excellence in Education (CORE).

Board Member	Yay	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Tom Mestmaker			X	
Manuel Pantoja	X			
Ernie Unruh	X			
Matt Look	X			
Dr. Kristen Watson	X			

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of September 26, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of Purchase Orders, Warrants and Credit Card Register for September 2022

On a motion made duly by Dr. Kristen Watson seconded by Manuel Pantoja, and carried, the Board approved the Consent Agenda.


Board Member	Yay	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Tom Mestmaker			X	
Manuel Pantoja	X			
Ernie Unruh	X			
Matt Look	X			
Dr. Kristen Watson	X			

VI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion the board adjourned at 4:59 pm.

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 regular board meeting of the Board of Directors held on October 24, 2022.




Secretary