

Board Meeting March 7, 2016

Called to order at 10:04am

	Present	Absent
Mr. Tom Mestmaker	___X___	_____
Mr. Sean McNally	_____	___X___
Ms. Joet Stoner	___X___	_____
Ms. Pat Alexander	___X___	_____
Mr. Jim Young	___X___	_____

Present:

- Joanna Kendrick, Greg West, Sabrina Reimert, Zulema Ela
- Barbara Grimm Marshall, Neil Shah, Anna Smith, Evelyn Steed, Mike Romero, Kelly Atkinson
- RJ Valentino, Paul Escala

There was an open telephone line between Grimmway Academy and GFEF.

Barbara spoke about Arvin being our first priority. Here we are 5 years later and ready to expand. Now have the capacity to address needs in other areas. Barb introduced RJ and Paul.

Slideshow:

Joanna & Greg:

- Will be adding 8th grade to campus next school year. Will go through the WASC accreditation process in SY16-17.
- Big successes: parent involvement and literacy in K-5th grades
- Student growth in CA is 7%/student growth in Arvin is 10.8%
- High School-College prep-goal & focus
 - Our students have the ability, will reduce costs for parents, students will be ready to enter a 4 year university.
- Shafter-replicate the GA model to open in August 2017
 - Shafter schools are struggling-already overcrowded and growing

Tom Mestmaker cautioned that we should not move too quickly on opening the high school. Should add 8th grade next year and then a copy of years of results to strengthen our outcomes. Was in favor of going forward with Shafter replication.

Pat Alexander cautioned to keep a positive spin on the Shafter replication and keep negative comments (Shafter school results) out of proposals. Anna assured Pat that this would be the case. Pat also cautioned to do due diligence on high school model as the public will be watching.

Joet Stoner and Zulema Ela, as parents of GA students, were very supportive of adding 9-12th grades to GA. Joet would like to see the high school opened before replicating in Shafter.

Paul Escala talked about the CMO which would be a support to the schools be value-added. We will be student centered.

Neil Shah talked about the Board overseeing multiple schools, GFEF's responsibilities and the Board timeline for the rest of the year.

Shafter video.