

Approved by Board of Directors on May 18th, 2023

Mission Statement: *“We are a community of learners. We will do whatever it takes to learn. We are building a strong foundation by believing we can, working our plan, then feeling the power of success.”*

George Washington Academy
Thursday, April 27, 2023
7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting Minutes

Location: George Washington Academy
2277 South 3000 East
St. George, Utah
Library

The Board Training on the 2023 Legislative Update was held at 5:00 p.m. on April 26, 2023.

The Board meeting convened at 7:30 p.m.

Board Welcome: Shannon Greer, President

Roll Call: Shannon Greer, President

Prayer: Amanda Mortenson

Pledge of Allegiance: Blake Clark

Board Members Present: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Blake Clark, Casey Unrein, and Holly Myers. Kevin Peterson (via phone) and Shauna Mahoney arrived after the meeting started.

Board Members Absent:

Others Present: Deborah Odenwalder, Steve Erickson, Kim Townes, Lanessa Stevens, Chance Manzanares, Debbie Kuavaka, Jocelyn Larkin, Jaxynn Smith, and Spencer Adams.

Approval of Minutes: Holly Myers motioned to approve the minutes from the March 27, 2023 Board Meeting as found in the board packet. Amanda Mortenson seconded.. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney. (Due to an error in starting the recorder Kevin Peterson and Shauna Mahoney were able to vote on the minutes when the makeup recording was done.)

Public Opportunity to Address the Board:

None

Set time for adjournment: Amanda Mortenson set time for adjournment at 8:20 p.m.

Teacher Representative Report: Jaxynn Smith and Jocelyn Larkin report that a bunch of grades have reported great testing experiences. Jaxynn went into the teacher comments given during her surveys taken of the teachers. Jocelyn reported Fifth grade has finished three RISE tests so far. We have met our goal for progress in Science and just about met it in ELA. We are working hard on Give Me Liberty. Students can receive a bronze, silver, or gold award. We are excited to have a special field trip prize for the gold winners. Going along with Give Me Liberty, we are also learning the fifty states and capitals in class. We had numerous fifth graders playing lead roles in Frozen.

4th grade is wrapping up our Treasure Island CKLA unit and celebrating pirate day on Friday. Last week we took a field trip to Tonaquint Nature Center to learn about plant and animal adaptations. This week we had Western Rock in to talk about the rock cycle and job opportunities in the construction industry. We also had a visit from Loveland Aquarium to learn about animal adaptations and Utah's environments.

The only thing I can think of is our field trip to UAA. The kids got to sit in a black box theater and watch their dance concert. We also had a LOT of 7th grade students participate with Frozen! Some were performers, some were running music, microphones, costume changes, hair & makeup, and painting sets & moving sets & props. They did a great job both on stage and behind the scenes! I was also asked to do a little social dance class during their P.E. rotation. Some of them did really well! Some of them still didn't want to touch each other! But it turned out great.

Kevin Peterson is brought in at this point via Holly Myers phone.

Administration Report: Blake Clark, Executive Director, reported on the April Board Update cover. He brought back the monthly overtime that the Board requested in March. The reports show that April is the highest month yet. The report shows student Absences and Tardies and that the student count has gone down as a family of 4 have moved away and due to the time of year they have not been replaced. However, everything is looking good for next year and Blake will start putting student projections in the Board update starting next month. Next Blake reported on the 22-23 RISE Scores 5 year goals as presented in the Board packet. Blake noted that these scores are not hundred percent accurate as some grades have a few students left but most are in and that we don't have the state averages yet as most schools don't start until May. Blake reports that the biggest growth is in 3rd grade ELA and Math maintained. He reports that these scores are great to see but it is more beneficial to view the 22-23 SAGE RISE Data when comparing students to students instead of grade to grade. Going back to the first document, Blake explains that the reason why the colors are not in alignment is due to the pandemic preventing testing for one year. Blake points to how the 3rd graders in 20-21' and then where they were at going forward, they are improving or staying the same shows that the school is in a pretty good place. Blake will continue to bring this report until it's finalized in the fall. Blake thanks everyone who came to the school play, Frozen. Blake's yearly goal was to spend more time with the students and was able to do that with the play and reported that it was fun and is excited for the Family Fun night. Blake reported that he has no other reports for April. Holly

Myers asked when will the Board see an update. Blake reports that the school will have all the numbers for the school testing so he'll have that for the next Board meeting. However, he'll not have the state numbers yet. Shannon Greer requested that once the report is finalized that some time be spent on how the school will use the data that is being collected and what plans can be made to make improvements. Blake agrees to work on that.

Financial Report: Spencer Adams, Business Administrator, with looking at the report as of the end of March, everything is looking good. There wasn't a lot that was adjusted in the Finance committee. Spencer points to the Finance committee minutes for this month to see the small adjustments that they did do. Overall, they added \$12,000 for the forecast of the expenses from last month. The Ratios are still looking really good and not a huge change from last month. The chart in the bottom left of the Financial Summary representing CASH changed significantly due to CDs maturing so those funds went to the main account for a short period of time and then was put into the PTIF account. Spencer reported that the PTIF account is doing really well currently. March of this year the PTIF rate is at 4.73% whereas last year it was at 0.52% which shows a significant increase in that interest and they have seen that jump in the forecast in the past year as well. Overall in good shape but still waiting on some of the federal funds, particularly the IDEA funds as we're waiting on the State to get everything squared away on their end so that we can start requesting that. We have requested the majority of the federal funds that are ready to go. 4 requests for funds (3 from the state funding lines, 1 from the federal) that we may have to submit reimbursements for are being worked on currently. Spencer is hoping to see these last requests come in to reflect on the April report for next month. Blake Clark confirmed that he worked with Courtney on 3 of them today. Casey Unrein asks whether the Educator salary adjustment line is a Legislative Revenue line. Spencer confirms that it is on line 34-5876 on the Budget. Casey asks if there was a corresponding line in the Expenses or its spread out. Spencer reports that it is spread out in the Salaries section. Kevin Peterson, reports that we received more clarification on how the House Bill 215 funds can be used so adjustments will be made but otherwise we're doing good. Blake Clark notes that over the next few months that expenses will likely be over the revenue as we do monthly bills to Sun Rock for the backlot. Shannon also adds that we'll also be buying curriculum for the next school year as well. Casey Unrein thanks Spencer for the adjustments and asks how the student lunch debt works. Casey reports that students owe GWA about \$2,000 for lunch. Shannon asks how long does the debt go. Blake Clark reports that we legally have to let the students continue to charge and give them food. Holly asks how the parents are notified. Blake Clark explains that they will get an email once the account is negative.

Committee Reports:

- **Policies Committee** – Nothing to report. There will be in the future based on the training last night.
- **Finance Committee** – Nothing to report. Upcoming. Shannon asked to have the house on the corner lot added to the committee agenda. Kevin agreed to add it.
- **Benefits Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Curriculum Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Outreach Committee** – Nothing to report. Have not met yet. Will report on it next month.
- **Technology Committee** – Nothing to report.

- **LAND Trust Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **PTO Committee** – Amanda Mortensen, reported that tomorrow night is family appreciation night. Thanked those that signed up to help as they intentionally haven't asked parents to sign up. 462 yearbooks sold. Appreciative to Blake for sending out emails. Blake brought up Teacher Appreciation week next week. A lot of positive feedback from the 7th grade girls on that. Holly offered family to sign up for tomorrow due to need. Amanda said that help would be appreciated and discussed what preparation has been set up. Holly asked if volunteers needed to bring anything and Amanda confirmed that they didn't.
- **Board Development Committee** – Shannon Greer reported that next month's board training will be an audit. Also the Board meeting will be a week earlier due to graduation.
- **Campus Management Committee** – Nothing to report.

Discussion and/or Action Items:

- Expenditures over \$5,000
- **FY24 Proposed Salary Schedules (board packet pgs. 12-30).** Casey Unrein made a motion to approve the FY24 Proposed Salary Schedules as presented in the Board packet and Holly Myers seconded. Open to discussion. (Note: Shauna Mahoney joined the Board Meeting) Blake indicated that the LCSW needs to be changed to them getting the \$4200 from the Legislative House Bill 215 (Pg 22.) Casey asked for clarification on how the new funds are being used. Shannon and Blake provided clarification for how the funds work specifically for the positions that qualify on the new house bill. The board debated if adding whether a position is eligible on this report is possible or would cause an issue. It was decided that the eligibility status would be indicated at the bottom of the affected part of the report. The job is what qualifies, not the person. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney. Motion passed. Shannon asks if the Board wants an amount for the Administrator to be added. If no one opposed. No one opposed.
- **MS-HMH Into Math Student Edition K-7 (board packet pgs. 31-37)** Casey Unrein makes motion to accept the bid from Mountain State - HMH Into Math Student Edition K-7 reorder - 2023-2024 in the amount of \$34,273.30. Seconded by Amanda Mortenson. Holly asked if there was a price increase from last year to this year. Casey looked it up and he reports that it was more expensive last year, by about \$3500. Kevin asks if there was anything that carried over from last year. Holly clarifies that this is a consumable so they are not able to carry it over. Board expressed their appreciation on the finding of the new more affordable distributor. Call for motion. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney.
- **MS-HMH Collections Close Readers (board packet pgs. 38-43)** Holly Myers made a motion to accept the purchase order in the amount of \$11,085.70 for the purchase of HMH Collections Close Readers for the 2023-2024 school year from Mountain State. Seconded Kevin Peterson. Open for discussion. Casey reports that this went up almost 30%. Blake reports that they are no longer doing this anymore in 2 years (discontinuing) so we don't get the discount that we would get if we could renew it for 5 years. Casey asks if the discount flows down through the distributor and it was confirmed that yes that

the cost can flow down to us as the consumer. Holly Myers asked if the shipping needed to be its own line. Shannon agrees that it needs to be. Blake will follow up with who filled out the purchase order. Casey requests that if possible to purchase at the same time. Blake will ask the distributor if possible. Holly asks if we get charged sales tax. Blake confirmed that we don't but if we did it would be reimbursed to GWA. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney.

- **MS-CKLA Amplify K-5 Materials/Consumables 2023-2024 (board packet pgs. 44-56)** Casey Unrein makes a motion to accept the Mountain State quote proposal for CKLA Amplify K-5 materials and consumables 2023-2024 in the amount of \$24,803.33 with shipping being listed separately on the purchase order. Holly Myer seconded. Casey reports that this proposal is down from \$40,000 last year. He checked with LaNessa Stevens and she indicated that the teachers specifically requested. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney.
- **HMH Collections Digital package 2023-2024 (board packet pgs. 57-61)** Holly Myers made a motion to accept the purchase of the HMH Collections Digital package 2023-2024 in the amount of \$9,286.80. Amanda Mortenson seconded the motion. Shauna Mahoney asked if the invoice sheet says student teacher or are the student and teacher separate lines. Blake clarifies that student and teacher are separate lines due to license type. Shauna asks that the invoice can be made clearer and Black will get it corrected. Casey asked to clarify how the purchase item worked in the sense of use. Shannon and Blake clarify how the package is used. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney.

At 8:26 the motion was made to continue the meeting

- **Special Education Contractor Agreements for 2023-2024 (board packet pgs. 62-85)**
 - Holly Myers made a motion to accept the service agreement for the **Occupational Therapist** including the proposed changes as listed in the board packet. Casey Unrein seconded the motion. Shauna asked how long ago was the last increase with this provider. Shannon reports that she has not received an increase since 2018. Blake reports that GWA negotiated on all the contractor bids before coming to the board meeting. Holly asked what Blake thinks about the additional hours being requested. Blake reports that they are much needed because her numbers are continuing to increase based on estimated student projections. Holly asks if we know what the cost would be if we went with another option for these services Blake reports that it would be extremely difficult to find someone else for the price Katie Mangus charges as receives frequent emails from other schools looking for these services. Shannon reports that the increase is reasonable. Amanda asked if the increase of students needing these services is a district wide thing or is GWA seeing a different demand. Blake reports he doesn't have the data to be able to answer the question but stresses again that he's receiving frequent emails looking for these services from other schools. The motion passed

- unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney.
- o Holly Myers made a motion to prove the **Speech Language Pathologist** contractor agreement as outlined in the board packet. Shauna Mahoney seconded. Blake reports that it was previously requested last year in August but GWA denied it because it wasn't in the budget. Casey asked if there was an option for hiring in house. The cost may be prohibitive as we wouldn't be able to offer enough to pay someone to be a full time employee. Amanda Mortenson asks if a student meets with a pathologist/etc in school would the parents insurance be able to be billed. Blake confirms that we are not unable to bill insurance. Shannon reports that these specialists are hard to find. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney.
 - o Casey Unrein motion to approve the renewal of the contractor agreement with **Mountain Land Rehabilitation** as presented in the board packet. Amanda Mortenson seconded. Holly Myers questions what the rate change from the \$85/hour to \$125/visit will result in actual services received. Kim Townes explains how long each visit lasts. Each visit consists of time spent at the school not with the student so each visit could include multiple students. It is actually better for us financially. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney.
 - o Holly Myers made a motion to approve the service contract for **Ryan Houston** as outlined in the Board Packet. Amanda Mortenson seconded. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney.
 - **Solution Tree Professional Development (Behavior Solutions)(board packet pgs. 86)**

Amanda Mortenson motioned to approve the Solution Tree Professional Development Behavior Solutions as outlined in the board packet to not exceed the \$8,000 in the packet. Shauna Mahoney seconded. Holly asks if we used them before. Blake confirms it is the first time bringing someone in versus sending teachers out and explains who all could utilize it. In the past, to send someone to this training it was \$800 a person not including the travel costs. So if we were to send them we would only be able to send 5-6 people but with it being in house we can train 50 or more as there is not a cap on it. Blake reports that it is going to be \$7500 for this program. Administration is waiting for approval before moving forward with the company which is when the company can give an official amount but should be under \$8000. Kevin asked how we select the faculty that use the program but with it being in house so that is not needed. Casey asked how this training will affect the Administration position on behavior. Chance explained how the program works and Blake reported that teachers have been requesting this for years. This is the behavioral piece. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney. Shannon Greer requested Blake to make a training on our behavioral program for the school for a Board training maybe September. Holly also asked if there is something we can out to the parents on this as well. Blake reports that it will be focused on the Back to School night.

- **Adoption of Reading Plus for grades 4-7 (board packet pgs. 87)** Holly Myers motions to approve the quote from the Reading Plus program in the amount of \$8,750.00. Amanda Mortenson seconded the motion. Open for discussion. Casey Unrein, point of concern, asked why this didn't go through the curriculum committee. Blake explained that this is an intervention not a curriculum for 4-7 and thus why it didn't go through the committee. Blake explains how the program works. Holly asks if this is going to all students or just those in invention level students. Blake reports that it can be used for all students but Tier 1 should be used for the majority of students. Shannon reports that from now on anything that is considered a curriculum change we will need to add it to the Board agenda and offer a time for parents to speak towards it and explain the Legislation on this. Casey asked where the price listed was coming from. Blake clarifies that it's based on the student population. Holly points out that it indicates that this program is available at home even over the summer as indicated by the Board packet. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney.

Closed Meeting – *none*.

Reconvene — Take all appropriate action in relation to closed session items.

Next Meeting: The next regular Board Meeting will be held on May 18, 2023 at 7:30pm due to school graduation. Spencer will attend via Zoom. Training will be on Audit.

Adjournment: The board adjourned at 8:56 p.m. Casey motioned to adjourn. Motion carried.

Written by Deborah Odenwalder, Board Clerk