

APPROVED AS AMENDED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON OCTOBER 26, 2017

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, September 28, 2017

7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting Minutes

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

A Board work session was held at 7:00 p.m.

Work Session: Discussion of Future Growth Opportunities

The Board meeting convened at 7:45 p.m. following the work session.

Board Members Present: Shannon Greer, President; Matt Hafen, Secretary; Javier Jimenez; Anthony Haun; Stacy Bowles; Patrick Carroll, CFO; and David Ellis. Anya Yeager, Executive Director, attended as a non-voting Board Member.

Board Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Steve Erickson; Glenda Raschke; Marica McMicken; Paula Fawson; Kaitlyn Oglesby; Spencer Adams; and LaNessa Stevens.

Board President Welcome: Shannon Greer, President

Roll Call: Shannon Greer, President

Prayer: Patrick Carroll

Pledge of Allegiance: Stacy Bowles

There was no public comment.

Adjournment was set for 10pm.

Teacher Representative Report: Kaitlyn Oglesby reported that the teachers really need the Fountas / Benchmark items that the Board is voting on tonight. Paula Fawson reported that the C Students (student teachers) just finished teaching at the school and it went really well. The teachers loved the opportunity.

Administration Report: Anya Yeager, Executive Director, reported that we are at 1,020 students. We had 7.25 overtime hours this month. Attendance is at 97% and 99% of students are on time. All of the required state reports are completed.

Mrs. Yeager reported that the school is offering tutoring for students who are struggling with the advanced curriculum. There are a number of after-school activities and clubs that the school is providing. The school is using Lexia for K-3 that has incredible results for improving reading. They will be holding a STEM development training.

Mrs. Yeager reported the SAGE scores. GWA is in the 4% of schools in the state that received an "A" grade. Our students achieved 75% in Language Arts, 75% in Mathematics, and 76% in Science.

Mrs. Yeager reported a parent safety concern regarding the congestion that carpool causes, particularly at the end of the school day.

Mrs. Yeager requested that the Board put together a task force to brainstorm additional ideas and come up with a design and plan for bids no later than January 2018.

Mrs. Yeager reported that the school has made a promotional video that has been shared on Facebook.

Mr. Ellis motioned to approve the Minutes from the August 24, 2017 Board Meeting. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Financial Report: Spencer Adams reported the Financial Summary as of August 31, 2017 and the Financial Detail Report as of August 31, 2017. The October student count is looking great and we will hopefully receive more funds than budgeted. All of the ratios are better than our goal and the finances look healthy. Mr. Carroll asked that Red Apple update the Cap Ex fund and take a look at the unrestricted and restricted funds to ensure those are correct. He reported that the reports have been completed.

Committee Reports:

Policies Committee – Anya Yeager, Chair reported that the committee met this month and revisions to the Discipline Policy and a new Technology Security Policy for approval later in the meeting.

Finance Committee – Mr. Jimenez reported that the committee met and discussed ways to use the Cap Ex fund, including ways to help improve the carpool situation. They discussed a defined benefit plan versus a defined contribution plan at the school. They motioned to add all full-time employees to the free lunch program.

Benefits Committee – Glenda Raschke, Chair, reported that the committee has met and is working with Southern Utah Insurance to find ways to keep costs down for insurance.

Curriculum Committee – LaNessa Stevens, Chair, reported that they are trying to get all of the teachers to be on the same page with policies. Mrs. Greer will send some potential parent

committee members to Mrs. Stevens. Mrs. Stevens reported that they held a parent night and discussed the curriculum and provided them resources to help their children at home.

Charitable Giving / Outreach Committee – Stacy Bowles, Chair, reported that the committee has not met but they are busy supporting the PTO with the money drive.

Technology Committee - Steve Erickson, Chair, reported that they are working on a \$15,000 grant for technology that they will hopefully receive. The state has required a Technology Security Policy that we are discussing later on the Agenda.

LAND Trust Committee – Nothing to report.

PTO Committee – Anthony Haun, Chair, reported that the PTO had several parents attend the meeting. The middle school teachers are looking at a new reward incentive program that would require some funds, including a raffle at the end of each trimester. The PTO approved \$500 for the first trimester and they will revisit this to see how it works out. The book fair will be held during SEPs which is a short week, which may decrease the revenue from the book fair. They are waiting on some estimates on drinking fountains so they can hopefully move forward with it after the fundraiser.

Board Development Committee – Nothing to report.

Campus Management Committee – Steve Erickson, Chair, reported that there have been some leaks in the old part of the building. The membrane on the top of the building may be wearing a little bit and may need to be replaced in the future.

Academic Excellence Committee – Marica McMicken, Chair, reported that they will be meeting next week. 4-8 will be reviewing SAGE data. K-3 will be reviewing their DIBELS data.

Additional Discussion and/or Action Items:

The Board discussed the UAPCS Invoice in the amount of \$4,612.50 for 70% of the membership dues. Mr. Carroll motioned to approve the UAPCS invoice. Mrs. Bowles seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Jimenez motioned to approve the Heinemann PO – Fountas / Benchmark in the amount of \$3,825 + \$344.25 shipping. Mr. Haun seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Board requested that they try to reduce the shipping costs if possible.

Mrs. Bowles motioned to approve the APT Plan as presented in the Board Packet. Mr. Ellis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Carroll motioned to approve the Amendment to Policy #325 – Discipline Policy as presented in the Board Packet. Mr. Jimenez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Ellis motioned to approve the Technology Security Policy #470. Mr. Haun seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Greer requested that each Board Member review the Board Member Agreement and bring a signed copy back to the next Board Meeting.

Mrs. Greer discussed the GWA Mission Statement, DSLRs, belief statements, motto, and philosophy, as well as the value of the Core Knowledge curriculum. The Board discussed pros and cons of continuing to have 8th Grade at GWA. We would need to submit a Charter Amendment by next Wednesday in order to discontinue 8th Grade by next school year. The Board discussed the impact that discontinuing 8th Grade would have. Mr. Carroll presented the potential financial impact. The result would be a loss of about \$178,000 revenue to the school if we kept the same classes other than the 8th Grade and absorbed the teachers by replacing teachers that may leave at the end of the year. If we added two bubble classes or increased class sizes we could have a positive impact.

The WCSD cutoffs are as follows: Elementary: K-5, Intermediate: 6-7, Middle School: 8-9. Because of this cutoff, parents make a choice as to whether they want their children to stay at GWA for the whole middle school experience (6-8), whether they only want their child to attend GWA through elementary school, or to pull them out after 7th Grade. Traditionally, we lose students after 5th and after 7th, but the percentage is much higher after 7th. We maintain 80% of our 6th Graders, but generally less than 50% of our 8th Graders. This may go down even more now that St. George Academy offers another 8th Grade charter school option for parents. Socially, the 8th Graders are above and beyond the “elementary” school mentality. Some students and parents are looking for a different experience by 8th Grade (knowing that they will be going to middle/high school with neighborhood friends, no uniforms, more freedom, etc).

The “pros” for keeping the 8th Grade include: It provides the “culmination” of the Core Knowledge Sequence for GWA students who have been here all the way through (it is a K-8 curriculum), it provides a rigorous option for academically advanced students in 8th Grade who want to continue their advanced math and the rest of their rigorous GWA education and provides the opportunity for a close knit 8th grade class.

The cons include: We consistently lose students after 7th Grade and are never sure how many 8th Graders will return; there is no way to know for sure how many will stay which affects scheduling/planning; a varied number of students and classes each year makes it difficult to create a consistent schedule and curriculum for our teachers and students - if we had a set number of 6th and 7th Grade classes and did not have to worry about 8th, it would allow us to keep the same schedule from year to year; our teachers are largely trained as elementary school teachers with K-7 credentials and are not always equipped to deal with ‘middle school’ issues and needs; and students who stay for 8th Grade have to attend 3 different schools in 3 years (GWA for 8th, a middle for 9th, and a high school for 10th).

The Board discussed the advantages of waiting until the 2019-2020 school year to eliminate the 8th Grade, which include presenting one consolidated amendment to the Charter, allowing parents the opportunity to express their opinion on the change, and giving the Board an opportunity to make a firmer plan on how to move forward without the 8th Grade.

Mr. Carroll motioned to actively work on a plan to eliminate the 8th Grade starting in the 2019-2020 school year, with a Charter Amendment to be submitted to the state School Board by October 2018. Mrs. Bowles seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

No closed session was held at the meeting.

The next Board Meeting will be held on October 26, 2017.

Mr. Ellis motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Bowles seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Hafen, Board Secretary