

**Approved by the Board of Directors on February 22, 2024**

**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, January 25, 2023**

**7:30 p.m.**

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

**Location:** George Washington Academy  
Library  
2277 S 3000 E,  
St. George, UT 84790

***The Board Training was held at 7:00 p.m. prior to the Board Meeting.***

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

**Board Welcome:** Kevin Peterson, CFO

**Roll Call:** Kevin Peterson, CFO

**Prayer:** Holly Myers

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Brady Pearce

Board Members Present: Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Kevin Peterson, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, and Blake Clark. Shannon Greer attended via Zoom.

Others Present: Christine Giles, Spencer Adams, Deborah Odenwalder, Debbie Kauvaka, Chance Manzanara, Laura Pressley, Steve Erickson, Jocelyn Larkin, Jaxynn Smith, and Joshua Serrano.

**Approval of Minutes:** Shannon motions to approve the November 16, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes as outlined in the board packet. Shauna seconded. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, and Kevin Peterson.

**Public Opportunity to Address the Board:** Joshua Serrano relates concerns of drop off student safety for back lot. Blake ensures that Admin will look into these concerns and address them.

**Set time for adjournment:** Blake set time for adjournment at 8:30 p.m.

**New Board Member Oath of Office** Laura Pressley took the Oath of Office and became a member of the GWA Board.

**Teacher Reports:** Jaxynn Smith reports from Kindergarten: Our class just completed our WIG which was to focus on your own work and not distract others. We celebrated by having lunch in our classroom with Mrs. Fackrell! They LOVED it! We are already doing a great job on our next WIG which is a fast ready position when Mrs. Fackrell says a call back or rings a bell. They are 3 for 3 this week! For the first time since doing high frequency words in kindergarten my class just passed off list 3 with 100% . So proud of my kinders. We are going for another 100% on the next list! Party coming soon! From the 1st grade: Hugh thank you to our admin team and wellness team. I have a struggling student. One of the hardest I have ever seen. They have been a support, a sounding board, and a saving grace to our room. Student support and the wellness center have helped so many of my students feel safe and get what they need. I really appreciate that we have these resources to help us as teachers. I could not have done this year without it. Thank you! From the 2nd grade: My students are loving Mystery Science on Plant Adaptations. My students also sing the National Anthem every morning and it warms my heart . We are also working on going up levels in Lexia Reading. From the 3rd grade: We're wrapping up our Viking unit this week! This is always a favorite among students, and is super engaging and interactive. My class made Viking helmets to wear while we went on our Viking quests, and we even had a visitor early this week to enhance the students' experience. One of the kids' grandpa is a descendent of Vikings, and likes to look the part because he is so proud of his heritage. The kids loved hearing his presentation, they were able to see pictures that he brought, and were able to ask him lots of questions!

Jocelyn Larkin reports from the 7th grade team; during the month of December, 7th graders in ELA wrote memoirs. These short stories about their own lives included dialogue, inner monologue and sensory details. The students printed out the stories and read them to their parents during SLC's. Many parents remembered the stories their children shared and enjoyed talking to them about those moments. Mrs. Aikens and Mr. Crowther were able to accompany twenty 7th grade students to the state capitol Tuesday 1/23 where they toured the capitol, met other charter school kids from around the state, enjoyed pizza in the rotunda and actually sat in on a senate meeting for some time. During that time a special resolution was passed that paved the way for Utah to allow a future Major League Baseball expansion team. They enjoyed seeing the government in action, especially on a topic that appealed to many of them. Thank you Mrs. Greer for organizing and coordinating this event. From the 6th grade team; in math we've been learning about using the 4 main operations with multi-digit whole numbers & multi-digit decimals - one of my classes has been making a chapter review quiz for the other classes. In Social Studies we are focusing on Ancient Greece! In ELA we have begun our Titanic unit with a reader's theater, reading a classroom novel, and will begin learning to write an argumentative essay! Our 4th period Honors Math did so well on Ratio, rates, & proportional reasoning that we had them create the Ratio/Rates test for the other periods. They were graded on three degrees of difficulty, the correct set-up of a problem, the language used, as well as providing the correct work & answer to the ratio & rate problems they created. Most heavily involved in Algebra. Each group was required to create an easy, medium, and challenging problem. They did a tremendous job. They even created a bonus problem ( $x = xxxx$ ) that even stumped themselves. Very proud of all periods for not giving up when math becomes challenging!

**Administration Report:** Blake passed out a handout of Educational Acronyms and briefly explained it. Blake reported on the mid-year statistics and what the next steps that are planned to address any assessment drops indicated, including more time in text, sequencing, and pacing. Kevin asked how we can address pacing struggles. Blake gave what steps they are doing to address those issues. Holly clarified that the scores are not always the whole picture as assessment expectation advanced as the year went on and Blake was able to expound on why that was the case. Blake expressed how great it is that we now own the 6 acres next to us. Blake also talked about the upcoming event for the Cox family. Blake reports due that all have been completed.

**Financial Report:** Spencer reports the budget is looking good and that most of the State income has been trued up so what is in the budget is going to be accurate minus a few possible small adjustments. Local revenue is doing great at 67% of the adjusted Forecast. We'll see the funds from interest go down due to this recent land purchase but still overall in a great shape. We're still waiting on Federal income. Spencer explained the color codes on the financial report. Our Ratios are looking good and Spencer explained . Overall doing great. Blake asked about meals with the travel costs and Spencer reported that meals were ok to use in travel expenses provided that they were for those professional development training. Casey noted that the School Safety Grant line was entered but no value was entered yet. Kevin gave an amount of 140,500 for that and Spencer explained that the amount was for the 3 years but we can decide how much to use each year. Holly asked if it paid to us over the 3 years and Spencer clarified that it was done via reimbursement. Kevin asked Spencer to add the land purchase and the water fee to the Budget. Blake noted that the furniture in the Budget has gone up as well to accommodate the risers that are in the packet. Spencer reports that all the reports will be completed as of the end of the month.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Policies Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Finance Committee** – The finalization of that land purchase has been completed and Kevin expressed his gratitude for it being completed and for all those that helped with the process.
- **Audit Committee** – Spencer has done a great job of reaching out to auditing companies and Casey is working on getting that onto our website.
- **Benefits Committee** – Met yesterday. Have sent out a link to the employees to ascertain interest in a messaging/video mental health therapy service for all employees and already received a lot of good response. Have also asked how many dependents over the age of 13 so we can start looking at costs. Blake clarified that in order to use the therapy users will need to be 13 or older and users will have to be 18 or older in order to use the Psychiatric portion.
- **Curriculum Committee** – Over the past several months they have been looking at Amplify ELA, Evidence Based Academics, and Into Literature. We have now 2 teachers piloting, 1 is piloting Amplify ELA and the other is piloting Evidence Based Academics. Christine has a list of schools that have used these programs and has been in contact with them over the past month and are receiving feedback on the piloting of these programs.

As a committee, we are hoping to make a final decision on the program in the next 2 months so we can move ahead in ordering.

- **Outreach Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Technology Committee** – Nothing to report. Information will be added to the Campus Management Committee report.
- **LAND Trust Committee** – The final draft for the 24-25 year went out today for everybody to review it and it's anticipated to be ready by next month's meeting.
- **PTO Committee** – We had great success in the Art Competition and had about 160 students participate. The PTO worked really hard and have gotten some really good prize baskets for the Cox fundraisers. Looking for new PTO members for next year.
- **Board Development Committee** – New board member training will be held next week at GWA with a tour. Land trust training will be the Board training for next month and Kevin is in charge of that. The Board training in March will be the Board evaluation and prior to that meeting Shannon will send out surveys so that we can have all the data for that discussion. Amanda is stepping down from the Board so please give options for her replacement to Amanda. New Board members will be sworn in at the next board meeting.
- **Campus Management Committee** – The board packet has some of the quotes for the camera project but the rest came in after. The committee is aware because the pros of going with the company recommended outweigh the quote price that came in after. Due to questions on whether we have to use all the pay up front or if we can get a 1 year trial period, the committee is requesting that the Board Action request recommendation on the cameras to be changed to not to exceed instead of an exact amount. The other change is on the Board Action request for the sound system. Due to the need to be flexible in purchasing items/parts when needed, the committee was unable to get quotes or exact pricing as prices could change.

#### **Discussion and/or Action Items:**

- **Expenditures over \$5,000**
- **Stage Risers purchase (Board Packet Pg. 12)** Holly made a motion to approve the quote for the stage risers from the Wenger Corporation for the amount of \$12,531.98 as outlined in the board packet. Casey seconded. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, and Kevin Peterson.
- **HVAC System replacement (Board Packet Pg. 18)** - Casey made a motion to approve the purchase of the HVAC system from Outwest Air at \$12,762.00. Amanda seconded. Holly asked how old was our next oldest HVAC system and it was determined that it was 18 years old and that this replacement to the previous one was not working anymore. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, and Kevin Peterson.
- **HVAC Preventative Maintenance (Board Packet Pg. 22)** - Holly made a motion to approve the HVAC Preventative Maintenance Contract with Outwest Air in the amount of \$10,428.00 for a 3 year contract. Brady seconded. Shauna noted the wide range of bids and Holly is able to clarify that some of the quotes are giving the 3 year total whereas others are showing the annual rate. Shauna confirmed that the quote we're voting to approve on is the one that we've used before. Kevin confirmed that it was. Holly asked if there was a possibility of selling the old one but Steve reports that it wouldn't be

possible. It was determined that the amount on the board action request was showing only one year but the contract is for 3 years. Holly amends the motion to change the approved amount to \$31,284.00 for 3 years of services billed annually. Brady seconded. Shauna asked if we were able to re-negotiate to get a lower price and Kevin reported that we were able to due to how quotes are done in the educational rules. Shauna asked if the reason that we are going with a more expensive one is because of the professional relationship and good experience. Kevin reported that it was because of our past experiences with their services and quality of work. However, upon further discussion it was determined that Outwest Air was the cheapest. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, and Kevin Peterson.

- **Chalk Renewal (PowerSchool) (Board Packet Pg. 31)** - Casey made a motion to approve the Chalk Renewal software in the amount of \$5,734.60 as presented in the board packet. Shauna seconded. Chase asked if this program was something that could be bought through a distributor for a cheaper price. Powerschool bought Chalk but they are unable to give us any other discount. Holly asked if the amount increased from last year and Steve was able to confirm that it had from \$5,410.00. Casey asked how much was the program utilized. Steve reports that all the teachers including substitutes utilize the program everyday. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, and Kevin Peterson.
- **Sound System Upgrade (Board Packet Pg. 36)** - Shauna makes a motion to accept the proposal for the Sound System upgrade to not exceed \$17,000.00. Amanda seconded. The project is being completed mostly by parents that are donating their time so we are saving labor costs. Holly asks about our old system, specifically how much of it we are keeping. Steven and Blake report on the issues on the old system. Chase asked if this proposal included the intercom and Steven reported that it didn't. Holly asked if we could sell the old system. Other charter schools and local theater groups are offered as suggestions for groups to sell to. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, and Kevin Peterson.
- **Safety Grant - Camera Project (Board Packet Pg. 38)** - Holly motions to approve the camera project from Peak Alarm in the amount of \$28,995.00. Shannon seconded. Steve gave background on the quote selection process and answered the Board questions. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, and Kevin Peterson.
- **Safety Grant - Inter-Operable Communication Project (Board Packet Pg. 47)** - Kevin and Steve gave some clarification on the change requested by Steven during the Committee reports. Holly made a motion for the Inter-Operable project as outlined to approve for Inter-Operable software with Raptor Technologies to not exceed \$25,000. Brady seconded. Casey asked additional questions on the amount and Holly questioned if the proposal needed to be separated to amount and then provider. The board discussed options of amending the motion if needed. Steve gave information on the program and grant. Holly decided not to amend her motion. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, and Kevin Peterson.

**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 February 22nd, 2023 at 7:30 pm.

Shannon reports that the Board clerk position is going to open up with the goal to have a person for approval by the next Board meeting. Shannon will email the Board with the Job Description and ask that the Board let people know of the posting that they think would be interested in it.

**Adjournment:** Shannon motioned to adjourn. The board adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Written by Deborah Odenwalder, Board Clerk